

If Jesus came to earth again, he would disown many things that are being done in the name of Christianity.

—Mahatma Gandhi.

Courage is the standing army of the soul which keeps it from conquest, pillage and slavery.

—Henry van Dyke.

Founded by Mahatma Gandhi in 1903

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BROOKES BELIEVES SOME WHITES NOW READY TO GIVE NON-WHITES FRANCHISE ON COMMON ROLL

SPEAKING at the University of Natal Dr. Edgar Brookes said: "I believe that a considerable section of White South Africa would be ready to consider a concrete proposal for enlarging the franchise on the common roll if a political leader of standing had the courage to put it to them."

He said that in the 1953 General Election fewer than 600,000 votes in South Africa's adult population of 5,600,000 decided who should govern the country.

This represented only one-tenth of the potential voting population and, no matter what such a system was, it was not a democracy.

Dr. Brookes, a former Senator and now Senior Lecturer in History and Political Science at the University, said: "Not only have the majority of the non-Whites no vote: they are not in any way consulted about the major policies and laws affecting them."

No Conferences

"No general or representative conferences of non-Europeans as a whole, or of any non-European group, are held, for the cogent but very undemocratic reason that they would almost certainly oppose the Government's policy if they were called together."

Many South Africans would say that the non-Europeans were uncivilised and not fit to be voters.

"It is precisely this attitude which makes South

Africa unacceptable to the outside world, hated by her enemies, and a real embarrassment to her friends."

Not On Roll

He personally knew Coloureds, Africans and Indians who held university degrees, could speak both the official languages and were public-spirited people.

"If they are civilised, what argument can be found for the fact that they are not on the general voters' roll? Every European, literate or illiterate, is eligible to be put there."

"For a democracy to be distinguishable from a totalitarian State, it must possess an opposition which has some chance of forming a government, and a spirit of tolerance which makes the search for truth a virtue rather than a crime."

"Don't Care"

"In the Union, one feels in one's more exasperated moments that the White population is made up of 52 per cent. who believe in votes for one who is not White, 2 per cent. who believe in votes for everyone and 46 per cent. who don't care."

"The greatest need in South Africa is not, however, the need for gradualness: it is the need for immediate action of some kind with regard to the enfranchisement of the non-Europeans."

"The alternative is utter-

ly indefensible injustice indefinitely prolonged or, in the poet's words, 'Red ruin and the breaking of laws.'"

Apartheid purported to find a way out of the choice but, by doing so, it confessed that there was a moral issue at stake.

DURBAN CONFERENCE CALLS FOR UNITED FRONT

THE Civil Liberties Defence Council called a conference in Durban last Sunday at which the following resolutions were passed:—

This Conference called in Defence of Civil Liberties is of the opinion that the past 9 years of Nationalist Party rule have seen a steady and a relentless inroad into the freedom of speech, assembly, association, education, collective bargaining, movement, occupation, and of the people to choose their own Government by such measures as the Suppression of Communism Act, the Group Areas Act, the Bantu Education Act, the Separate Representation of Voters Act, the Native Laws Amendment Act, the Industrial Conciliation Act and Native Labour Settlement of Disputes Act all of which are designed to ensure the maintenance of Nationalist supremacy in South Africa for all time.

This Conference therefore:

1. Calls upon all true democrats to support and participate in the proposed Conference of the inter-denominational Federation and to weld into a powerful united front all the organisations opposed to apartheid.

2. Urges women of all races to stand united in their opposition to the extension of the pernicious system of pass laws to African women.

3. Resolves to work for the repeal of the Suppression of Communism Act, the Public Safety Act, the Criminal Law Amendment Act and all other unjust laws.


4. Calls upon all participating organisations to

(Continued on page 265)

INDIAN OPINION

FRIDAY, 21ST JUNE, 1957

New "Opinion"

 OUR readers have for a long time been accused to having two editions of this journal—one in English and the other in Gujarati. As from next month we propose to introduce slight changes in order to enable the paper to reach a wider South African readership. The Gujarati edition will remain, appropriately, INDIAN OPINION while the word Indian will be dropped in the English section.

We believe the reasons why we do this are all good and in perfect keeping with the teachings and spirit of its founder as well as of its late editor, Manilal Gandhi. In a multi-racial society there is really no room for emphasis on sectarian interests or the purely sectarian approach. Emphasis must be on one sense of nationhood; on the things which will unite the various sections of the nation and not on the things which will divide people.

Oneness Of Man

Mahatma Gandhi's teachings laid great stress on the fundamental oneness of Man. If he started work among the Indians, only the circumstances of history placed him in that position. But his message was meant for and reached men and women from every racial group on earth. Nowhere could this be the case more than in multi racial South Africa.

Thus, in seeking to make the paper he established speak for all the peoples who belong to South Africa we believe we conform to the demands of a changed situation as much as we follow his wishes to their logical conclusion. For, no greater dishonour can be done to Gandhi than to regard him as belonging to India and Indians only. The greatest teachers of humanity do not belong to their tribes and national groups; they belong to humanity.

Ten Years Ago

We have referred to a changing situation. About ten years ago most people could fairly talk of Indian interests. On the one hand South Africa had not departed much from the wrong foundations laid in 1909 when Union came into being. All groups saw events from the perspective of race. It was only natural that the Indian minority should have not departed from custom.

On the other hand there has, since 1948, developed among the people of this country a new sense of nationhood; a new feeling of belonging together. This transcends cultural and racial barriers and holds before all the ideal of a united nation whose various people shall be bound together by their love of their country and

their belief in the ideals on which their freedom shall be founded.

Their Faults

Whatever their faults and no matter how much they worked away from this goal, the most positive contribution of the Afrikaner Nationalists towards the development of this country has been to give an increasing number of men and women on both sides of the colour line this sense of belonging together. Africans, Indians, Coloureds and Europeans who could never have dreamt of crossing the racial line today freely do that and are the first to admit that life has been richer and more enjoyable for the experience of making friends with people on the other side of the racial line.

In the time of the Nationalists we have seen the Liberal Party come into being; we have seen the colour policies of the Labour and Union Federal Parties take on a more liberal hue and we have heard more constructive talk of democrats of all races having the responsibility to defend together that way of life they believe to be based on truly democratic ideals.

We believe these developments constitute the first serious move to entrench democracy in this country. Furthermore, we believe it is the duty of every good South African and of every democrat to do all in their power to support and encourage this trend. In dropping the word Indian from the English edition of this journal we endeavour, in our own small way, to emphasise the importance of this new sense of belonging together.

Wider Circle

In one sense this change might enable us to appeal to a wider circle of readers. We believe it will and that the message we have for them will produce only the best possible results for democracy and the country.

In the English edition as planned emphasis will not be on communal or racial interests. We shall lay the greatest stress on seeing men and events from the perspective of the greater South Africanism which is now developing. We shall seek to see widened the area of liberty in the life of the nation.

For our success in the task we have set ourselves we depend entirely on the support the democrats in this country will be prepared to give us. Our most immediate needs are money and subscribers. We wish to appeal to the very many friends who have supported us in the past to persuade their friends to subscribe to OPINION.

South Africa is passing through a very dark period in her history. There is no reason why this should be the position forever. Light can be brought on the situation any time the men and women who love liberty make up their minds to cast out the darkness. In a sense a journal like ours helps to speed events in the direction of more light. Thus, to keep it going is a blow for liberty and a hastening of the coming of the day when the darkness of the present shall be a thing of the past.

GANDHIJI—

The Story Of His Life

Phoenix Settlement And The Zulu Rebellion

CHAPTER .XV

WHILE on his third visit to South Africa Gandhiji decided to found a colony of people who would all lead simple lives pleasing God. He therefore purchased a piece of land not far from the city of Durban, intending to start a farm where the people could live and grow their own food.

Although he had left his wife and children in India, he had brought with him on this voyage several relatives, young men who wanted to see life in a new

By

Mrs. Gertrude Murray-Correa

land. These young men, several friends, both European and Indian, and a small number of Gandhiji devoted followers and fellow-workers formed the new colony. All were equal in position and all shared the work of farming the land harvesting the crops. There was no idea of getting rich or having an easy life. Every man, woman and child in the colony was ready to perform any task that was asked of him or her, as if they had all been one loving family.

In the sparetime they wrote and printed a newspaper called "Indian Opinion". This paper published all kinds of news helpful to the Indian people of South Africa. The farm was called the Phoenix Settlement and Gandhiji, its founder, loved it very much. He would have been glad to live there always, but, apart from his legal work, his political was growing bigger and bigger. He was fast becoming the hope of the Indian Nation, and Indians felt that only he could make them free. So he could only pay short visits to Phoenix.

Soon he sent for Kasturba and the little boys to come and live at Phoenix. On the voyage Ramdas, youngest child, broke his arm whilst playing. Gandhiji still loved nursing sick people and he was learning more and more how to cure them. In spite of all his work, as soon as his family arrived, he took complete charge of little Ramdas and soon had his broken arm well again.

Gandhiji wanted to make life

at Phoenix absolutely simple, just like the life of very poor people. Only at Phoenix everything was to be as clean as a new pin, healthy and happy. In this way they would show people that even if one is poor, one need not be dirty, or miserable.

They even made their own bread. Because wheat flour is more nourishing and more economical when it is ground by hand, they ground their wheat in this way themselves. The children were allowed to help in this work and they liked doing it very much.

Just when the Gandhi family had settled down nicely again, the Zulu Rebellion broke out. The Zulus were a somewhat primitive race of African people who objected to the taxes which the British made them pay. Because of these taxes they rebelled against the British.

Although Gandhiji was always struggling (but without the use of violence) against the British to make them treat Indians fairly, he was loyal to them whenever they needed his help. He wanted to make them

understand that they were unjust towards India, but he was never their enemy. So once again he collected a group of Indian volunteers to do Ambulance work for the British forces.

His heart was soon filled with pity for the poor, simple Zulus, however, when he saw how helpless they were against the powerful rulers.

When Gandhiji and his friends went to the military hospital to start their work, they were surprised to find only Zulu patients—no Europeans at all. These wounded Zulus were not rebels, but a group of Zulus friendly towards the British. The British soldiers had fired at them by mistake. Then there were other Zulus who were sick because they had been severely beaten by the British who suspected them of belonging to the rebels.

Gandhiji and his companions cursed all these poor Zulus lovingly. To Gandhiji all men were brothers, however poor, however ignorant, and whatever side they happened to be fighting on.

DURBAN CONFERENCE CALLS FOR UNITED FRONT

(Continued from front page)

defeat the indoctrinated programme of the Bantu Education Act; to assist students and staff of universities threatened under the Separate University Education Bill and the Nurses Amendment Bill in their protests.

Conference recalls that momentous day, on June 26th, 1950, a nationwide campaign of stoppage of work was held in protest against the Government's policy of apartheid. It calls upon all the participating organisations to take such steps as may be necessary to organise a peaceful demonstration on June 26 of this year to express our determination to re-dedicate ourselves to those ideals for which June 26th, 1950 was set aside.

Conference views with alarm the ever deteriorating position of the living standards of workers

generally, and non-European workers particularly in South Africa. It notes that this position is inimical to the peaceful and healthy existence of our peoples. It therefore supports the campaign launched by the South African Trade Unions for a minimum wage of £1 a day for all workers and urges this organisation to call a conference to discuss this campaign in greater detail.

This Conference strongly condemns the increasingly provocative role the South African police are playing in our country. It believes that instead of acting as guardians of decent citizens the police have become agents for the effective implementation of all apartheid legislation. Conference is convinced that one of the means whereby the rights of the

citizens may be protected against police assaults is to ensure that the identification numbers of policemen are prominently displayed. In particular Conference strongly condemns the action of the Durban Police force in arresting 1,600 residents of the Somsteu Road Location.

SWAMIJEE IN HOSPITAL

SWAMI NISCHALANANDA was removed from the Lodge to the St. Aidan's Hospital on Wednesday, the 12th June, 1957. He conducted the Tuesday evening classes normally and returned to the Lodge where he collapsed half an hour later. A few members who delayed their stay with him left the Lodge a little later after he had recovered feeling satisfied that he was well.



Swami Nischalananda

A few members who called at the Lodge the next day at about 11 a. m. found the doors closed but heard groans from within. They opened the door and entered to find the Swamijee lying on the floor in an unconscious condition. He was rushed to hospital by ambulance.

The Swamijee is suffering from physical and mental exhaustion. Since his return from Johannesburg after a busy fortnight he was engaged in arrangements for the Children's Club Anniversary.

Though the Swamijee was in a serious condition for two days following his removal to hospital, he has since shown satisfactory progress and on the instructions of the doctors he will remain in hospital for a few more days. It has been advised that Swamijee should be taken to a quiet place for complete rest at least for a month.

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TOPIC OF THE WEEK.

By JORDAN K. NGUBANE.

Africa Cannot Listen To Strijdom And Louw

THE Prime Minister and the Minister of External Affairs have been at pains in recent weeks trying to impress on the peoples of Africa the need for hastening slowly in the march to sovereign independence.

Firstly, Mr. Strijdom and Mr. Louw must be told by the Africans, quite bluntly, that it is none of their business to tell the men and the women of Africa when they should want to be free. They could employ their time and breath to better use elsewhere.

There are two reasons for this. They are bad counsellors and their advice is not calculated to do the man of Africa much good.

We should like to feel that they are best qualified to advise us who are going the way we are going. These two gentlemen are not going our way. They believe and teach that race is the determinant of a people's destiny; that South Africa is a White man's country; that we must be treated as though we were lepers in the land of our birth. The Prime Minister himself never tires—although he has sobered down visibly in the years he has been in office—of telling the world that *die Wit man moet altyd baas bly*.

Future?

What sort of a future can the man of Africa look to in a world where the White man is master? To ask the African, in all seriousness, to be patient with a state where he is perpetually branded as the White man's inferior is to be blind to reality. And that is putting it mildly.

The two greatest forces at work in Africa today are! the universal demand for self-determination and the complete and uncompromising rejection of White supremacy, White leadership with justice, White trusteeship and all the nonsensical humbugs and hypocrisies which go with that. When hundreds of thousand of Africans walked on their feet for months at Alexandra Township in protest against the pass rise in their fares; when 10,000 women outwitted the Police and marched to Union Buildings with anti-Pass petitions; when the students of Fort Hare demonstrated against Witchdoctor Universities, what they all did was to say, in plain language which nobody need mistake, that they want to determine their future and don't want to be bossed by anybody any longer; and no man who believes in

apartheid in any shape or form is a friend of the African. He, who is not our friend cannot advise us.

Our White friends are those who seek to broaden the area of liberty in the nation's life; who seek to face squarely and honestly the prospect of being ruled by an African majority; who are not horrified by this as long as civil liberties are guaranteed to all citizens. These White people do not ask for any especial privileges for themselves. All they want is the opportunity to make the best possible use of their lives in circumstances where they will be secure. In other words, all they want to be assured about is that when the African majority rules, it will recognise their right to those liberties which the African wants for himself. What could be more reasonable? More just? What could be more calculated to convince the African that genuine partnership was being sought?

Renegades

Strijdom and Louw regard such White people as renegades; as traitors to the White skin—as people for whom laws must be made so that they do not have any contact with the African. There have been men and women like the Afrikaner Nationalists right through history. They were the people behind the Inquisition. They were the men who provoked the French revolution; they were the people who imposed the Pass system in the Austro-Hungarian empire; they were the men who came with ukases against their fellowmen in Czarist Russia. They are history's forgotten little men and women, today. For, no tyrant has as yet been born who will suppress the spirit of Man forever.

At the same time if Mr. Strijdom and Mr. Louw want to convince us that they are friends, it is for them to change their attitude; to give up an ideology built on arrogance and hatred and which has thrived on the humiliation of millions of their fellowmen. It has no place in the democratic tradition and none in Africa, either. It has its roots in slavery and reached its point of logical fulfilment in the Gestapo; in the beasts of Belsen and in

the Julius Streichers of Naz, Germany.

We know that these men, so unctuously solicitous for the welfare of the African today—just because he is getting too strong to be enslaved any longer—would not raise a finger against Hitler. Today they have got Parliament to pass laws which brand the African a political leper in the land of his birth; laws which will create situations where it would appear God Himself would take offence if African Christians entered His house to worship Him against the wishes of Mr. Strijdom's own government!

Not That Way

No, Mr. Strijdom and Mr. Louw, you do not make friends that way. Certainly, if you want people to listen to you when you speak, you do not do these things. No African in all his senses will pause even for a minute to bother about what you say. The Black people are on the march to a future they are creating for themselves, whether or not you stand in the way.

If you stand in the way, the sons and the daughters of Africa will march on. Nothing that Afrikaner Nationalism can ever do will stop 120,000,000 men and women from reaching their goal in their own time. If Afrikaner Nationalism is crushed in the process and with that the Afrikaner is told there is no place for him in Africa, only men like the leaders of the Nationalist Party and the Dutch Reformed Church will be to blame.

These things need to be said now, plainly, bluntly and openly, as a warning to the blind who follow Afrikaner Nationalism to the precipice. The greatest menace which has ever arisen in this country to threaten the future of the White people is Afrikaner Nationalism. If it has its way, it will destroy the Union and create situations in which this part of the world will not be a fit place for an Afrikaner to live in. The hatreds it stirs up in the bosom of the man of colour are as deep as those roused in the Afrikaner's own bosom by British imperialism in the Cape and later. The Afrikaner Nationalist should know how he felt then and from that should realise that he has brought the African exactly to the same pitch of hatred. He is, of course, at liberty to do what he likes while he is strong.

The British did that against him, too. But he must know and must be made to know, that one day he, like the British imperialist, will be called upon to pay the price of it all. For this reason, the people of Africa cannot listen to him when he speaks or to his leaders because he has successfully convinced the Black race that he does not wish it good.

March To Goal

We are going to march to our goal of freeing Africa with firm determination. The White person who joins us firmly in that is most welcome. Quite frankly, we are very anxious to have them join us in their millions so that we can fight together and, having fought together, build together a New Africa where no man shall be punished for the fact that his ancestors were born in a particular continent, or that he speaks a particular language or that he has a particular skin colour. We have suffered enough from the smallminded South Africa of the Strijdoms and the Louws and want no more of that, suffering, either for ourselves or our fellowmen, for it is terribly hurting and destructive. We want, for ourselves, our children and all our countrymen, that peace and that liberty where we shall be free not to hate; where we shall feel that we are not hated. And that peace comes only where men are equals of their neighbours. That is why we want race equality.

If Mr. Strijdom and Mr. Louw tomorrow told us that they want race equality, I would be the first to tell the sons and the daughters of Africa to listen when they spoke; for then they would be speaking the only language that Africa's 120,000,000 will ever be in mood to understand!

Mr. V. K. Krishna Menon Inspects Minesweepers

Four newly acquired Minesweepers were inspected by Mr. V. K. Krishna Menon just before he left for U. S. The ceremony took place at the Naval Dockyard early in the morning. After the inspection Mr. Menon and the newspaper reporters were taken around the bay for half an hour in one of the minesweepers. Breakfast was served while we cruised around the bay.

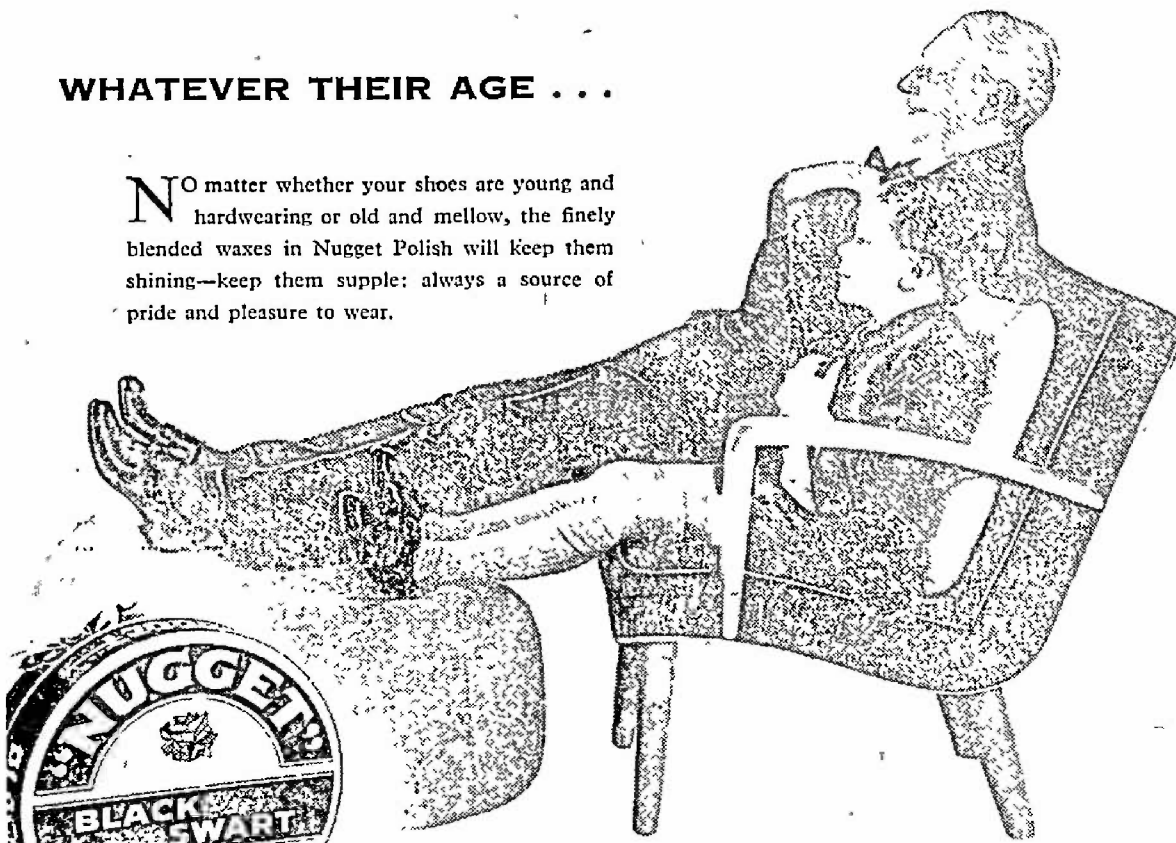
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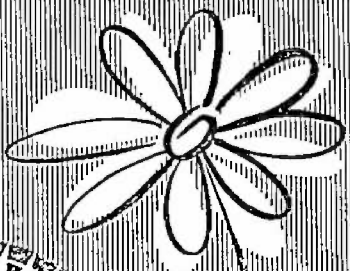
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India Letter

(From Our Own Correspondent)

WASTEFUL GOVERNMENT SPENDING DEPLORED BY M.P.'s

IGNORING their party affiliations, members of the Lok Sabha united in denouncing ostentatious Governmental expenditure and demanding all-round economies.

Hardly anyone questioned the need to raise new taxes to bring more money in the Government coffers to spend on the second five year plan. But Congressmen eloquently joined Communists, Socialists and Independents in insisting that the Government should do with "clean hands"

Acharya Kriplani, the P. Socialist Party leader, led the attack on official wastefulness. He urged that the institution of Governors be abolished and the second chambers of legislatures be wound up. The salaries of highly-paid Government servants and Ministers, he added, should be reduced to Rs 2,000 including prerequisites, and the allowance of M.P.'s should be cut.

Acharya Kriplani criticised the Government for "slavishly imitating" the imperial tradition by maintaining the "pomp and show" of the former British rulers.

English Will Continue To Be Useful To Indians

India would need the English language for a long time to come and people must refrain from dubbing it as an alien language, the Governor of Bombay, Mr. Sri Prakasa has said

He advised parents not to hesitate to teach their children "this useful language". It had its importance both for national and international purposes, he added.

The Governor was addressing the Cadets of the training ship "Dufferin", on the occasion of its annual prize distribution ceremony, held at the Convocation Hall.

Bandaranaike Heading For Trouble

Armed, steel-helmeted police were stationed at strategic points throughout Colombo while mobile patrols roved the city in an anti-riot exercise in anticipation of the civil disobedience campaign which the Tamil Federal Party has decided to launch in August.

The Federal Party has announced a Gandhi styled "Satyagraha" campaign in protest

against the Government's decision to make Sinhalese the sole official language of Ceylon.

Members of Premier Solomon Bandaranaike's Government have reportedly declared that the Premier would be willing to meet Tamil representatives in a bid to solve the language dispute.

The Government has instructed the Ceylon High Commissioner in New Delhi to exercise particular discretion in issuing visas for travel to Ceylon following the Tamil Federal Party's announcement that Indian leaders would come to Ceylon in connection with the Civil Disobedience Campaign.

Influenza Epidemic Disrupts The Life Of Bombay

This epidemic has disrupted the normal life of Bombay. Thousands of people have taken ill and therefore business has suffered a considerably. Many local trains have been cancelled because of the shortage of staff. Local cloth mills are working with a skeleton staff and in some cases they have had to close down. Public transport has suffered considerably because many drivers and conductors have taken ill.

Post Office hours have been curtailed because of the shortage of staff. Life, generally in the City of Bombay has been disrupted.

The Municipal Commissioner has, however, assured the general public that this epidemic is now under control and there is absolutely no need for panic.

Death Of Prominent Pretoria Businessman

NEWS was received early this week, of the sudden death of Mr. Girdharlal Jivanjee Tanna, of Messrs. J. Gordhan and Co., of Pretoria. He died of heart failure at the young age of 42, while he was visiting India with his wife and son. He was a keen businessman and one of the top figures in the South African Lohana community. He is survived by his wife, two daughters and four sons, and a large number of relatives. We wish to extend our deepest sympathy to the bereaved family.

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Ramkrishna Child-rens Club

Third Anniversary

THE Club celebrated its third anniversary on June 9, at the Street Vaithnatha Esperar Temple grounds. About 300 children from various branches at Seaview, Hillary, Chatsworth, Newlands, Springfield, Railway Barracks, Briardene, Chakaskraal, Phoenix, Clairwood, Stanger Pinetown, Candella and Durban Centre were present. The celebrations commenced with a march past by the children singing "Rama Rama." The Club flag was hoisted by a Trustee, Mr. S. Roopsingh. Swami Nischalananda welcomed the children, parents and guests, and outlined the progress of the Club in the past three years.

A variety programme rendered by the various branches, was brought to an end by a Fancy dress parade in which children dressed as Saints and Gods.

Speeches were made by a number of prominent Indians. Club members sang Bhajans and Dhuns.

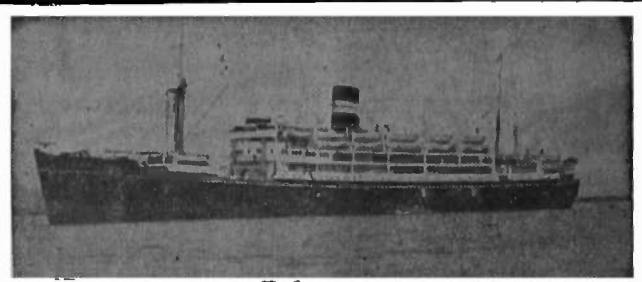
Mrs. K. G. Pillay presented a large Birthday cake.

The children and guests were served with light refreshments.

S.A. Delegation For New Delhi

A PARLIAMENTARY delegation of eight members, is preparing to leave for new Delhi, at the end of this year to participate in the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association Conference. They will also make a tour of Pakistan, Ceylon and India. The following members will make up the delegation:—Parliament Speaker Mr. J. H. Conradie, the Clerk Mr. J. M. Hugo, (leader of the delegation), Mr. J. F. W. Haak (Belville Nat.), Senator P. S. Hayward (Cape Nat.), Dr. Henry Gluckham (Yeoville U.P.), Mr. Douglas Mitchell (Natal U.P.), Mrs. Margaret Ballinger and, the chief whip of the United Party, and the president of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association and the South African Association Mr. Hagarty. He will also preside the conference in New Delhi.

The President, Dr. Rajendra Prasad, has set a precedent by requesting the Government of India to reduce his salary by Rs. 1,000 in view of the financial difficulties experienced by the Government.



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