

OBSERVER

A Indian topical news bulletin for all.

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GOD-SPEED

A new era in journalism is set by the production of the Indian Observer. South Africa's only periodical of its kind edited, printed and published by Indians for all.

It will be presented in a way it is hoped that will ensure complete success and receive full support from all sections of the community. It is the aim of the publishers to eradicate the prevailing racial discriminations that enshroud the life of a non-European in the social and political world.

Let us discuss in the Observer our any and varied problems confronting us in our daily lives and bring about a united front irrespective of class colour or creed.

Briefly the objects of this bulletin are to unite all right minded men women and children in a world wide active campaign on behalf of social, political, religious and racial freedom.

To enlighten public attitude on all questions bearing on people whether they are Natives, Indians or Europeans.

The Observer will foster this policy, but it knows that Indians in particular and more especially the orthodox who are filled with old fashioned ideas and acceptances are not going to display their willingness without much ado to accept this paper nevertheless, the Observer will set a precedence to these people to make full use of its columns. This is my first message to you and I hope it will not be the last.

The Observer is a non-profit making bulletin, its financial resources at the moment are four shillings cash with a debit balance of four pounds. With this end in view your prayer support of the work of the Observer is most earnestly sought. Cash from a penny to a pound will be greatly appreciated.

To you all I extend a hearty greeting.

The Editor.

INDIAN SEAMEN STARVE IN DURBAN.

Due to the fear of police as cast a gloom over the lives of Indian seamen visiting Durban. After being housed at the Indian Immigration Barracks they are inadequately fed. The substance for their meals consist of Dholl and rice for breakfast, dinner and supper. This rumour has caused a considerable unrest in Durban in the past few days.

I was led into a room ten feet wide by about 100 feet long, writes our reporter lying on the floor were several beds made for the night. These consisted of a single blanket which served as a layer on the floor and at the same time as a covering for warmth.

The seamen who numbered about thirty said they had come from all parts of India and while their ships lay in port they are housed at the barracks. Mr. Adm. Ally the spokesman of the company said they had to lie on the carpet floor at nights and those who had brought enough bedding with them from home were fortunate in warding off the cold and the after effects of the floor.

Seeward Sunhoo a patient at the Immigration hospital paid a compliment in no uncertain manner to the food that is given him and his compatriots.

Sasani Macala

writes in passing:

No word in any dictionary has changed meaning faster than the word Indians. A short 20 years ago the synonym for Indians was dirty. They were coolies they were brown people, they lived in dirty little huts with dirty clothes South Africa was a kind of Rip van Winkle sleeping princess awaked from centuries of enchanted mere-beliefs. With the world war the synonym for Indians became presumption. Dirtiness was forgotten when these people fought side by side with England. They did not worry much; nobody worried much. Nothing would come of the Indians demands said white hall. They are never a first class race said a politician. Foveat et. etc. they are practically without food said another. and there are worst troubles yet to come, yet

When I asked the superintendent for a ration of foodstuffs so that I can prepare my own meals to my satisfaction she threatened me with arrest. Rather than face the humiliation of death through starvation I limped into Durban and reported the matter to my ships agents. When they approached her she grudgingly gave me the usual dholl and rice. I was never insolent at any time so there was no reason why I should be jailed for the asking of food, added Sunhoo.

Several seamen including Ally paid a most compliment to the hospital cook grey haired Krishna Hair who they chorused had provided them with meat and other edibles at all time during their stay.

They are going to carry away with them the memories of Durban said another, a City literally teeming with racial discriminations. According to seaman Abed it is a crime to be born an Indian.

another. Time went on. India had four earthquakes in one year, that will clear them said a diplomat. and they go on thinking. The answer to all this simple. At present they very well prevented from imagining anything so fantastically remote. For centuries loyalty not though has been the crown of an Indians life. Freedom to think for himself had no place in an Indians soul. The few who do think have no chance. The police terror, now in use and now effective, may remain

INDIAN GIRLS DEMAND NEW SCHOOLS.
PROTEST MARCH TO MARITZBURG.

If the proposals of the senior girls of the Dartnell Crescent Indian Girls High school function according to plan there is a possibility of a new secondary school being built in Durban.

The nature of the proposals have not yet reached this office, but it is learnt on authority that the senior girls have petitioned several political and social organisations to pursue the department of education to build extra buildings to accommodate the influx of girls to secondary education. Due to lack of buildings even primary classes have been affected.

In an interview with the Observer, Miss J. Nair said that in spite of several representations to the education department to recognise the claims of the Indian children on purely humanitarian grounds and accommodate the ever increasing number of children who are yearly turned away by the schools there are yet no signs. On the contrary they are contemplating measures to render the position of the Indians more and more difficult.

Referring to the number of children who in recent months have been refused admission to the schools Miss Nair said that one school cannot be possibly sufficient for the requirements of 6,000 children. She asserts that schools should be built all over the country. Without mass education for the children the country will never be able to enjoy to the full the fruit which it has a right to expect from higher education. The different branches of education should move forward together. The pushing forward of primary education is impossible without higher education. Taking into fact the economic and social conditions of the Indians in Natal, Miss Nair added that it devolves a sacred duty upon the state to promote the popular as well as the superior and secondary education. The whole religious, social and educational advance of the country depends upon the steady adhesion to that enlightened policy as regards

Funds are needed. please help.

higher education, which has been the most generally approved policy of the British Indians and the Union Government in the past.

While these lines are being set into print, notification has been received that should the respective organisations fail to approach the Union department of education, it is the intention of the girls to proceed to Maritzburg and demand a hearing.

NATIVE SERVANT CONTROL.
Mrs. Ballinger
protests.

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Any suggestion of strengthening the terms of civil contracts between native servants and masters would aggravate the feeling of insecurity prevailing among the native population. This is part of a statement made by Mrs. Ballinger to the debate on a motion by Mr. Geldenhuys when he asked leave to introduce the Cape masters and servants Amendment Bill in the assembly on Friday.

Mrs. Ballinger said that under stress of its contact with European society it was beginning to realise fully the basis upon which contracts were generally drawn up, and it resented the suggestion that natives should be dealt with by a law different from the law of anyone else.

The masters and servants contracts contained no colour bar provision but in application the colour bar was evident.

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The Observer is your paper, use it. It is a non-profit making bulletin.

AN OPEN LETTER TO MR. DAJIB AHMED SEEDAT.

My Dear Seedat, Greetings.

As the dust of battle drifts away in Durban, the more extraordinary seems your achievements. Defeated, yes, but master still of the nationalist bloc and leader of hundreds of thousands of poverty stricken and illiterate Indians who have now been thoroughly aroused and will not rest until the state has at last been wrested from the control of the political fascists, who hold the seats of power. What you did in one year was to shake the Earth with a quake mightier than that which toppled the Indian states over a century ago. Starting from nothing and nowhere you captured the imagination of the multitude by your fearless and out spoken manner and your determination to conduct a campaign for the liberation of humanity from the yoke of Imperialism, Fascism and Nazism. You have raised such opposition that few men would have borne as you did. The legions of hell were let loose upon you, and for the time being they have accomplished their aim. But democracy thus defamed and betrayed is either dead in South Africa or still alive, is destined like truth, crushed to earth, to rise again and smite with destruction the hosts of evil.

I would like to remind you of a small incident during my infancy. When I was about five years old I attempted to split a piece of wood with my father's razor. You can be sure that it was less bad for the wood than the razor. I remembered this incident when I heard that you got yourself into this rude business of politics. In economic affairs the logic of facts will work itself out somewhat slowly. You have contributed more than any man in South Africa.

To you I send the hearty greetings of your

GARAM MABALA.

The OBSERVER would like to know:
What has Otto Neumann thinks
of the employees demand for a
higher wage.

Why the Indian printers of
Durban refused to print this
bulletin.

Why leaders Westendorp, Kojac
& Co have not intervened on
behalf of the Indian seamen.

If the people of Durban &
South Africa are going to
side with Seedat in this crit-
ical hour.

Why Mr. Blatter the head of the
Durban Indian Girls High School
created separate staff room. One
for the Indians and the other for
Europeans.

Why a similar order is in force
at the Bastru College.

Why the Stella Hill Indian
school prefer telugu to tamil
children.

Why certain Indian youths poster
Indian girls in Grey Street.

The observer has an eye on the
incidents... watch out.

The OBSERVER will appreciate correspondence on these subjects.

Funds are urgently needed to foster the policy of the OBSERVER. It is
your paper please help. Address your donations to the Editor, 25 Well Av.,
Manor Gardens Durban.

(Everything of a political and controversial nature in this issue has
been written by George Hestery of the above address.)

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