

Indian Opinion

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Indian Opinion

SATURDAY, AUGUST 15TH, 1908.

No Quarter

THE Transvaal Asiatics are having rather a rough time at the hands of General Smuts. Those who accept imprisonment are half-starved in that they, being classed with Natives, do not get food to which they are accustomed. Our Vereeniging correspondent reports that the Magistrate there imposed a fine on the passive resisters, the fine, if not paid, to be collected out of the goods belonging to them. We must assume that this extraordinary procedure has been adopted in obedience to instructions from head-quarters. The brave Indians of Vereeniging have decided to allow their goods to be sold. They will not voluntarily pay a fine which in their opinion is not merited. Mr. Gandhi has characterized this mode of punishment as "legalised robbery." He is not far wrong in having used the expression. Evidently, it does not pay the Government to have many short-term Indian prisoners, even though they are sentenced to perform hard labour. They want to harass Indians. They fined that imprisonment ceases to have any terror for them. They, therefore, wish to seize their goods and replenish the public treasury at the expense of the poor Indians. It is quite clear that, apart from the law authorising such forfeitures, the exaction would be considered robbery. Seeing that General Smuts uses the law to exact money from Indians to which, according to their estimate, he has no right, it certainly savours of legalised robbery. General Smuts knew or ought to have known well how effectively Mr. Naidoo helped the Government when registration was going on; he ought to have known that Mr. Naidoo

was suffering imprisonment when Mrs. Naidoo was in a most delicate condition. Yet he did not intervene to see that Mr. Naidoo was set free. What wonder that the murder of Mr. Naidoo's child has been attributed to General Smuts. Indians have then to realize that they will receive no quarter from General Smuts. And why should they? He takes them at their word. His business is, by hook or by crook, to compel submission to the Asiatic Act. Indians, on the other hand, have declared that they rely upon a higher power than General Smuts. They rely upon his and their Maker who judges unerringly and gives everyone his due. With God on their side, Indians have little need for any quarter from General Smuts.

THE GOVERNMENT HAVE AT LAST

published their precious Asiatic Bill to legalise voluntary registration certificates. The Bill makes it incumbent on British Indians to offer the strongest opposition to it. Seemingly, it takes holders of voluntary registration certificates out of the operation of the Asiatic Act. In reality, holders of voluntary registration certificates are just as much under the Act as those who have accepted it. The Government have, by publishing the Bill, shown that they propose to treat British Indians as so many children who can be pleased by subterfuges. The Bill constitutes a flagrant breach of the compact arrived at by General Smuts. The Act, according to the compact, was not to be applied to voluntary registrants. On the surface, it does not apply, but, in substance, it does. Voluntary registration was, again, to apply to those Asiatics who returned to the Transvaal after the date of the compromise, irrespective of a time limit. Such registration, by this Bill, is denied to such Asiatics. In order to deceive British Indians into the belief that the Asiatic Act would not apply to voluntary registrants, Section 13 of it is repealed by the Bill under consideration, and the same Section is re-enacted in the Bill itself. We do not say that nothing in the Asiatic Act can be ever acceptable to the Indian community, but the transference of Section 13 of the old Act to the Bill really betrays the hostile intentions of the Government. That Section is an eternal pin-prick. Without bringing it into the new Bill, voluntary registrants could have escaped it, but it never was the intention of the Government, as it now transpires, to give any reward to the voluntary registrants for the brave stand they took up and the fairness

with which they carried out their part of the compromise. Looking back to the history of the compromise and the obsequious policy of the Government as reflected in the action of the Registrar of Asiatics whilst registration was yet going on, one cannot escape the conclusion that the intention from the first was fraudulent. A trap was laid for the British Indians, and immediately the trap-door was properly fastened on them they were to be hacked to pieces. However, the trap will not succeed if British Indians in the Transvaal still retain the same fire that burned in their veins in January last.

The Indian Struggle in the Transvaal

Under the following head-lines the *Transvaal Leader* of the 10th instant publishes the following letter from Mr. Gandhi:

THE ASIATIC QUESTION

A STRIKING CONTRAST

PRISONERS AND THEIR FOOD

Sir,—May I, through your columns, place before those of your readers, who are interested in fair justice being done to all the inhabitants of the Transvaal, a phase of the Asiatic question?

I read, in your impression of to-day's date, a brief report of the two cases of Indians who were alleged to have been connected with forged certificates. One of the men secured his discharge by becoming King's evidence. The man against whom he became King's evidence has also been discharged. The public know how far one party, according to his own confession, was involved in the forgery traffic. The evidence against the other was undoubtedly, according to the newspaper reports, too weak to sustain a conviction. Thus those who are connected with the forgery are largely free. The Asiatic Law Amendment Act does not, and did not, touch them. They were not charged under it either, and I frankly admit that no Asiatic Act could deal with such cases. Wherever there is restriction on personal liberty, there will be found people ready enough to resort to a variety of practices to shirk such restriction. It is worthy of note that Indians were not the only parties connected with the traffic. Europeans are also alleged to have been engaged in it.

Now let your readers turn to the other side of the picture! Indians who have entered the Colony openly, who

have proved their pre-war residence, who have always conformed to its laws, and who have recently, by universal acknowledgment, helped the Government to completely identify such persons, are being harassed on all sides and subjected, to use Lord Milner's historic expression, to "pin-pricks". Inoffensive Indians, in many instances Indians belonging to the highest strata of the Indian community, are being imprisoned not because they have committed any heinous offence, but because their conscience does not approve of what they consider to be irritating and insulting legislation. Standerton is, at present, practically denuded of its chief Indian storekeepers who are now serving a term of 14 days' imprisonment with hard labour.

As if this were not in itself sufficient harassment, no relief has yet been granted regarding the food of these Indian prisoners. European prisoners get that food to which they are generally accustomed; Cape boys receive European food; Natives get a diet to which they are accustomed; Indian prisoners get practically Native diet, and, therefore, are half-starved. They get mealie-pap for breakfast every day and mealie-pap for supper three times per week. Mealie-pap, I know, to those who are accustomed to it or who can by a long course of training habituate themselves to it, is very good. Unfortunately, my countrymen do not take mealie-pap. The result is that, in the Transvaal gaols, they have to suffer partial starvation. The Authorities have been approached for relief, but, up to the time of writing, there has been no response. My countrymen draw the conclusion, probably quite unjustifiably, that relief has been withheld in order to exasperate the Indians into submission. If so, let them take care that they do not exasperate them into bitterest opposition to the Government and their measures.

Asiatics, having fulfilled their part of the contract, are now endeavouring to keep General Smuts to his part of that contract, which, according to the *Transvaal Leader*, he publicly declared to be as follows:—"He had told them (the Asiatics) that the Law would not be repealed so long as there was an Asiatic in the country who had not registered" and, again, "Until every Indian in the country had registered the Law would not be repealed" It is admitted that all Asiatics who had the opportunity of making application for voluntary registration have done so. Asiatics now ask "Why, then, has the Act not yet been repealed, and why was the offer to repeal the Act made under impossible conditions?"

I am, etc.,

Johannesburg, M. K. GANDHI.
8th August, 1908.

The Editor deals as follows with the letter in the same issue.

IF TRUE, DISGRACEFUL

In another column will be found a letter from Mr. M. K. Gandhi, to one

portion of which we wish to direct the attention not only of the Minister and the officials concerned, but more particularly of the members of Parliament and the fair-minded, justice-loving public. We do not mean that part referring to the very different treatment meted out to Asiatic forgers of permits and their friends on the one hand, and to the bulk of respectable Asiatics on the other, though Mr. Gandhi's observations on this head are sufficiently piquant—all the more owing to the truth of them. We mean that part of his letter in which he asserts that Asiatics sent to gaol under the present Tom-fool administration of the Asiatic Act are being half-starved, owing to their not being given the kind of food they are accustomed to, and to their inability to consume that which is supplied to them. These men are political prisoners; it is unjust if they are put to hard labour or made to wear prison clothing; it is infamously unjust if they are treated dietetically as Mr. Gandhi says they are. We thought that countries professing themselves civilised had abolished torture. We seem to be an exception. Surely, the medical authorities of the prisons are recommending the prisoners food which they can take? Are the medical officials' instructions obeyed, as it is the duty of everybody connected with the Prisons Department, from the Colonial Secretary downwards, to obey them? Are the medical officers' views being set aside? It is not as if there were any cooking difficulties. There is no food more easily prepared than rice. If Mr. Gandhi's accusation be well founded, we are acting in a way which would disgrace a Turkish province, let alone one of the British Imperial States.

Ordered to Leave

An unusually large crowd of Indians assembled in "B" Court yesterday (Monday) afternoon, says the *Leader*, to hear the case of Harilal Mohandas Gandhi, a son of Mr. M. K. Gandhi, aged 20, and described as a student, who was brought before Mr. H. H. Jordan on a charge of contravening the Asiatic Amendment Act by failing to be in possession of a registration certificate.

The accused pleaded guilty, and was defended by his father. Mr. A. Cramer prosecuted.

Superintendent Vernon, of "B" Division, gave evidence of arrest, and further stated that he called upon the accused to produce his certificate of registration, who, however, failed to do so, saying that he did not possess one.

Mr. Gandhi, on behalf of the accused, said that the latter had no desire to leave the Colony, but nevertheless he was desirous that the Court should make an order for the accused to leave the Colony within 24 hours. He made the request because two other Indians whose time under the Act would expire on Wednesday would be ready to

go to gaol. He (Mr. Gandhi) hoped his Worship would adopt this course, as the accused's affairs were in his hands.

Mr. Jordan ordered the accused to leave the Colony within seven days.

The "Leader" on the Situation

The *Transvaal Leader* writes as under in its issue of the 11th instant:—

There remains the so-called Asiatic question. It is understood that towards the end of the present week one more Bill will be brought in, dealing with this exasperating muddle. It became obvious a few days ago that a new move was impending, when petitions began to be brought into Parliament and resolutions to be moved at municipal meetings, upon a preconceived plan which the authors did not even attempt to conceal. One section of the dwellers within the Transvaal, anyhow, will be glad that at last something definite is to be done, and that is—the Asiatics themselves. We wonder if it has occurred to many of our readers, of the European race, to try to put themselves into the places of the Asiatics during the last few weeks. It is a rather saddening reflection, as showing the extent to which contact with subject-races injures us, that the white races of this Colony, people mainly of good national stock, naturally no less kindly and chivalrous than others, have witnessed apparently unmoved the spectacle presented of late of a section of our population, whose only fault is that it is not white, existing almost literally under the harrow. Just imagine an equal number of our white population, never sure whether they would be haled off to gaol, separated from wives and children—and all for what? That is just what some of us would like to know. We have been assured that the harrying of the Asiatics of recent weeks and months is part of a deep, statesman-like plan. We have sought earnestly for the statesmanship; and we are a little tired. We are all agreed that no more Asiatics are to be allowed in. The Colonial Secretary has told us that the country can safely carry those already here. He has also told us that we cannot deport these people, and cannot indefinitely imprison them. Australia manages by the way it interprets certain clauses of its Immigration Act, to keep out Asiatics. We can do the same, with intelligent and uncorrupt officials. The Asiatics do not in the least object to our doing so, but they say, and they would be less than men if they did not say, that they are not going expressly and formally to approve our action in so doing. For the rest, they ask that the Colonial Secretary carry out the promise contained in his own speeches, that as to the Asiatics (practically all in the Colony) who registered voluntarily under the compromise with the Asiatic leaders then in gaol, the old Act would be repealed or not applied; which we have no doubt the Colonial

Secretary will do. And they ask that Asiatics outside the Colony now, but possessing the right to reside here, be free to submit their cases to our own Courts, by whose decisions they must abide. It is to be hoped that something on these lines will be done. By all means let us keep out Asiatics henceforth, and by all means let us rigorously prosecute any here who do not conform to proper municipal standards and so compete on unfair terms; but what we gain in cash or credit by imprisoning and terrorising people whom our own Government tells us we have to accept, willy nilly, we are too dense to be able to apprehend.

"The Star"

On the same date the *Star* says:

The Colonial Secretary's reticence in reference to the policy of the Government on the Asiatic question has caused some little uneasiness in the public mind. Hence the action of municipal and other public bodies in passing resolutions demanding the strict and impartial enforcement of the law. The request is one which the Government cannot ignore except at the risk of exasperating the European community, including a large section of its own supporters. So far we have had no reason to doubt the willingness of the Colonial Secretary to settle this matter on the only lines which are acceptable to European opinion. At the same time we consider it a matter for regret that Mr. Smuts has not taken the public more completely into his confidence in each phase of the controversy. When some months ago it was announced that Mr. Smuts and Mr. Gandhi had arrived at a satisfactory compromise, we welcomed the news in the belief that it meant the end of the passive resistance movement and afforded a guarantee against any future trouble. Differences have arisen, however, as to the interpretation to be placed upon the terms of the unwritten compact. As we understand the position, Mr. Gandhi accuses the Colonial Secretary of a flagrant breach of promise in that he declines to repeal the Asiatic Act; while on the other hand Mr. Smuts insists that the Asiatic leader now demands new concessions which the Government cannot grant and never had any intention of granting. The Asiatic leaders, in the hope, as their organ, *INDIAN OPINION*, puts it, of "enlisting the Imperial Government's sympathy in their cause," now seek to force the issue by a renewal of the passive resistance crusade.

We are in the unfortunate position of having to discuss the new situation without the Colonial Secretary's version of the causes which have led to the present deadlock. Mr. Gandhi has spoken and written much on the supposed duplicity and slowness of the Colonial Secretary. But his testimony, if testimony it can be called, is certainly not conclusive as to the responsibility of the Colonial

Secretary for the rupture which has occurred. When Mr. Gandhi goes so far as to accuse Mr. Smuts of "murder" and of "organised robbery," even those who are not unsympathetic must feel sceptical of his trustworthiness on questions of fact. We, therefore, prefer to await Mr. Smuts' version of the compromise before forming any conclusions on the merits of the quarrel. Mr. Smuts is the servant of Parliament, and any promise he may have made to Mr. Gandhi was necessarily subject to the ratification of the Legislature. It is of course conceivable that in his eagerness to facilitate the work of registration and to close an unprofitable controversy the Colonial Secretary may have been prepared to go further than was prudent or practicable. But for our own part we fail to understand how he could have undertaken to repeal the Asiatic Act unless he intended to re-embody the provisions with reference to registration in a new Bill.

We understand that the Colonial Secretary now proposes to maintain the Act on the Statute Book and to introduce a formal measure validating the registrations effected and the certificates issued subsequent to the date fixed by the Government in terms of the Act. We come now to the points in dispute between Mr. Smuts and Mr. Gandhi. Sufficient has been said to show that the question of the repeal of the Act of last session cannot be decided on the *ex parte* evidence of Mr. Gandhi. Mr. Smuts is at least entitled to the benefit of the doubt until his version of the negotiations is before the public. We do not hesitate to say that a settlement of the Asiatic question on the basis now advocated by Mr. Gandhi would be bitterly resented by a vast majority of the colonists of the Transvaal. First of all we have the proposal to recognise the rights of all Asiatics domiciled in the Transvaal prior to the war. In our opinion there ought not to be much difficulty in arriving at an agreement on this point. So long as those former residents can satisfy the Registrar that they had acquired a domicile here and had not voluntarily abandoned that domicile, they should be permitted to return. The law vests the Registrar with sufficient power to deal with such claims on a basis of equity. The question involved is a simple one of evidence, and we see no reason for Mr. Gandhi's demand that an appeal should lie from the decision of the Registrar to the Supreme Court. The fatal objection to the Indian leader's policy, however, is his insistence upon the right of every British Indian to enter the Colony if he can satisfy the educational tests of the Immigration Law. What does this proposal involve? The unrestricted admission in the near future of the thousands of Indian lads who have been or are being educated in the schools of Natal, to

say nothing of those educated in India. We refuse to believe that the Colonial Secretary ever contemplated the acceptance of a condition of this kind in his negotiations with Mr. Gandhi. And the mere fact that the latter puts forward such a demand now is sufficient in our view to relieve Mr. Smuts from any pledge which he may have given on other points. Our emotional and admittedly "tired" morning contemporary waxes unusually tearful over the spectacle of a section of the population "existing almost literally under the harrow." We protest against the *Leader's* unwarranted assumption that the Government is alone to blame for what is happening and that the action of the Asiatics who are setting the Government and the law at defiance is altogether praiseworthy and entitles them to wear the martyr's crown. The best reply to our contemporary's passionate appeal is to point out that a surrender on Mr. Smut's part would be equivalent to throwing open the gateways to thousands of educated or semi-educated Asiatics. We can take no such risks. We have shown the true inwardness and the serious menace of Mr. Gandhi's proposals. Nothing which the Colonial Secretary can say or do will ever reconcile this community to a compromise of this kind. Whatever hardship or inconvenience the Asiatics have suffered they owe entirely to the recalcitrancy and folly of their leaders. If they are unwilling to accept any settlement that does not commend itself to Mr. Gandhi, if, individually and collectively, they seek to stultify the administration of the law, they cannot complain when they are called upon to bear the consequences. They may be consoled by the knowledge that they have the sympathy of our contemporary; but they will also do well to remember that by adhering to the course upon which they have recently re-embarked they are only estranging those who wish to see justice done on the basis of the recognition of existing rights. And the sooner the Colonial Secretary makes it clear and the Asiatics realise that the law cannot be defied with impunity the better will it be for all concerned.

Standerton Traders Prosecuted

Standerton has been the first town in the Transvaal where Indian traders and merchants have been prosecuted for carrying on the business of general dealer without a licence.

On the 5th instant, before Mr. Devine, Ismail Abrahamji Bhabha, Ismail Mahomed Dindar, and Chatoorbhai Laloobhai Patel were charged with breach of the Licensing Ordinance of 1903. All pleaded guilty. Mr. Patel is Chairman and Mr. Dindar Secretary of the local community. Mr. H. S. L. Polak defended.

Corp. G. M. Sutherland of the Transvaal Police testified to the fact that, upon inquiry, the accused had

admitted that they were trading without licences for the current half-year.

Cross-examined: He was acting upon the instructions of the station sergeant, and was only told to examine Bhabha, Patel, and Dindar.

Mr. R. G. Rose, revenue clerk on the Resident Magistrate's staff, at Standerton, stated that he issued trading licences. He had issued licences to the accused up to the 30th June last, but not since then. They had applied together with the other Asiatics, for licences, through an agent, but he had refused them because they declined to give a thumb-impression under Act 2 of 1907.

Cross-examined: He had instructions to send a list of Asiatics trading without licences to the Registrar of Asiatics. This he had done. There were about a dozen names on that list. He did not know of any Asiatics exempted from giving the thumb-print.

For the defence, I. A. Bhabha stated that he had been 8 years in Standerton and about 20 years in the Transvaal. He had never been before the Court on any previous occasion for a similar offence. He was trading without a licence because he could not get one, as he refused to give a thumb-print under the compulsion of the Act. His objection was to compulsion, not to thumb-prints. He was prepared to take out a licence if he could get one without complying with the provisions of the Act. He had applied for his licence and tendered his licence fees. He had a voluntary registration certificate.

The other accused gave similar evidence, stating respectively that they had been in Standerton 4 and 6 years, and in the Transvaal, 9 and 20 years.

Mr. Polak briefly explained all the circumstances to the Court, pointing out that the difficulties arose out of the Registration Act, and not the Licensing Ordinance.

The accused were found guilty, and sentenced to pay a fine of £3 each, or to go to gaol for 14 days with hard labour. Later, instructions were received to proceed against other Indians, and in the afternoon Vania (hawker), and Mahomed Wadee, A. E. Timol, E. I. Desai, M. E. Bhayat, Ebrahim Amod, M. A. Cajee, Dulabh Ichharam, Ismail Mahomed, and E. E. Bhagolia (general dealers) were similarly charged. Mr. Mahomed Wadee, although in a crippled condition, appeared to stand his trial and was sentenced with the others. Vania did not appear, he being absent on a farm.

Mr. Mahomed Ebrahim Bhyat acts as Imam of the local Mahomedan congregation.

The others, who were defended by Mr. Polak, pleaded guilty. Similar evidence was led for the Crown, and all the accused were found guilty and sentenced similarly to the first three.

The Standerton Indians are rather

proud that they have been chosen for the first attack and are very cheerful.

The above imprisonments account for every Indian storekeeper in Standerton, with the exception of those who registered under the Act towards the end of December last.

Mr. Stent's Speech

Speaking at a meeting of Progressives at Witbank recently, Mr. Stent, editor of the *Pretoria News*, said:

Whatever attitude you may take up towards the Asiatics, and I personally believe we should treat them with justice and fairness, you cannot but admit that the Government has made a mess of the whole matter. It commenced by passing unfair legislation which it must have known it could not enforce. It kept a stiff upper lip publicly and announced its intention of enforcing the Registration Act, while the Colonial Secretary was busy privately negotiating with the Indians for a compromise. The Government encouraged its supporters to hold meetings and denounce the Asiatics from every platform, and then announced it had surrendered on the Asiatics own terms. As I have said, whatever view you may take of this, you cannot but recognise the puerility of the whole of the Government policy. Mr. Smuts has entered into another controversy with Mr. Gandhi, and I am almost certain he will be beaten again, and I need not point out to you how much harm this thing does, how it lowers the prestige of the white Colonist, especially in the eyes of the natives. By and by you will have the Asiatics, not as passive resisters, but as active insisters upon equal rights; and you will have to give them equal rights—not because you believe they are justly entitled—that would be a good reason—but because you are too weak to refuse them.

Four "Hawkers" Charged at Vereeniging

[SPECIALLY REPORTED FOR I.O.]

Last Monday morning, before Mr. Bongley, the A.R. Magistrate, four prominent Indian residents of Vereeniging were charged with contravening the Municipal By-Laws in that they hawked without first having taken out a licence as provided by law. The Indians charged were Ebrahim Mahomed Patel, Ebrahim Ismail, Amod Dawodjee, and Amod Mamojee.

Mr. Geo. V. Godfrey appeared for the defence.

The first accused called was Ebrahim Mahomed Patel. The Magistrate then arranged for all the accused to give their evidence, as they were charged separately and to hear Mr. Godfrey on the whole of the charges.

The Town Clerk, Wm. Russell Ross McDonald, stated in every case that the accused had applied to him for a licence and that they came in a

body but refused to comply with the Regulations under Section 10 of the Asiatic Act, which required the production of the applicants' permit and the thumb impression. This the accused refused to do.

All the accused, who were separately charged, pleaded guilty and a summary of the evidence is as follows:—

Ebrahim Mahomed Patel stated that he was a merchant trading at Vereeniging and had been in the Transvaal for 16 years. He married in the Transvaal which was now his home and had a family of two children. He was Indian interpreter to the Potchefstroom Courts for years. He knew Capt. Johns of the C.I.D. The letter stating that he (witness) had given valuable assistance to the administration, was given by Capt. Johns. He had also assisted in the taking of the census.

Ebrahim Ismail, the second accused, stated he was a storekeeper and had been in the Transvaal for over 17 years. He was a family man. He had hawked in order to get arrested and to go to gaol as he thought it impossible to live in the country under the Asiatic Act. Amod Mamojee was the third accused charged. He stated that he was a hawker by occupation and had been for 12 years. He had a strong feeling against the Act and was prepared to go to gaol.

Amod Mamojee said he was prepared to suffer for his principles. The Act was oppressive and the promise to repeal it had not been fulfilled.

Mr. Geo. V. Godfrey said that he rose with feeling of deep and intense pain to address his Worship in the cause of his clients. Strange as it may seem, it was nevertheless true that he was there that day not to prove or urge the innocence of the accused or to ask for any clemency. He was there rather to explain the apparently strange and deliberate conduct of his clients in breaking the law of the laws and to justify such action, than to make any effort or attempt to disprove the charges against them. The accused before the Court, as his Worship observed, were not all professional hawkers and those that were, have all deliberately elected to take this course as a body in order to silently and they hoped, effectively, register their protest against class legislation. His clients felt sorely the infliction of legislation on them which was a slight to the Indian community and which was wholly unnecessary. He wished it to be distinctly understood that his clients were not defying the law or the Government in a spirit of hostile stubbornness but rather adopted this method of resistance in order to bring home to the Legislature the crying need for reform and the abrogation of legislation which needlessly casts and imposes a slur on a whole people.

The accused were anxious to go to gaol to suffer for their principles.

Mr. Ebrahim Mahomed Patel, the first accused had specially instructed him to ask the Court to favour him, the accused, by imposing the highest penalty possible.

The Magistrate summed up the facts in the case and found all the accused guilty but refused to consider Mr. E. M. Patel's case especially. He accordingly imposed a fine of £1. 7s. 6d. on each of the accused and intimated the fine would be collected by warrant of execution on the goods and chattels of the accused under Sec. 248 and 249, Ord. No. 1 1903.

Mr. Patel, one of the accused, then informed the Court that if he were not sent to gaol he meant to repeat the offence.

Mr. Godfrey then applied for a suspension of the issue of the warrant and the Magistrate allowed a grace of 48 hours. The Magistrate refused to pronounce an alternative sentence of imprisonment at this stage.

After conferring with his clients, Mr. Godfrey wrote to the Magistrate as follows:—

"I beg to inform you that after conferring with my clients, I feel I cannot advise them to pay the fines imposed by you. It is a matter of reconciling their acts with their consciences, and I think that under the circumstances there is no alternative than to levy the fine by the sale of my clients' goods. They submit to this willingly in pursuance of their policy of passive resistance."

Meeting at Standerton

A meeting was held at Standerton on Sunday last which was attended by about 200 Indians. The chair was taken by Mr. Ebrahim Jassat, who spoke in touching words of the present sad position of their brethren in the Transvaal, and warmly congratulated the heroes of the local town for their sufferings for their country's honour and the high sacrifice they had made. He urged upon the audience to be united in the struggle.

Others who took part in the meeting were Messrs Abdul Hack, M. C. Tilly, Ahmed Jassat, Moosa Dada, Chhaya, Abdoolla Hajee Vally, Carim Amod, Ahmed Bahabba and Ebrahim Bhagalia.

Mr. Hofmeyr and the Asiatics

The Rev. Doke writes to the *Leader*:—

Sir,—On Wednesday, in the Town Council, Mr. H. J. Hofmeyr dealt a heavy blow at the Asiatics. He moved a resolution affirming "that it is imperative in the interests of this Municipality, as well as of the whole Colony, that the Asiatic Law Amendment Act, 1907, be retained in the Statute Book." This he did in obedience to a request received from the executive of the Transvaal Municipal Association.

I am aware that a move like this can be justified by the accepted

ethics of party politics. It is "desirable at the present time." But is it right?

In conversation the other day with one of the prominent supporters of the Government in the Legislative Assembly, I happened to use the term "justice." He smiled cynically, and said, "You know really there is very little concern for justice in modern politics." Well, that may be true, but I refuse to believe that Mr. Hofmeyr would willingly fall in with that trend of the age. He is as earnestly desirous as anyone to "do justly and to love mercy." But I cannot understand this! According to General Smuts, the voluntary registration of the Asiatics was obtained by holding out the bait of repeal. It succeeded. They believed the Government. "I told them," said the General, in his Richmond speech, "that the law would not be repealed so long as there was an Asiatic in the country who had not registered." The bait succeeded. They loyally accepted the compromise and registered. Now, this resolution urges the Government not to keep its part of the agreement, and says, "It is imperative, in the interests of this Municipality, as well as of the whole Colony, that" such faithlessness should stain the Statute Book. To my mind anything is preferable to this.

This is not a private controversy. Mr. Hofmeyr is a public man. The blow was given in the Council Chamber. Will Mr. Hofmeyr explain to us how his action can be reconciled with the claims of justice? Does he really believe that the Government has tried honourably to carry out its agreement with these men?—I am, etc.,

JOSEPH J. DORE.

August 10.

Odhav Bhikha, who was not bailed out, and N. Sivalingam Pillay, who was bailed out, appeared before Mr. Cross on Wednesday last on a charge of hawking without licences. Both pleaded guilty. Mr. Gandhi appeared for the defence. They were sentenced to pay a fine of £1 or to suffer imprisonment with hard labour for seven days. Needless to say, they elected to go to gaol.

Early Morning Arrest

Before Mr. H. H. Jordan in 'B' Court on Wednesday morning, another Indian was prosecuted for not leaving the Colony after having been ordered to do so by an Assistant Resident Magistrate. The accused was Mulje Goodharlab Patel, and he pleaded guilty to the charge.

Superintendent Vernon stated that he arrested Patel at 6.10 this morning, when he failed to produce the certificate, although he was ordered over seven days ago to leave the Colony or register.

In reply to Mr. Gandhi he said that the accused had no authority to remain in the Colony.

Mr. Gandhi: You say that he has no authority to reside in the country. Is that true?—Yes.

Does he not hold a permit under the Peace Preservation Ordinance?—Yes.

Does not that permit entitle the holder to enter and reside in the country?—Yes; but the Peace Preservation Ordinance is now repealed.

Do you suggest that the repeal of the Peace Preservation Ordinance cancels permits issued under it?—Yes.

Do you then say that all permits issued under the Peace Preservation Ordinance have become invalid?—Yes.

Mr. Gandhi: I am afraid, then, the Court will not hold with your contention.

Accused was sentenced to one month's imprisonment with hard labour.

There are over 200 Indians in the same position as Patel, who are all pre-war residents of the Transvaal and holders of permits and registration certificates.

Forcing the Pace

Further prosecutions may be expected shortly, and with the intention of hurrying matters forward, several Indians left Johannesburg on Wednesday morning with the intention of crossing the border to again re-enter the Colony without complying with the regulations. The Indians in question are Messrs. Imam Abdul Kadir Bawazeer (chairman of the Hamidia Islamic Society), M. P. Fancy (Secretary), Ebrahim Coovadia (Treasurer), Omarjee Sale, Ahmed Moosaji, and Dildar Khan. It is understood they will even decline to produce certificates which they hold—with one exception, they are all holders of voluntary registration certificates. The intention of these Indians is to show that they are ready to suffer with the other Indians who are at present being prosecuted, not because, they state, they have no right to remain in the country, but as they will not comply with the Act. ¶¶

Another Indian, Mr. Goshalia, the holder of a temporary permit, has also left the Colony in order to fulfil his compact under the permit. He possesses educational qualifications, and will in all probability endeavour to return under the Immigration Act, and a notice to that effect has been sent to the Registrar of Asiatics.—*Star*.

Durban Leaders go to the Rand

Messrs. Dawad Mahomed, Parsee Rustomjee, M. C. Anglia, S. J. Randeria, S. B. Medh, H. Joshi, M. P. Killawala, Adam H. G. Mahomed of Capetown and others left by the Johannesburg (mail train) on Thursday evening. Interesting developments may be expected.

The New Transvaal Asiatic Bill

The following are the most important clauses of the Bill "To validate the Voluntary Registration of certain Asiatics who failed to comply with the provisions of the Asiatic Law Amendment Act, 1907":

1. (1) Every person—

(a) who is an Asiatic as defined by the Asiatic Law Amendment Act 1907; and

(b) by or in respect of whom an application for such voluntary registration as aforesaid was on the tenth day of February 1908, or on any day subsequent thereto up till the tenth day of May 1908, made to the Registrar of Asiatics or other duly authorized officer; and

(c) to or in respect of whom a certificate in the form set forth in the Schedule to this Act was issued by such Registrar;

shall, when in possession of such certificate, be deemed to be the lawful holder of a certificate entitling him to enter and reside in the Colony, notwithstanding anything in the Asiatic Law Amendment Act 1907 contained.

(2) Every person who, having been the lawful holder of a certificate of registration under the said Act, has been permitted to obtain a certificate in the form in the Schedule to this Act in substitution for such first-mentioned certificate, shall also be deemed to be the lawful holder of a certificate entitling him to enter and reside in this Colony notwithstanding anything in the said Act contained.

2. Every such Asiatic as is described in section one who enters or is residing in this Colony shall, upon demand made upon him by any member of a police force lawfully established therein or by any other person authorised thereto by the Colonial Secretary, produce the certificate issued to him under the said section, and shall also on like demand supply such particulars and furnish such means of identification as the Colonial Secretary may by notice in the *Gazette* prescribe. Any Asiatic who fails upon lawful demand to produce such certificate shall, unless he is the lawful holder of a certificate of registration under the said Act, be liable to be dealt with in manner provided by section eight thereof. Any Asiatic who fails on lawful demand to supply such particulars and furnish such means of identification as may be prescribed by such notice or by regulation under the said Act shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding ten pounds or in default of payment to imprisonment with or without hard labour for a period not exceeding fourteen days.

4. (1) No Asiatic shall obtain any trading licence under the Revenue Licences Ordinance 1905 or any amendment thereof or under any bye-law or regulation in force within the jurisdiction of a local authority unless

he produce to the person appointed to issue the licence—

(a) a certificate of registration of which he is the lawful holder under the Asiatic Law Amendment Act 1907; or

(b) a certificate described in section one of this Act and issued to him;

and supply such particulars and furnish such means of identification as the Colonial Secretary may prescribe.

(2) Any trading licence issued under such Ordinance or under any such bye-law or regulation between the tenth day of February 1908 and the date of the coming into operation of this Act to any Asiatic who made such application as is described in sub-section (1) (b) of section one thereof shall, notwithstanding anything in section thirteen of the Asiatic Law Amendment Act 1907 contained, be deemed to have been lawfully issued.

(3) Section thirteen of the Asiatic Law Amendment Act 1907 shall be and is hereby repealed.

The Registration Certificate under the Act requires that the name, race, age, height, description, name of wife, signature and right thumb impression shall be given. The Bill is reserved for His Majesty's sanction.

Broken Promises and Legalised Robbery

Mr. Gandhi's Indictment

Under the above heading the *Transvaal Leader* reports:—

Immediately after the case in which Harilal Gandhi was charged with being in the Colony without a registration certificate yesterday, a mass meeting of Indians was held in an open space near the Court buildings. Mr. M. K. Gandhi addressed the meeting in English, and said that he had just received a telegram from Vereeniging to the effect that several Indian store-keepers who were arrested for hawking or trading without licences had been given by the Magistrate no option of imprisonment but had been fined £1 7s. 6d. each, and had to pay the fines within 24 hours, or elect to have their goods sold by the Court. This introduced a new phase into the struggle, but he had no doubt that British Indians would not be baffled by this. He did not know whether the Magistrate had received instructions from the Law Department to put into force the provisions of the law for certain exceptional cases, or whether the Magistrate had done this on his own initiative, but it showed to them that they were going to receive no quarter from General Smuts, nor did it behoove them to ask for quarter. They were carrying on a fight in order that General Smuts might be compelled to carry out his promise to repeal the

Act—a promise which was published in an account of a meeting held at Richmond, when he said that when all had registered he would repeal the Act. There was one incident in connection with the matter which he (Mr. Gandhi) wished to recall. When he was lying in Mr. Doke's house the Registrar of Asiatics came to him and said that it appeared that the Chinese and some Indians would not come forward, as they were suspicious of the intentions of the Government, and wanted something in black and white to confirm the promises made. A notice was drafted there and then which was to be published in all the Indian languages and in the Chinese languages stating that if the Asiatic communities carried out their compact the Act would be repealed during the next session.

Fortunately

Unfortunately—no, he would say fortunately, because they were now in a position to know with whom they were dealing—fortunately, the next day Mr. Chamney brought the news that all the Asiatics were coming in, and that the Chinese had withdrawn their objections, and asked whether he (Mr. Gandhi) thought it necessary that the notice should be published. They had then no reason to doubt the honesty of Mr. Smuts or Mr. Chamney, and he replied that there was no reason for the publication of the notice. He would only say that when Mr. Smuts made the statement at Richmond he must have had in his thoughts some such difficulty cropping up with the Asiatics as that which Mr. Chamney spoke to him of, and it was for this reason that he made the declaration. To-day they found that General Smuts had offered to repeal the Act on certain conditions, which could not be accepted—conditions which were not imposed on them when they agreed to take out voluntary registration certificates.

Pure Administration and the Empire's Peace

The Asiatics were helping the Government against themselves, and helping Mr. Smuts to keep his word, and maintaining the purity of administration within the Colony and peace within the Empire. If they found that the statesmen who were controlling the Government in South Africa had no notion of ordinary honesty, and that when it suited them they withdrew from their promises, and tried to break these promises, the British Indians should compel them to keep their promises, and by so doing they would be rendering a signal service not only to the Colony but to the Empire. It did not therefore baffle them when they stood face to face with suffering imprisonment, with being half-starved, and going bare-footed in the prisons, and it did not baffle them when they stood face to face with having their goods confiscated. He could only characterise this as organized robbery—legalised robbery. They were now brought

under a section of law which was designed for exceptional purposes.

Decline to Pay

He hoped that his countrymen had sufficient self-sacrifice to decline to pay their fines, and have their goods sold under their noses. He had no doubt that the colonists themselves, when they saw that the British Indians would suffer this, they would ask General Smuts to stay his hand and keep his promises, and to repeal the Act on the conditions he had agreed upon. They had to suffer in order that they might give complete identification to the compact made by General Smuts with them. The chairman of the British Indian Association had his nose broken because he stood up for the Government in keeping his compact with them, and the reward of the Government for this was a broken promise—a breach of faith. He had no hesitation in repeating anywhere that this was the solemn promise made by General Smuts. They found that not only was the Act not repealed, but all kinds of vexatious regulations were being passed through Parliament effecting those who came from British India.

Partners in South Africa

He said that this country was as much the British Indian's as the white man's. They were partners, and the white men were predominant partners but they were only partners. The Indians only wanted justice and fair play, and if they could not get that they should show that they were prepared to suffer. His opinion was that no man who called himself a subject of King Edward should allow his rights to be taken away from him, but should suffer if necessary in order to prevent this. In this country, because they had committed the crime of having a coloured skin, they were as nothing, their feelings should be set aside, their sentiments disregarded and their consciences set at naught. Let them show that they had sufficient of the spirit of self-sacrifice to suffer the confiscation of their property in order to compel the Government to keep its part of a compact which the Asiatics had honourably fulfilled. Mr. Naidoo had only come out of gaol that day. He (Mr. Gandhi) had declared before that Mr. Smuts was responsible for the death of the Chinaman who had committed suicide. Mr. Smuts was responsible for this, and he was now responsible for the murder of young Mr. Naidoo. "Mrs. Naidoo was in pain when Mr. Naidoo went to gaol, and Mrs. Naidoo had given birth to a still-born child. Who was responsible for this if not Mr. Smuts? He (Mr. Gandhi) was certain that all these pains would have to be accounted for, if not now, then hereafter. Mr. Smuts was a Christian, and believed, as they all believed, in a hereafter, and he would have to answer for these things just as they would have to answer for their actions.

Mr. Gandhi concluded with a further appeal to British Indians to suffer whatever might be necessary for what they considered was right and just, and then proceeded to speak in Gujarati.

Natal Parliament

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

August 10.

Clare Estate Crimes

The COLONIAL SECRETARY, in reply to a question by Mr. Robinson, laid on the table a statement of crimes committed during the present year on the Clare Estate, near Durban, and said that steps were being taken to establish a police station in the neighbourhood.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

August 11.

Asiatic Licences

The Hon. Mr. MARSHALL CAMPBELL presented a petition from 528 Durban British Indians protesting against the passage of the Indian Licences Stoppage Bill.

The Hon. Mr. KIRKMAN resumed the debate on the Asiatics New Trading Licences Bill. He thought the general opinion was that something had to be done to put a check on these licences. He approved of the Bill.

The Hon. Mr. RICHARDSON also approved the principle of the Bill, and supported the second reading.

The Hon. Mr. WILLSON heartily supported the Bill.

The Hon. Mr. MARSHALL CAMPBELL did not like the principles of the Bill. It commended itself to him only by the fact that it would give the natives a chance of keeping the small country stores, otherwise the Bill was class legislation, and he did not like it. He hoped the Bill would be the means of bringing out the natives in the way he had indicated.

The debate was adjourned to the next sitting of the Council.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

August 12.

New Licences

The Hon. Mr. HUTCHINSON resumed the debate on the second reading of the Asiatic New Licences Bill. He spoke at some length on the necessity for dealing with the question, which he looked upon as one concerning the whole Empire. He supported the Bill.

The Hon. Mr. Uys said the whites of Natal were throwing away their birthright. The Bill was a step in the right direction, and he heartily supported it.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL replied. He expressed himself as opposed to the employment of Asiatics in solicitors' and other offices.

The Bill was read a second time.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

August 12.

The House resumed in Committee

on the Indian Existing Licences Bill.

In reply to a question, the Colonial Secretary said he thought the payment of compensation would not involve more than between £50,000 and £100,000.

Mr. CONNOLLY moved the deletion of the clause.

The motion was lost.

After some discussion on the clause, Mr. Connolly again moved the deletion of the clause.

Mr. HYSLOP thought the House should have more information as to the amount that would be involved.

Mr. MORCOM moved that the Chairman leave the chair. He regarded the Bill as unnecessary, having regard to the provisions of the Bill passed the other day. That Bill provided that no new licences should be issued, and the present Bill provided for the taking in of all licences after ten years. In the interval the policy would be to bring the number of licences down to the irreducible minimum, and there would be no compensation to pay.

The motion that the Chairman leave the chair was lost by 16 votes to 19.

Mr. TAYLOR said the Bill was more than justice to the traders. It was a concession to allow the licences to continue for ten years, as a licence existed only for a year. If the licences were not reduced by the licensing authorities by one-half, he would endeavour to make it hot for them. It would behove the young men of Natal to get up a moment, and let the rest of the world see that they were not going to allow the thing to go on. He was prepared to take a lead in the matter. He opposed the deletion of the clause.

The motion for the deletion of the compensation clause was lost without a division.

The clause was then passed.

Mr. HYSLOP moved an amendment to clause 3, so as to place the cost of compensation in the towns on the municipal authorities.

The CHAIRMAN ruled the amendment out of order, as it "extended the area of the taxation."

The Bill was reported as having passed through Committee, with certain amendments.—*Natal Mercury*.

HEARD IN THE STREET. We (*Dundee Courier*) overheard the following remark in the street the other day:—"There is little chance of the coloured races, whether Asiatic or indigenous, receiving fair treatment at the hands of the white races of South Africa until the ignorance and blind prejudice of the latter is overcome through deeper education, a broader outlook, and a keener sense of justice than is in the present day displayed; at present selfishness is the keynote of South African politics." If the above is true it is a terrible indictment on the white races of South Africa.

The Press on the Licensing Bills

The *Mercury* of the 5th instant has the following editorial comments:—

The House of Assembly have passed the second of the Asiatic Licensing Bills by 24 votes to 11, but we believe, with Mr. Cecil Yonge, that no more will be heard of it after it has left the four walls of the Assembly. The two Bills dealing with licences to Asiatics are founded on a principle of absolute injustice, in so far that they seek to deny, even to people born in the Colony, the right to make a living by trading, even with their own race. The Johannesburg *Star*, in dealing with the matter, points out that there is no precedent for class legislation of this kind, and very truly says that it is a sheer waste of time to proceed with the discussion of Bills of the sort, and to enter into protracted and acrimonious negotiations, in the hope of inducing Downing Street to sanction such measures. No Imperial Government, Liberal or Unionist, could possibly advise the King to give his assent to two such Bills as have passed the Natal Parliament during the past few days, and we thoroughly agree with the *Star* that the prejudice which the legislation in question will arouse at Home is bound to render the British Parliament extremely suspicious, if not hostile, towards any more statesmanlike scheme that might hereafter be devised by a South African Legislature.

Anything more crude and unstatesmanlike than the two Bills in question could hardly be conceived, and the only astounding thing is that there should be any member of Parliament who believes for a single moment that they will ever become law in their existing form. It is the rankest hypocrisy on the part of the Colonial Secretary to say that the Bills are conceived in the interests of the native population. The Bills were drafted to endeavour to win popular support for the Government, and the measure of their sincerity is shown by the readiness with which they agreed to refer the Bill to stop indentured Asiatic immigration to a Commission. Could there be anything more ludicrous than the practical shelving of a Bill to stop Asiatic immigration, and the passing of two Bills to prevent Asiatics, and even Natal-born Indians, from trading in any shape or form? It amounts to this—that Parliament is not disposed to stop importing Asiatics, unless the Government can guarantee a substitute in the way of cheap unskilled labour, but immediately intends to prevent any Asiatic getting a new trading licence, and to stop every Asiatic from holding one after a specified time. The compensation clause does not affect the principle one iota, as the principle, if once accepted, would make it quite as feasible to pass other Bills pre-

venting natives, as well as Asiatics, from earning their daily bread in any other way, than that specified for them by a little oligarchy of men vested with legislative power. It is simply madness to pass Bills embodying such principles, and expect the British Government to assent to them. So long as Natal is part of the British Empire, we cannot violate its traditions in the flagrant manner proposed, and, if we "cut the painter," other countries would retaliate upon us in a manner the effects of which we should soon feel.

The *Star* of the 4th instant says:—

In the Legislative Assembly yesterday, the second reading of a Bill to provide for the extinction of all Asiatic trading licences by 1918 was carried by 22 votes to 11. Mr. Smythe and Mr. Hyslop opposed the Bill on the grounds, as the Leader of the Opposition stated, that the measure is unjust and that the compensation is inadequate. When men of such standing and recognised ability as the late Premier and the ex-Treasurer deem it necessary to condemn the Bill in such terms, the Government will find it exceedingly difficult to justify the proposal when it comes before the Imperial Government. There is no precedent for class legislation of this kind. Most of those whose vested interests would be affected by the Bill are British citizens and as much subjects of the Government as any English immigrant. To exclude them from commercial pursuits would mean bringing British rule into disrepute and intensifying the difficulties of the Imperial authorities. And, in our opinion, it is sheer waste of time to proceed with the discussion of the Bill and to enter into protracted negotiations in the hope of inducing Downing Street to sanction the measure. Worse still, the prejudice and the acrimonious controversy which this piece of class legislation would arouse at Home could not fail to render the British Parliament extremely suspicious, if not hostile, towards any more statesmanlike scheme that might be devised by a general South African Legislature. This is essentially a question that must be dealt with sooner or later by the country as a whole, and it is quite hopeless to expect that the evils of which the white trader of Natal complain can be eradicated in 10 or 20 years by the seemingly simple process of delimiting separate spheres of activity for white and black. Two courses and only two courses, it seems to us, are open to the statesman of South Africa. The first and by far the most important is to prevent any further influx of Asiatics; and the second is to take such precautions as shall render it impossible for the Indians now domiciled in Natal to roam over South Africa.

The position with reference to the Indentured Indian and Native Bills is wholly different. In these matters

the Government is acting within its province. Whether the Bills are the best that could be brought forward is another question. So far as the Bill to prohibit the introduction of indentured Indians is concerned, an interesting question arises. It is this: Will the legislators who are so anxious to expropriate the vested rights of the Asiatic traders be equally ready to withdraw the privileges which the sugar and tea planters have so long enjoyed? We shall see.

The *Natal Mercury* writes editorially as follows on Mr. Hyslop's motion that the entire compensation for the confiscation of the licences, provided for in the Bill, should be paid by the Town Councils or the Local Boards, as the case might be:—

The compensation payable under the Bill has been variously estimated at from £600,000 to £1,000,000, and Mr. Moor, in a flippant irresponsible tone, the other night, said "it would be cheap at the price." The cost—if the Bill were carried into law—would be a very important matter; but, of course, it is not the main principle involved, nor the principle that will lead to the Bill being rejected by the Imperial Government, even if the Legislative Council do not allow their common sense to intervene. In any case, the Bill will not be passed by the Home Government, and for similar reasons the companion Bill will be rejected. We know from experience, however, that the clause proposed by Mr. Hyslop may very probably be accepted by the Government and approved of by a majority in the House.

The Town Councils and Local Boards are, according to Mr. Hyslop, to be asked to pay the whole of the compensation for the proposed confiscation of Asiatic licences, and the planters and others, who are mainly responsible for the existence of the Asiatic question in every shape and form, are to pay nothing unless they happen to have property in a borough or a Local Boards area.

On the lower estimate, it means that in ten years' time Durban would have to pay down £400,000 in compensation, and Maritzburg, Ladysmith, Newcastle, Dundee, Port Shepstone, and other places under local government would have to find the balance. If compensation were to be paid under any such circumstances as those laid down in the Bill, it would, of course, have to be a Colonial and not a municipal matter; but the suggestion is in keeping with the rest of the measure, which in its present form has no chance of acceptance at the hands of any Imperial Government.

The *Times* of Natal of the 5th instant comments as follows:—

It is useless for the Colonial Secretary to say that he "did not think the Imperial Government would turn a deaf ear to what he trusted would be the unanimous opinion of the House."

So far from the opinion being unanimous, a third of the members of the Assembly present voted against the second reading. But apart from that fact, we ask Dr. Gubbins whether he honestly thinks that a colony which has imported for its own convenience tens of thousands of Indians, and which continues to import them, can fairly claim the right of saying that after a certain date no Indian is to be allowed to trade. We never heard of anything more preposterous; and we cannot imagine who or what prompted the Government to introduce these Bills. It is not a question of compensation. The amount of compensation would involve a very large sum which the colony could ill afford to pay, but if the Indian trader could be eliminated by legitimate means for the sum of £600,000, we agree with Mr. Moor that the deal would be cheap at the price. The question, however, is not at all one of £ s. d.; it is a question of principle and of the usage of civilised States. To lay it down by statute that one numerous section of the community is not to be allowed to earn a living by trading is to revert to the worst of the precedents of the Middle Ages. It is open to us to endeavour to make the conditions of competition fairer to the European by compelling the Indian to conform to certain regulations. We have already in our Licensing Law the means of checking the growth of Indian trading, and ultimately of reducing it considerably. We might even legislate for "bazaars," and keep Indian traders to a particular quarter. But we cannot say to permanent inhabitants of this colony—whom we have allowed to come here, to settle, and to invest their money—"You may live here since we have allowed you in, but you must not earn a living by trade, because you compete with Europeans."

Old colonists know what the state of the vegetable market was before the Indian market gardener got to work. We do not say that it would not be better to do without the cabbages or pay more for them, and have the European engaged in an occupation now chiefly in the hands of Indians. That is not the point, however. Our argument is (1) that it is a violation of the first principles of civilised usage to debar any permanent section of the population of a country from earning a livelihood by any legitimate occupation; and (2) that if one particular occupation is to be barred in the interests of the corresponding class of Europeans, other classes of Europeans affected are equally entitled to ask for and to receive consideration.

The first and most important step is to rigidly restrict the further importation of Asiatics. Until we are prepared to do that, even at the risk of considerable economic inconvenience and some industrial dislocation, it is idle to expect the Imperial Government to aid and

abet us in any efforts we may make to penalise the residential Indian population—a population which has not forced itself upon us, but has come invited to our shores.

Indentured Indians' Petition

The following is a copy of a petition forwarded to the Legislative Assembly by the Natal Indian Patriotic Union.

The petition was signed by 400 Indians (men and women) who are liable to pay the £3 tax annually.

To The Honourable The Speaker and Members of the Legislative Assembly of the Colony of Natal, Pietermaritzburg.

The humble petition of time expired Indentured Indians resident in Natal

HUMBLY SHEWETH

1. That your Petitioners are British Indians and have been introduced into this Colony under indenture.

2. That your petitioners and their descendants, if males over the age of 16 and if females over the age of 13, are called upon to pay an annual tax of £3 each.

3. That at the time of their engagement for indentured service in this Colony they were not fully acquainted with the terms of their agreement, neither were they aware of the hardships and disabilities they have to undergo here, as indentured or as free Indians.

4. That your petitioners' position while under indenture is so miserable and the necessaries of life here are so dear that your petitioners are virtually unable either to save any sum in order to enable them to go back to their country after the expiry of their indenture or to pay for the annual tax of £3 should they choose to remain in this Colony after giving the best years of their lives under indenture.

5. That owing to rigorous enforcement of this Act, Your Petitioners labour under intolerable difficulties which drive some of them to the commission of criminal offences.

6. That the enforcement of this iniquitous measure on men is cruel enough, but to enforce such a measure on women who depend more or less on the protection of men is unprecedented and contrary to all principles of justice and quite repugnant to the British idea of freedom and liberty.

7. That notwithstanding the fact that at the time the Indian Government concurred in the passing of this Act, this Colony solemnly and faithfully undertook not to render the contravention of the provisions of this Act penal, your Petitioners are frequently committed to imprisonment.

8. That your petitioners venture to quote the case of the Indian woman who was recently sentenced to im-

prisonment by the Magistrate at Stanger for failure to pay this very tax and who had her hair cut off.

9. Wherefore your petitioners pray this Honourable House may be pleased to remove the hardships complained of, by repealing the Act 17 of 1895 or to grant such other relief as it may deem fit. And for this act of justice your petitioners will in duty bound for ever pray, etc., etc.

Durban, Natal,

3rd August, 1908.

Mr. Rustomjee's Challenge

The following correspondence appears in the *Natal Mercury* on the above subject:—

Sir,—Referring to Parsee Rustomjee's challenge, in your issue of Thursday, I have to say that the statement was made by Camroodeen & Co.'s representative at the time Mr. W. Arbuckle (now Sir William) was in business, and supplying the sugar estates and the N.G.R. with rations for the Indians. Camroodeen & Co. came into competition with Mr. Arbuckle, and had succeeded in selling to some of Mr. Arbuckle's customers. Mr. J. D. Lellyett (now of the Natal Trust and Finance Company) was at that time in the employ of Mr. Arbuckle, and during a discussion as to the price of rice, Mr. Lellyett said that he (Camroodeen) could not get a profit out of the price he was selling at, and the reply was as I have stated; and, further, that Mr. Arbuckle would have to go out of the business. At that time, rations for an Indian male were being supplied at less than 3d. a day.

I am, &c.,

D. TAYLOR.

[We have interviewed Mr. Lellyett in reference to the above letter, and he confirms the facts therein stated.—Ed. "N. M."]

Aug. 9, 1908.

Sir,—Mr. Dan Taylor has, I see, attempted a reply to my challenge contained in your issue of the 8th inst., but I submit that he has failed to prove the origin of his statement in the manner I challenged him to do. He appears to confirm the allegations which I deny, and which I call upon him to prove. He merely says that the statements were made by a representative of the firm of Messrs. Camroodeen & Co., as contained in his letter under reply. Now, Sir, if Mr. Dan Taylor's utterances as a member of Parliament are to be considered and accepted as being correct, then why has he not definitely taken up my challenge and straightway deposited his £5?

Mr. Dan Taylor, in a not altogether courteous rejoinder to my challenge, has, apparently, failed to comply with all its conditions, one of which was that, as a token of good faith, he should deposit with you the sum of

£5, as I did, and another that he should state facts which he knew of his own knowledge. Instead, he produces Mr. Lellyett, who confirms his statement, giving what purports to be circumstantial evidence on the points contained in it. Unfortunately, I fail to see how such a statement could ever have been made, when considered with the definite knowledge that Messrs. Camroodeen and Co., never came into competition with Mr. Arbuckle, or ever sold to his customers, or that they ever were contractors to supply the sugar estates on the N.G.R. Clearly, Mr. Dan Taylor has mis-stated things, and I am so satisfied of his utter inability to prove his further statements as contained in his letter under reply that I am willing to deposit a further sum of £5 with you, under precisely the same terms and conditions as those binding the first challenge, provided that Mr. Dan Taylor deposits his £5 also. I enclose my £5. I deny that his statements are correct, and challenge Mr. Dan Taylor to prove the same.—I am, &c.,

PARSEE RUSTOMJEE.

[We have received the second £5 above referred to.—Ed. "N.M."]

South Africa British Indian Committee

Its Personnel

Below we give a revised list of the members of the South Africa British Indian Committee in London:

President: Lord Amthill, G.C.S.I., G.C.I.E., &c.

Members of the Committee: Ameer Ali, Esq., C.I.E., Sir S. C. Bayley, K.C.S.I., T. J. Bennett, Esq., C.I.E., Sir Mancherjee Bhownagree, K.C.I.E., Sir George Birdwood, K.C.I.E., C.S.I., Sir Charles Bruce, G.C.M.C., Sir William Bull, M.P., Maj. Gen. Sir Owen T. Burne, G.C.I.E., E. P. S. Counsel, Esq., LL.D., Harold Cox, Esq., M.P., Maj. Sir Wm. Evans-Gordon, Sir Frederic Fryer, K.C.S.I., Sir F. S. Lely, K.C.I.E., &c., Sir Roper Lethbridge, K.C.I.E., Ian Malcolm, Esq., J.P., Sir William Markby, K.C.S.I., Dadabhai Naoroji, Esq., J. H. Polak, Esq., J.P., L. W. Ritch, Esq., J. M. Robertson, Esq., M.P., Dr. V. H. Rutherford, M.P., Sir Edward Sassoon, Bart., M.P., Sir Chas. Schwann, Bart., M.P., A. H. Scott, Esq., M.P., T. Thornton, Esq., D.C.L., C.I.E., Sir William Wedderburn, Bart., Sir Raymond West, K.C.S.I., The Rt. Rev. The Bishop of Southampton, The Rt. Rev. J. C. C. Wellton, Dean of Manchester.

Executive Committee: *Chairman:* Sir Mancherjee Bhownagree, K.C.I.E. *Members:* Ameer Ali, Esq., C.I.E., Harold Cox, Esq., M.P., J. H. Polak, Esq., J.P., J. M. Robertson, Esq., M.P., A. H. Scott, Esq., M.P., Sir William Bull, M.P., L. W. Ritch, Esq.

Natal Asiatic Licences

Text of the Bill

The following is the full text of the Bill (as read a third time and passed) "To bring to an end the issue of new trading licences to Asiatics".—

Be it enacted by the King's Most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Legislative Council and Legislative Assembly of Natal, as follows:—

1. In this Act the term Asiatics shall be taken to mean any Natives of Asia, or any persons belonging to the class usually designated in this Colony as Banians, Arabs—or Arabtraders. "Licence" means a wholesale or retail licence of any description for purpose of trading. "New Licence" means:
 - (a) A licence to any person who does not hold a licence similar in every respect to the licence applied for at the date when application is made for the licence.
 - (b) A licence in respect of premises for which a licence similar in every respect is not held at the date when application is made for the licence.

The transfer of a licence shall for the purposes of this Act be deemed to be the issue of a new licence.

2. After the 31st day of December, 1908, no new licence shall be issued to an Asiatic. This provision shall not however prevent the transfer of a licence in any insolvent or assigned estate or the like to a trustee in insolvency or to an assignee or the like under the laws relating to insolvency, or the transfer of a licence to the heir, executor or other legal representative of a deceased licence, for the purpose of carrying on the licensed business upon the same premises.

3. Upon proof in the Court of a Magistrate that any business is being carried on by or on behalf of an Asiatic under cover of a licence which according to the terms of this Act could not be lawfully issued to an Asiatic, the licence shall be adjudged void, and the Asiatic as well as the holder of the licence shall be liable to be convicted of a contravention of the Licensing Acts for the time being in force as having carried on the business without a licence.

4. If upon any application for the issue or transfer of a licence the question shall arise whether any person is or is not an Asiatic within the meaning of this Act the proof shall rest with the applicant.

5. Except in so far as is provided in this Act, the discretion of the Licensing Officers and Appeal Boards appointed under the provisions of the Act No. 18, 1897, "To amend the Law relating to Licences to Whole-

sale and Retail dealers," shall not be affected nor diminished.

6. This Act shall not come into operation unless and until the Governor shall notify by proclamation in the *Natal Government Gazette* that it is His Majesty's pleasure not to disallow the same; and thereafter it shall come into operation upon such day as the Governor shall notify by the same or any other proclamation.

Correspondence

National Volunteers

The Editor, INDIAN OPINION.

Sir,—National Volunteers are wanted on the occasion of the great celebration of "Maha Magaham" Festival of the Hindus, to be held at Kumbakonam, Tanjore District, Madras, during the month of March, 1909. As our brethren from all parts of India, England, Europe, Japan, America and other places will attend the celebration in thousands, it is of the first importance to organise a National Volunteer Corps, so as to render assistance to strangers by safeguarding them and directing them to places where they wish to go. Therefore, persons from all parts of India and other countries beyond the seas, with a knowledge of the different languages, are requested to enrol themselves as Volunteers for this purpose. It is suggested that a Captain be appointed in each district, who shall forward the number of persons who undertake to become Volunteers, to our old patriot, Mr. N. K. Ramasamy Iyer, of Tanjore. About 2,000 Volunteers are wanted, the town being 32½ miles in circumference.

With regard to the uniform, it is hoped some of our patriots will attend to it. Money being necessary to provide uniforms, an appeal to the public is made. All contributions will be kindly accepted by the Editor of the *Swadesamitran*, Madras, who will forward the money to Mr. N. K. Ramasamy Iyer.

Yours, etc.,

N. T. CHETTY.

154 Queen Street, Durban,
11th August, 1908.

Cape Parliament

Time limit on Indians

In the Legislative Assembly, on the 28th ulto., Mr. KNOCK moved that the petition presented to the House on the 10th inst. from A. Hassen, styling himself chairman of the Eritish Indian Association, Mafeking, and others, praying that the time limit imposed under the Immigration Act, 1906, may be repealed in the cases of resident Indians, and also for relief in respect of Act No. 35, 1906, be referred to the Government for inquiry and report.

The motion was agreed to.—S.A. News.

Problems of Empire

Coloured Immigration

By the

Right Honourable A. Lyttelton, M.P.
(COLONIAL SECRETARY IN LAST
UNIONIST ADMINISTRATION)

The following appeared as a special signed article in the columns of *The Standard of the Empire*:

Note.—In this article the term Asiatic immigration is confined to the immigration of Asiatics who are British subjects.

It is accurate to say that the disposition of all English-speaking nationalities is hostile to Asiatic Immigration, even of British subjects; except under stringent restrictions, such as those imposed in, e.g., British Guiana, Trinidad, and other West Indian Colonies, in the self-governing Colony of Natal, and in the Transvaal under the Chinese Ordinance. This hostility arises from the conviction that (a) Territories conquered or occupied by Britons have been won by the toil, adventure, and peril of the race, and that the founders and their posterity have a right to enjoy the fruit of their efforts unassailed by the competition of men of different race and less expensive standard of living; (b) That the fusion of white with coloured races in marriage either does not take place, or, if it does, results in a progeny of a racial and social type inferior to the Anglo-Saxon; (c) That such immigration tends to create a quasi-servile class to whom equality of political rights is denied, and whose existence perpetually lowers manual labour in the eyes of the white population.

Two remarkable expressions of the typical attitude of the people of Australia and South Africa—the first, that of a Colonist loyal to the core; the second, that of an able and unprejudiced British official, an observer who enjoyed excellent opportunities for judgment—are on record.

In 1888, Sir H. Parkes, in defending his refusal to let the Chinese land on Australian shores (and who will contend for a moment that his language would have been different had the question been of British Indians?), said, in the Assembly: "If in doing that we have infringed any law, I say that this House is bound in honour to indemnify us, because in infringing the law we have obeyed the higher law of conserving society."

Neither for her Majesty's ships of war, nor for her Majesty's Representative on the spot, nor for the Secretary of State for the Colonies, do we intend to turn aside from our purpose, which is to terminate the landing of Chinese on these shores for ever, except under the restrictions of this Bill." Scarcely less vigorous, though more reasoned in argument and in expression, are the words of Sir A. Lawley, formerly Lieutenant-Governor of the Transvaal,

who, in a despatch to Lord Milner in 1904, describing the conviction of the people of the Transvaal as to the need to restrict Indian immigration, and referring to the pledges of Sir G. Napier, Governor of Cape Colony, in May, 1843, that "there shall not be in the eye of the law any distinction or disqualification whatever founded on mere distinction of colour, origin, language, or creed, but that the protection of the law in letter and in substance shall be extended impartially to all alike," said:

"In my opinion we are face to face with a most difficult problem of modern civilisation. The British Empire is now so extended as to include countries typical of every climate; it contains large tropical tracts, some like India, thickly peopled, others, like Central Africa, almost destitute of population, both alike incapable of becoming the permanent home of a white nation. It likewise happens to contain a certain principal share of the temperate countries still open for settlement by European races. India belongs to the first class, and is a country in which the European leads a purely exotic existence. The European element, as compared numerically to the native, can never be otherwise than insignificant, and must always be confined to the official and military classes, and the higher branches of commerce and industry. In any other branch there never was and never will be any question of the European ousting the native. India has in her climate a protection more permanent and more effective against social invasion than any Act of alien immigration could ever afford her. But South Africa is one of the countries habitable alike by Europeans and Asiatics, and it is difficult to conceive any question at the present moment more momentous than the struggle between East and West for the inheritance of these semi-vacant territories. Promises have been made without knowledge or perception of the consequence involved in their fulfilment. If the redemption of the pledges upon which Sir M. Bhownaggee depends both in letter and spirit means that in fifty or a hundred years this country will have fallen to the inheritance of the Eastern instead of the Western populations, then, from the point of view of civilisation, they must be numbered among promises which it is a greater crime to keep than to break. As India is protected by her climate against Europeans, so England is protected by the same agency against the invasion of the Asiatic, to which this country is subject. But, if it were not so, would the faith of these pledges be held to entitle the Indian shopkeeper to eliminate from English society the small shopkeeper and farmer? They would be held by English statesmen to be no more sacred than a promise which inadvertently committed a man to suicide."

(To be continued)

DURBAN FRUITERS' ASSOCIATION. This Association has handed over a further contribution of £79 15s 6d towards the British-Indian Association's relief fund. A meeting of the Fruiters' Association will be held to-day at 5 p.m. on Mr. Odhav Kanji's premises, 127 Victoria Street.

ANOTHER STUDENT LEAVES FOR ENGLAND. Mr. Ajam Hoosen Haffaji, nephew of Mr. M. C. Anglia (Joint Hon. Sec. Natal Indian Congress,) left for England by the *Kenilworth Castle* on Thursday last, his intention being to study for the Bar. Many friends went to the Point to see him off.

Late News

[SPECIAL TELEGRAMS]

Johannesburg,
Friday.

Mr. E. M. Patel of Vereeniging allowed attachment of his goods to the value of £20 in lieu of paying the fine of £1. 7s. 6d. imposed.

More hawkers in Johannesburg were charged with hawking without licences. Thirty went to gaol with hard labour for seven days.

Amod Kothara has got 14 days' imprisonment, he having been twice convicted before in the struggle.

The New Asiatic Bill was read a first time in the Transvaal Parliament yesterday.

A Mass Meeting will be held on Sunday at the Hamidia Mosque at 4 p.m.

The *Pretoria News*, in an article headed "A Question of Honour," says that General Smuts is not playing the game.

The British Indian Association has forwarded a petition to the Legislative Assembly protesting against the New Asiatic Bill.

Volkswrust, Friday.

Twenty-one Indians were detained at Volkswrust to-day pending inquiry, including the President, Vice-President and Secretary of Natal Indian Congress, the President of the Cape British Indian League and three late sergeants of the Natal Stretcher-bearer Corps.

Seven claimed admission under the education test of the Immigration Act, and as possessing means, others as pre-war residents. All refused to give thumb-impressions.

The police are most courteous and our people are allowed to move about freely.

Seven of the leaders of the Transvaal community who refused to avail themselves of their registration certificates and had left the Colony, returned to-day but were permitted to proceed unquestioned.

ધી ઇન્ડિયન ઓપિનિયન માટે.

૧૪૪ ક્વીન સ્ટ્રી, ડરબન.

હવેની જગતને મારકીટ જોલવામાં આવી છે ત્યાં દરેક ભવનો માલ લીલાઈથી વેચી આપવામાં આવે છે. પછસા માલ વેચાય કે દુરત આપવામાં આવે છે. બહાર જામવાવાળાને માલ વેચાય તેને તેજ દિવસે એક મોકલવામાં આવે છે. ફરેટ, વેલ્ટેબલ, તથા બીજા પ્રીક્યુરને સેલ સવારે ૭ વાગે, ૧૨ વાગે અને બપોરે ૩૫ વાગે એમ ત્રણ વખત કરવામાં આવે છે. ફરનીચર, ગોસ્ટરી વગેરે રોજ ૧૧ વાગે સેલ કરવામાં આવે છે.

ગેરાની મારકીટમાં હાંદીને અલગ ઉભા રાખે છે. માલ સાડા આઠ વાગ્યા સુધી જ મુકવા દેવામાં આવે છે, ગેરાને પહેલી જગ્યા આપે છે. ગેરાની બીજા હોય ત્યારે હાંદીની વેલા નથી. પછસા જેવા બપોરે બે વાગે જઈ હારમખ ઉભા રહેવું પડે છે ત્યારે કોઈપણ ગેરા પહેલો કે મોટો આવે તેને પહેલા પછસા આપવામાં આવે છે. સેલ મોટા મવાથી માલ ખરીદી તેને તે દિવસે વહાવી રાખીને નથી. એ કે ઘણે લાગે હાંદીઓજ માલ મુકે છે અને ખરીદે છે, છતાં તેની જરાપણ ફરકાર કરવામાં આવતી નથી. તે બહેતર છે કે તમારા રેથી ભાઈની મારકીટમાં તમારો માલ વેચો તથા ખરીદો, કે ત્યાં તમારું કોઈ રીતે અપમાન થશે નહિ. વળી ધરના આંગણમાં હોવાથી વખતે ત્યાં રીક્ષા લાડું બચશે.

અમરજીમ અહમદ ખાલાત,
જનરલ એકઝીનીચર.

ચાલુ વર્તમાન

ડાનટેલરની વાત ઉપર મી. પારસી ફસ્તમજીએ પાંચ પૌડની જે હોડ બાંધી છે તેના જવાબમાં ડાનટેલરે જણાવ્યું છે કે મજકુર ખીના મી. આરબકલ (હાલના સર વીલીયમ) વેપાર કરતા તે અરસામાં કમરૂદીનની કંપનીના એક પ્રતિનીધીએ જણાવેલ હતી. મી. આરબકલ રેલવે તથા ફેટલાક ધમોલામાં રેશન પુરા પાડતા પછુ કમરૂદીનની કંપનીએ હરીફાઈ કરી ફેટલાક ધરાકને જીતી લીધા. મી આરબકલની નોકરીમાં તે વખતે કામ કરતા મી. લીલેટ સાથે થએલ વાતચીતમાં તેણે જણાવ્યું હતું કે મારે એક વખત કમરૂદીન સાથે ચોખાના વેચાણમાં ફાયદો નથી થતો તેવી વાતચીત થએલ તેના જવાબ માં કમરૂદીને હું 'પારલામેટમાં જે ખીના બોલ્યો હતો તે જણાવી હતી. તે સમયમાં હાંદી મરદના રેશન માટે રોજની ૩ પેની બસ થતી.

ફેપરના કાગળના જવાબમાં મી. પારસી ફસ્તમજીએ "નાતાલ મરકયુરી"ને લખ્યું છે કે ડાનટેલરે મારી માગણી મુજબ જવાબ આપ્યો નથી. પ્રથમ તો મારી માફક પાંચ પૌડની રકમ ડીપોઝીટ રાખી નથી. બીજું મી. ટેલર પોતાના અનુભવની વાત કરવાને બદલે મી. લીલેટ સાંભળેલ વાત રજૂ કરે છે. આ વાત કદી થએલ હોય એમ હું ચાની શકતો નથી. કેમકે મેસરસ કમરૂદીનની કંપની કોઈ દિવસ મી. આરબકલ સાથે હરીફાઈમાં ઉતરેલ નથી તેમ રેશન વગેરે પુરા પાડવાનો

વેપાર પછુ કરેલ નથી. મી. ડાન ટેલર મારી હોડનો જવાબ આપવાને અસકત થવાથી હું એટલો ખુશી થયો છું કે આગળની શરત મુજબ આ સાથે હું બીજા પાંચ પૌડનો એક રજુ કરું છું અને જણાવું છું કે મી. ડાન ટેલરે કહેલ હકીકત ખરી નથી.

મી. એમ. સી. આંગલીઆના ૨૦ વરસની ઉમરના લાણેજ મી. આજમ હુસેન હાફેજ નાતાલની ખર્સરી પરીક્ષામાં પાસ થઈ બેરીસ્ટર થવા કેનીલવર્થ કેસલ માં તા. ૧૩મીને રોજ વિલાયત જવાને ફેપડી ચુક્યા છે. તેમના માનમાં ડરબન અંગ્લુમન ઇસ્લામે તા. ૧૨મીની સાંજે મેળાવડો કર્યો હતો. મોષ્ટપર ઘણા ગ્રહસ્થો તેમને વળાવવા ગયા હતા.

મી. રાંદેરીઆ ટરાંસવાલની લડતમાં સામેલ થવા ગયા હોવાથી 'વેપારીને મદદ ગાર' નામની ચોપડી આપતનો પત્ર વ્યવહાર તેઓ પાછા આવે ત્યાંસુધી મુલતવી સખવા વિનંતી કરે છે.

ખોટી પરમીટને માટે પ્રીટોરીઆમાં જે અરજીનસીંગ ઉપર કેસ ચાલ્યો હતો અને જે છુટી ગયો હતો તેને ટરાંસવાલ માં વખર પરમીટ રહેવા માટે પકડવામાં આવેલ છે. તેના કેસની મુદત તા. ૧૧ ઓગસ્ટની પડી છે.

વેચવાની છે.

એક સારી જંગલની મોકાની દુકાન ખુલો:— અહમદ ખાલાત. ૪૭ ચર્ચ સીટ, પી. એમ. બર્ગ.

છેલા ખબરો

(ધ. ઓ. માટે ખાસ તાર)

જોહાન-સબરગ, શુક્રવાર. મરજીયાત રજીસ્ટર કચ્છેસર મણવાનું ખીલ પહેલી વાર વખ્યું છે. બ્રિટિશ ઇન્ડિયન એસોશિએસને ધારા સભા ઉપર નવા એશિયાટિક બીજની સામે વાંધો દરશાવવાની અરજી મોકલી આપી છે.

વીરીનીખનના મી. ઇ. એમ. પટેલનો પ્ર. ૧-૭-૧૯૦૬ થયો હતો તે બદલ પા. ૨૦ ની કીમતના માલ ઉપર સેજ પડી છે. વગર લાઇસેન્સે ફેરી ફરવા માટે જોહાન-સબરગમાં ૧૪ જણા પકડયા છે. તેમાંના ૧૩ જણા ૭ દિવસની સખત મજુરી ની જેલમાં ગયા છે.

અને ૧૪મા મી. આમદને ૧૪ દિવસ ની જેલ મળી છે. મી. આમદને આ લડતમાં અગાઉ બે વખત સજ્જ થઇ છે.

હમીદીયા ઇસ્લામીક સોસાયટીની આસ મીટીંગ રવીવારે ૪ વાગે હમીદીયા મરજીદ માં મળશે.

બીજા વધુ ૩૦ જણા ૭ દિવસની જેલ માં ગયા છે.

વાલક્રસ્ટ શુકરવારે સાંજે. તપાસને માટે અહીં ૨૧ જણાને રોકવામાં આવ્યા છે. આ ૨૧ માં નાતાલ ઇન્ડિયન ડેવિસના પ્રમુખ મી. હાફેદ મહમદ, ઉપ-પ્રમુખ મી. ફસ્તમજી પારસી, સેક્રેટરી મી. આંગલીઆ, કેપટાઉન બ્રીટીશ ઇન્ડિયન લીગના પ્રમુખ મી. આહમ. ગુલમહમદ, ઇન્ડિયન સ્ટરેચર એરરકોરમાંના ત્રણ સારજોટો વગેરે છે. સાત જણા ઇમીગ્રેશન એક્ટની રૂબે પરીક્ષા પસાર કરી દાખલ થવા માંગે છે, અને બીજા લગાઇ પહેલાંના ટરાંસવાલના રહીશ તરીકે દાખલ થવા માંગે છે. બધાએ અગુઠો આપવા ના પાડી છે.

ટરાંસવાલના ૭ આગેવાનો જેણે મરજી આત રજીસ્ટરનો લાલ લેવાની ના પાડેલ તેઓને વચર પુછપરછે આગળ વધવા દેવા માં આવ્યા છે. પોલીસ ઘણી સલુકાઇ વાપરે છે. આખલુ લોકોને છુટથી હરવા ફરવા દેવામાં આવે છે.