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## STILL MORE SCANDALS

**T**WO more scandalous instances of immigration maladministration have occurred this week. Some months ago, Mr. M. A. Kotwal, one of the best-known Indian residents of Durban who has been in Natal for something like 22 years, left on a tour through Europe and America, with the intention of returning to Durban thereafter, and provided himself with a passport for foreign use, issued by the Minister of the Interior. By the s.s. *Markgraf*, which arrived this week from India, came his son, a boy of twelve years, who had been himself resident in Durban for a number of years, and who produced his own domicile certificate. The Chief Immigration Officer refused to allow him to land, as his father was not in Natal, and his friends have had to apply to the Supreme Court for an interdict to prevent his deportation to India.

Travelling by the same vessel came Mahomed Sadak, the ten-year old son of Moulvi Abdul Vahed, of Capetown, and nephew of a well-known Indian resident of Durban. His uncle had previously filed an affidavit with the Chief Immigration Officer, stating the relationship, explaining that the boy was travelling with his aunt, Mr. Vahed's wife, and asking for the issue of a visiting pass, as the *Markgraf* was not going direct to Capetown and he did not know anyone going there immediately with whom he could send the boy to his father. Upon the arrival of the vessel at Durban, it was discovered that a number of Indians were proceeding to Capetown on Thursday by the Union-Castle mail-boat, and Mr. Vahed undertook to send him there by the same boat, a suggestion that was, at first favourably considered by the Chief Immigration Officer. On Wednesday morning, however, the day before the *Markgraf* was due to leave on the return voyage to India, he notified the uncle that he did not propose to allow the boy to proceed to Capetown, even if a return ticket were purchased, as he did not know whether the boy would be received there. At 11 a.m., he sent a telegram to the Cape Immigration Officer, asking whether he would receive the boy, to which a reply came in the negative late in the afternoon. At about 4 p.m., a representative of Mr. Vahed attended at the Immigration Office, with a view to see the Chief Immigration Officer, to point out the special circumstances of the case and to exhibit a Natal domicile certificate belonging to the boy's father, who had sent it to his brother in Durban, and which bore the father's photograph. The representative, who had several times telephoned to inquire for Mr. Colborne-Smith, and who had been repeatedly informed that he was out, was now informed that he had left for the day and that it was not known where he could be found. He was further informed that, in the Chief Immigration Officer's absence, and without his definite instructions, nothing could be done. Asked to take

the domicile certificate on board, so that the boy's relationship to his father could be tested by recognition of the photograph, the officer in charge refused. Asked to whom application was to be made during office hours in the absence of the Chief Immigration Officer, the reply was that nothing whatever could be done. An hour later, a telegram was received by Mr. Vahed from his brother in Capetown to the effect that the local Immigration authorities had agreed to the boy's travelling there by the mail-boat. The message, however, arrived too late to be placed before Mr. Colborne-Smith, and as the *Markgraf* left at day-break on Thursday, the boy was sent away from Natal unprotected.

NOTE: We refer to these cases in our leading columns.—Ed. I.O.I.

### Further Serious Allegations

Mr. M. M. Diwan writes from Colombo, on board the *Salamis*, that, on the same steamer there was an Indian named Mahomed Sayed, of Surat. This man came to Natal by the same steamer and, as he was refused a landing, had to return to India. The man stated that he came to Natal in 1892 with his father, Cassim Hoosen, settled at Ladysmith and carried on business as a hawker. In 1905 his father died. Before going to India in 1908, Mahomed Sayed obtained a domicile certificate. In his application he filed corroborative statements of two well-known Europeans of Ladysmith, named Lane and Willey, also of an Indian named Kalu Hoosen. When he arrived at Durban the last time the Immigration Officer took away his certificate, asked him a lot of questions and left him on board. The boat proceeded to Capetown and returned again to Durban. Eventually the boat sailed for India and his certificate was not returned nor was he informed why he was not allowed to land. The poor man, says Mr. Diwan, is in sore straits and has no means wherewith to again make the attempt to come to Natal. Funds were collected among the passengers to enable him to get to his destination in India and provide him with food for the journey.

Mr. John X. Merriman opened a new Moslem school in the Malay quarter of Capetown, on the 27th ultimo. After advocating education, even for those engaged in manual labour, he expressed the opinion that in education would be found a solution of many of our present problems. There was, he pointed out, no connection between Mohammedanism and the reluctance to obtain Western or modern education, and it was not faith which forbade culture. Nor was Mohammedanism necessarily connected with intolerance. He instanced the Indian monarch Akhbar, who extolled the virtue of tolerance in an inscription at Kabul.

## Mr. Gokhale at Bombay

(Concluded)

On the conclusion of Mr. Gokhale's address those present were asked to adopt the following resolution:—

"That this public meeting of the citizens of Bombay accord a hearty welcome to the Hon'ble Mr. G. K. Gokhale, C.I.E., on his return from his visit to South Africa at the invitation of our countrymen in that colony; it puts on record its high appreciation of the cordial reception given to him by the Government and the people of all classes in the South African Union; and expresses its earnest hope that as the result of Mr. Gokhale's visit and of his endeavours to bring about a better understanding between the Indians and the Colonists, a completely satisfactory solution will be found at an early date of the problems connected with the position of Indians in South Africa as subjects of the British Crown and as citizens of the British Empire."

The Hon. Mr. C. H. Armstrong, who proposed the resolution, said:— "Gentlemen, this resolution seems to cover the whole ground. It accords, as we most assuredly do, a very hearty welcome to Mr. Gokhale on his return from South Africa and it assures him of our great appreciation of his efforts to bring about a settlement of difficult questions which have troubled the Imperial Government and the people of this country for several years and for which at one time a satisfactory solution appeared to be an almost impossible matter. If Mr. Gokhale's efforts are likely to bring about a permanent settlement on a basis of mutual regard and esteem he has done a great work for the Empire for which he deserves our warmest and most appreciative thanks. We are also at the same time deeply sensible of, and very grateful for, the very cordial reception accorded to Mr. Gokhale by the Union Government and by all classes of people in South Africa, and I feel sure that lasting benefits must result from a visit which seemed to have given pleasure and satisfaction to all the parties engaged in this great controversy. It is no easy matter to step into an arena of heated feelings, but when I heard some months ago that Mr. Gokhale was leaving England for South Africa, I felt in my own mind that his visit would almost certainly be a success, for Mr. Gokhale possesses in a very marked degree a persuasive power of eloquence which is most convincing and shrewd commonsense enables him after a full enquiry to brush aside points of difference which are not material to bring to prominence for a final settlement only those matters which are of vital importance. I do not wish to enter into controversial matters; but it often seemed to me with the somewhat limited information one was able to obtain, that in this South Africa controversy the two parties frequently took up positions from which it would be very difficult to withdraw and from which in fact they were often unable to withdraw. In such cases a fair-minded man from outside is necessary as a go-between and if he takes a broad and commonsense view of the situation he can often bring about a settlement satisfactory to both parties. If, as I gather, Mr. Gokhale has achieved this, he has done a great work for which he deserves our very warmest thanks and I feel sure the Imperial Government and the Government of India as well as all classes of this country will be very grateful. We cannot expect in a controversy of this kind to get all we should like, but if a permanent settlement is now arrived at by mutual concessions it will only show that both parties to the controversy are imbued with a large amount of good feelings, public spirit and commonsense which has only required the eloquence, persuasive powers and personal contact of Mr. Gokhale to confirm into, as I hope it may, a lasting and a permanent settlement. Mr. Gokhale has been absent from India for some time and in London many other questions affecting this country have no doubt engaged his attention. I am glad to see him back again in good health, eager, I have no doubt, for the important work which now lies before him.

On your behalf, therefore, as well as for my cordially and sincerely congratulate Mr. Gokhale on the apparent success of his endeavours to bring about as the resolution so very well states, a satisfactory solution of problems connected with the position of Indians in South Africa as subjects of the British Crown and as citizens of the British Empire."

### Sir Bhālchandra Krishna

Sir Bhālchandra Krishna seconded the resolution dealing very briefly with one important aspect of the question which showed that a substantial advance had been made in the direction of bringing about a satisfactory solution of the position of Indians in South Africa by the work which Mr. Gokhale was enabled to do there by his recent visit. "The European community and the Union Government," he said, "shown a keen desire on their part to effect such a solution consistent, of course, with the interests of both parties. To further this object, they, first, received Mr. Gokhale and his mission with a marked degree of sympathy and candour and joined enthusiastically in grand receptions which our brethren in South Africa organized in Mr. Gokhale's honour; secondly, they sired Mr. Gokhale to study the situation on the spot giving him all the facilities and by putting before their presentation of the case and pointing out difficulties in the way of an amicable settlement; thirdly, they assured Mr. Gokhale of their anxious solicitude to do as much as justice and fair play would require. This is a sufficient evidence of their keen desire to amend matters at an early date, and I think they are thus entitled to our thanks. I hope and trust that our rights as subjects and citizens of the British Empire will be safeguarded and that a solution will soon be arrived at so as to secure the peace and prosperity of our countrymen in that colony."

Mr. H. A. Wadia, supporting the resolution in a vigorous speech, said Mr. Gokhale's speech should appeal not merely to his Bombay audience, but India throughout the country. Speaking in praise of Mr. Gokhale's work, Mr. Wadia said there was no one to whom Indians would more readily take advice than one who had served their interests so devotedly. It was a great advantage to know from such an authority what was the actual condition of Indians in South Africa and he hoped everyone would weigh very carefully the advice he had given them and would then make up his mind as to what should be done.

The resolution, after being further supported by Mr. Haji Yusuf Sobani, was heartily carried.

Sir Vithaldas Thackersey then proposed a vote of thanks to the Sheriff of Bombay for convening the meeting, observing that of the five meetings which Mr. Narotam Morarji Gokaldas had convened during his period of office, none had been more important than the present.

Dr. Stanley Reed, in seconding the proposition observed that a vote of thanks at the close of a meeting was often regarded as a formality, but the term of office of their honoured fellow-citizen was drawing to a conclusion, and they were all very glad to take this opportunity of saying how much they esteemed him and how proud they were to see him occupying this distinguished position.

The Rev. Dr. Mackichan, in moving a vote of thanks to the chairman, observed that he had never seen assembled in the Town Hall a greater meeting than the present. He only wished that those fellow-countrymen of theirs in South Africa who had been fighting the Indian cause in that land had been present to witness such a representative gathering, to hear the wise, tender, and moderate counsel of Mr. Gokhale, and to recognise the true spirit of comradeship and respect for Government and Empire which animated the address of their guest—he wished they could have been present, for he felt sure nothing which had happened in the agitation of this question could have exercised so

great and convincing an influence on the minds of those concerned in the settlement of it.

The resolution, which was seconded by Mr. Jehangir B. Petit, was cordially adopted, and the meeting terminated.

## From the Editor's Chair

### HUMANER ADMINISTRATION

MR. COLBORNE-SMITH'S humour is of a grim and sardonic type. He appears to imagine that General Botha's promise to the Hon. Mr. Gokhale that, in future, the administration of the Immigration Laws of South Africa would be rendered more humane, as an excellent joke, meaning exactly the converse of what it said. Of course, the Chief Immigration Officer is entitled to interpret phenomena in his own way, but he must be prepared to bear the consequences. The two cases of scandalous maladministration of the Natal Immigration laws simply exude illegality and inhumanity. The facts are that (a) Mr. Colborne-Smith has, in two fresh instances, attempted to separate children from their parents and guardians; (b) he has illegally endeavoured to prevent their availing themselves of their legal rights, in the one case, by refusing to allow the boy to land on his own domicile certificate, and in the other, to purchase a ticket to proceed to Capetown; (c) he has, in collusion with the Cape Immigration Officer—for one knows what these telegraphic inquiries mean—endeavoured to enforce the Cape Immigration law in Natal, where it is inoperative; (d) he has prevented one of the boys from having that recourse to the Cape Courts for redress that the law of that Province provides; (e) he has, on various pretexts, placed obstacles in the way of an application to the Natal Court to prevent deportation, until it was too late to move the Court; and (f) he has sent away a child of ten years upon the high seas, without protection, to fend for himself, and would have sent away another child scarcely older, but for the intervention of the Court. And this is what is understood, in official circles in South Africa, as "humaner" administration. Frankly, we prefer the old positive "humane"-ness to the newer and "humaner" policy. Both are cruel and vindictive, but the former was the less cruel and vindictive of the two. There seems little reason to doubt that Mr. Colborne-Smith is not acting as he is doing without the assurance, none the less effective because it is not committed to writing, that whatever they may be, provided they result in a diminution of the resident Indian population in South Africa, they will receive the sanction of his official superiors. The same policy has been adopted, and apparently the same assurances have been given, in the other Provinces of the Union. The case of Cape Colony is notorious, and in the Transvaal things are scarcely better. Mr. Budrea, one of the best-known Indian residents of the Province, lost his registration certificate recently, and applied, according to law, for a duplicate. But the Department endeavoured to perpetrate both a fraud and an illegality upon him by attempting to induce him to accept a document from which the name of his minor child was omitted, though it had been entered upon the original certificate. But for Mr. Budrea's firmness, his minor son, upon attaining the age of majority, would undoubtedly have had the utmost trouble in securing the registration to which he is by law entitled. And so numerous instances of dishonest attacks upon the numerical integrity of the community could be quoted *ad nauseam*. The matter, of course, cannot possibly be left where it is. South African Indians must bestir themselves, and the London Committee and other friends in India will have to renew their activities. It is possible that Mr. Colborne-Smith may have some justification for laughing in his sleeve

at ministerial promises, but, in that event, South African Indians, the people of India, and the Imperial Government are entitled to know what that justification is.

### "THE TRUE TEMPER OF EMPIRE"

IN his "Essay of Empire," Bacon wrote: "To speak now of the true temper of Empire; it is a rare thing and hard to keep." This expression it is that Sir Chas. Bruce uses as the title of a most interesting and useful volume of essays in which he describes what, in his opinion, are the functions and policy of the British Empire and the relations of its component parts towards each other. "I describe the true temper of Empire as a temper which 'mingles wisely and in fit proportions' the sovereignty of the central authority with the liberties of the constituent areas." It is a genuine pleasure to review a work of this nature, for, apart from the manifest qualifications of the author, by reason of his long and varied experience as a servant of the Crown who has occupied a number of distinguished positions, Sir Chas. Bruce writes with a quite unusual sincerity on subjects that are ordinarily discussed by the average writer on Imperial matters with a great deal of cant and equivocation. He states his case with a quiet conviction and a lofty idealism that largely disarm criticism.

Sir Chas. Bruce presided at one of the principal sessions of the First Universal Races Congress, held in London in the middle of 1911, and to the admirable volume of papers on Inter-racial Problems issued by the organizers, he contributed a valuable essay on "The Modern Conscience in Relation to the Treatment of Dependent Peoples and Communities," which is reproduced in the present volume. His point of view is clearly set forth in the concluding paragraph: "It is submitted that in the treatment of dependent peoples and communities the modern conscience rejects as a fallacy the claim of Western civilisation to a monopoly of the capacity of self-government based on an indivisible interrelation between European descent, Christianity, and the so-called white colour. It recognises that while this interrelation has evolved a capacity for self-government in an appropriate environment, a similar capacity has been evolved by an interrelation of other races, creeds, and colours appropriate to other environments. It maintains, therefore, that the conflict between West and East must be adjusted on the same principle that has adjusted the conflicts of race and creed in the West, the principle of freedom interpreted as liberty of person and conscience and equality of opportunity for all, without distinction of race, creed or colour, under a settled government. History, reason, and recent experience in Japan warn us that the adjustment must be made not in the spirit of the popular refrain, 'East is East and West is West,' but in the spirit of a nobler poetic formula—

"God's is the Occident,  
God's is the Orient."

This is the spirit of the modern conscience in the treatment of dependent peoples and communities."

Perhaps the weakest part of the book is the section devoted to an examination of the situation in India. Too little emphasis is laid upon the extent to which, until quite recently, the rulers departed from the spirit of the late Queen's Proclamation and stood aloof and unsympathetically from the national movement, characterising its various phases as disloyal or seditious. Nor do we observe any reference by the author to the affront to Indian sentiment offered by the partition of Bengal and the set-back to public-spirited criticism arising out of it. The section suffers from the facts not having been brought up to date.

The essays, however, that will most appeal to Indians are those relating to the Indian problem in the Transvaal and the Colonies generally, covering forty-six pages. The two essays on British Indians in the

\*"The True Temper of Empire," by Sir Chas. Bruce, G.C.M.G.—MacMillan & Co., Ltd., London.

Transvaal are a reprint of the Pamphlet issued by the author some four years ago, and contain the substance of two articles that appeared in the *Empire Review* of February and October, 1908, the pamphlet being circulated by the South Africa British Indian Committee. The essays, of course, contain nothing new, and yet it is refreshing to re-read the impartial opinion of the merits of a controversy that is not yet ended, of one whose relations with Indians have been intimate and characterised by a sympathetic understanding. The essay on British Indians in the Dominions carries us beyond the Imperial Conference of 1911, and the author's criticism is brief but significant. "On a subject of essentially Imperial magnitude," he says, "the Imperial Conference hardly took the main points into serious consideration, and was not pressed to come to any definite decision." He ends up, nevertheless, upon a note of optimism: "But the true temper of Empire knows no despondency nor despair. It anticipates that the Durbar will correct the failure of the Conference; and enforce recognition of the political and economic interdependence of the United Kingdom, the Dominions, the Crown Colonies, and India; and, in particular, strengthen the influence of the Crown in the settlement of problems involving the status of British Indians in the Dominions." So mote it be!

One criticism we would add, with all deference to so distinguished an authority as Sir Chas. Bruce. It is that he seems to lay too much emphasis upon the advantages accruing to Indian indentured labourers taken to Crown Colonies and other parts of the Empire under contracts of service. He does not appear to us nearly sufficiently to weigh the cost to the labourers in loss of moral fibre and the weakening of religious and social sanctions, nor does he at all differentiate between the alleged advantages accruing under indenture and those arising after the expiry of the contracts and the acquisition of freedom. The book, however, is one that we can cordially recommend to our readers.

## In Bombay Town Hall

The Bombay correspondent of *The Times* sends the following descriptive report of Mr. Gokhale's reception at Bombay on his return from South Africa:—

I wish I could convey to the readers of *The Times* an adequate idea of the scene in Bombay when Mr. Gokhale gave a town's meeting, convened by the Sheriff, an account of his visit to South Africa to inquire into the grievances of the British Indians. The Town Hall is one of the few buildings erected in India early in the last century which is wholly satisfactory. Designed in the Corinthian style, it is approached by a noble flight of steps, and seats some 2,000 persons. It is said that it has never been crowded since the stormy discussions on the Ilbert Bill nearly a quarter of a century ago. On this occasion a dense audience occupied every inch of floor space and hundreds were unable to gain admission. The character of the audience also merits attention. The chair was taken by Sir Jamsetji Jijibhai, the head of the Parsis. Among the speakers were the leading men of every community, English, Hindu, and Mahomedan. There was not a dissentient voice.

There was another remarkable characteristic about this audience. I doubt whether there was an individual present who had a direct interest in the South African question. In all public movements in India what are known as the educated classes take the lead—that is, the products of the universities and the members of the learned professions. Now these classes are practically non-existent among the South African Indians. Of the 150,000 British Indians resident there, 120,000 are in Natal. These are for the most part indentured labourers or the descendants of indentured labourers. The balance, spread over Cape Colony, Orangia, and the Transvaal, are either petty traders or domestic ser-

vants. The indentured labourers do not come from Western India, and although a considerable proportion of the petty traders are Borahs from the Surat district of the Bombay Presidency, they have not many friends in the city itself. Direct personal interest was, indeed, the last influence which brought these people together. They were gathered in assertion of a principle—the right of all subjects of the Crown to fair treatment wherever the Union Jack is flown. This feeling is just as strong among Englishmen as in the most patriotic and assertive Indians. It unites on one platform the occidentalized Indian and the champion of Hindu orthodoxy. As an eminent Indian who is perhaps better known in London than in this country, put it to me, "This question makes me realize that I am an Asiatic at heart." Every Indian, without distinction, feels that his self-respect is affronted by the indignities heaped on his countrymen in South Africa, and in the whole of the strong agitation conducted here there is not a spark of self-interest. The Indian labourer or trader is not driven abroad by the pressure of economic conditions. There is scarcely an industry in India to-day which is not short of labour. But every Indian, without distinction, regards the South African question as a test of his status in the Empire, and the Imperial idea as a mockery whilst subjects of the Crown are there oppressed. This was the impelling motive inducing a very remarkable expression of public opinion.

## The Afrikaner Attitude

Mr. Gokhale began his speech with a cordial acknowledgment of the extreme kindness with which the European community treated him in South Africa, and of the consideration and courtesy extended to him by the South African Government. In summarizing the grievances of the Indian community he laid stress on the feeling of profound depression which afflicted them. "Almost every section of the Indian community throughout South Africa was filled with a serious dread about its future, a feeling of insecurity, harassment, and oppression prevailing generally, such as was bound to demoralize any community." This arose not so much from the laws themselves as from the administration of the laws. As for the laws, the most cruel was the annual tax of £3 per head on ex-indentured Indians in Natal, this falling on males above the age of 16, and females over 13. This impost, in the words of a prominent member of the Natal Legislature, broke up families, drove men into the paths of crime and women into lives of shame. But even where the law was not so drastic its administration was very harassing. The traders' and hawkers' licences in Cape Colony and Natal had to be renewed every year, and the grant of new licences lay in the discretion of local authorities manned almost entirely by the European trade rivals of the Indian traders. In the Transvaal new licences had to be granted on the tender of the fee, but the Gold Law and the Townships Act made these licences practically worthless, because they permitted the removal of Indian traders to special locations situated as a rule at some distance from the towns. Finally, the Immigration Law was worked so as to exclude domiciled Indians, who had revisited their country on permits, whenever any technical flaw permitted it, and there was hardly any provision for the education of Indian children. In short, a large proportion of Afrikaners was determined to make the position so intolerable for Indians that they would of their own accord leave the country, and every Indian felt that his future and his means of livelihood were perilously insecure.

## The Smuts Compromise

When he came to deal with remedies Mr. Gokhale raised his speech to the level of statesmanship by a frank recognition of the position of the European in South Africa. He said emphatically that they must understand the attitude of this handful of people, numbering only a million and a quarter in all, in the midst of a vast indigenous population of a totally different grade of civilization. The Afrikaners found in the midst

of their difficult and complicated situation a third element belonging to another civilization and representing other modes of life and thought. It was true that the present number of Indians was only 150,000 but the Afrikaner looked apprehensively to the 300 millions of India, and dreaded the fate which would befall him if this huge wave of humanity swept over South Africa. This feeling might seem absurd in view of the very small immigration from India, but it existed, it was not unnatural, and nothing could be accomplished until it was allayed. The best friends of the Indians among the Europeans of South Africa and the Indian community of South Africa itself were united in the conviction that until this fear was removed more just and more humane treatment of the Indian community would never be attained. They might, of course, stand out for their full theoretical rights as subjects of the Crown. If they did, they would never get them, in the face of South African feeling, and the position of their compatriots in South Africa would grow steadily worse. Now these men and women had the first claim on their sympathies. Therefore, as a matter of practical politics, Mr. Gokhale associated himself entirely with Mr. Gandhi, the leader of the South African Indians, in accepting what is called the Smuts compromise. The essence of this compromise is that by removing legislative inequality the theoretical rights of Indians as subjects of the Empire are maintained, while by agreeing to the limitation of immigrants to the present average number the fear of an indiscriminate influx which haunts the Afrikaner mind will be removed.

### Feeling in India

It would be idle to pretend that this view is universally popular in India. Indeed, there were some notable abstentions of the "popular party" from Mr. Gokhale's platform. Having no direct interest in South Africa, some would hold out for the open door. But Mr. Gokhale's point of view has gained acceptance. He looks at the whole question as one of practical politics. He says:—

Stand out for the open door, and you will get nothing, whilst your compatriots will be squeezed out of South Africa; accept the principle of restricted immigration, and the lot of the South African Indians will be steadily improved, till we can look forward to the day when they will attain full civic rights.

There has been a general acceptance of this sane view during the past week, since the unanswerable argument by which it is supported has been weighed. On this principle Mr. Gokhale takes a hopeful estimate of the situation. He believes that the Immigration Bill embodying the Smuts compromise will be carried when next it is introduced. Then the poll tax will be abolished. Thereafter he expects a considerable modification of the harshness with which the existing laws are administered and the beginnings of an educational system. But the licence question will not be so easily settled. The administration of the law is in the control of the local bodies. On these the Afrikaner trader is in the ascendant. He feels the pinch of Indian competition, and he means to do his utmost to scotch it. For these economic reasons the renewal of licences will be an acute question for a good many years to come.

It is my conviction that the Indian question in South Africa is easily capable of solution if it is viewed Imperially. There is no economic pressure driving Indians abroad. The labour is badly required in India itself. Even from Madras there has arisen a bitter cry against the dislocation of industry induced by extensive emigration. Many of the petty traders have done well in South Africa, and have brought back substantial fortunes. But their number is not large. The seriousness of the position from the Indian standpoint is the affront to their self-respect—the cynicism of the policy which asks from them devotion to the Imperial idea, when in considerable parts of the Empire they

can expect nothing but exclusion or insult. The Colonial aspect is fully recognized. There is no desire to overwhelm the white communities by a flood of Indian immigration. If only, while protecting their economic interests, the Dominions can be brought to treat fairly the Indians actually resident in their midst and guarantee that the handful of Indians who may desire to visit their shores—many of them distinguished gentlemen—shall be received as, for instance, they would be received in London or Paris, the question would lose all its acerbity, and the differences which arise could be discussed without bitterness. This settlement has been brought appreciably nearer by Mr. Gokhale's visit and the consideration with which he was received. The next step lies with South Africa.

### Obituary

It is with extreme regret that we have to record the death of the late Mr. A. R. Philip, another staunch passive resister who had been ill for about 15 months. Mr. Philip was one of those who migrated to the Transvaal at its birth in 1887, and remained in the country ever since, excepting for two years during the late Boer war. When the passive resistance movement was commenced he did not hesitate to take an active part in it. He was one of those who were deported to India for not submitting to the demands of the Police and experienced the bucketting from one port to another on their return to South Africa, and also served three terms of imprisonment. Mr. Philip leaves a widow and three children to mourn his demise. We extend our deepest sympathy to the family for the loss they have sustained. It can be safely said that the late Mr. Philip and Mr. G. S. Pillay, whose death we announced in our last issue, were martyrs to the cause of the passive resistance struggle as they have had their health shattered in the Transvaal prisons. Neither of them enjoyed good health after their release from their last incarceration. The deceased was 48 years of age.

### Union Parliament

In the House of Assembly on the 31st ulto., Mr. SCHREINER (Tembuland) protested against the colour discrimination in the Arms and Ammunition Bill. "Why make this colour bar?" asked Mr. Schreiner. "Why not say that every permit should be referred to the minister instead of making the distinction in the case of the coloured man?" The Bill was read a second time.

### The £3 Tax

GENERAL SMUTS, in moving the second reading of the Financial Relations Bill, in the House of Assembly, on Monday, said they added to the Natal list the proceeds of the Asiatic tax of £3 imposed on all Indians who remained in the Province after their period of indenture had expired. The proceeds of this tax amounted to about £10,000, but hon. members would see that in the structure of that Bill, they had gone back on this proposal. The people of Natal pressed for an increased additional subsidy, rather than retain this tax, which they did not look upon as of a very stable or equitable character. In the near future it might be necessary for the Government to deal with this tax of £3 on Asiatics, and it was found better not to pay this to the Natal Province, but to increase their subsidy to £90,000.

### Separate Railway Carriages

In the House of Assembly on the 4th instant, Mr. VAN der WALT (Pretoria, South) asked the Minister of Railways and Harbours whether, in view of the unsatisfactory arrangements with regard to conveyance by rail of Europeans and coloured persons he would forthwith give instructions to make adequate provision for separate carriage accommodation for both races on the railways.



The MINISTER of RAILWAY and HARBOURS, replying, acknowledged the necessity of there being separate carriages, and pointed to a resolution to that effect passed by Parliament last year. Provision must be made, but that could not be achieved at once. On some suburban lines there were already three separate carriages for coloured persons, but many more were required, and it would take some time ere they could be ready. At the present time £200,000 was spent to have last year's resolution of Parliament put into effect, and the total amount to be spent would be £400,000.

## News in Brief

We understand that the Johannesburg Indian school, to which reference has so often been made in these columns, will be opened next week, without fail. Indian parents please note: Children will receive tuition in the Indian vernaculars.

A mine manager named Robert Campbell pleaded guilty, before the Ladysmith Magistrate, of assaulting an Indian and was fined £1 10s. In his defence, the accused said that the mine authorities were put to much annoyance and inconvenience over the conduct of some of their Indian servants, and if every incident had to be brought before a Magistrate, the valuable time of some of the European employes would be lost to the mine by their attendance at Court. It was therefore necessary at times for masters to deal summarily, yet not severely, with their servants. Fortunately the Magistrate did not agree with him.

Amongst the New Year's Honours are a Knighthood conferred upon the well-known educationist, Mr. Tarak Nath Palit, of Calcutta, whose munificent donations to the Calcutta University have evoked grateful appreciation from the Bengal public, and upon Mr. C. H. Armstrong, the Chairman, of the Bombay Chamber of Commerce, who took a prominent part in the Town Hall meeting of welcome to the Hon. Mr. Gokhale, on the latter's return from South Africa. Sir Chinubhai Madhavji, of Ahmedabad, receives a baronetcy, the first, we believe, conferred upon a member of the Hindu community.

In a leading article on Mr. Gokhale's speech at Bombay, the *Natal Mercury* says:—"The most pleasing aspect of this utterance, in our view, is that Mr. Gokhale is adhering unswervingly in India to the attitude of statesmanlike moderation which distinguished his series of utterances during his visit here. For our part, we are so convinced of his sincerity and good faith that we have thought it inconceivable that he would adopt a different tone in India from that which he employed in addressing South African audiences; but we are aware that there were some who entertained doubts on the subject. Mr. Gokhale has shown that he takes a true measure of the difficulties with which the Indian question is beset—difficulties due no less to the extravagant demands of extremists amongst the Indians than to the arrogance and inconsideration of the anti-Asiatic propagandists in our midst."

The year 1913 (says *A.P.O.*) will probably never be forgotten by the Moslems of the Cape, because of the distinction gained by three Moslem girls: Miss Rukea Dollie, a cousin of Dr. Abdurahman, is the first Moslem girl to gain the Cape T3 Certificate. She was born in London, where her father died a few years ago. Miss Hawa Effendi, a niece of the Doctor, has just passed the London Matric. in the first division in English, French, Latin, Mathematics and History. She is the daughter of the late A. Effendi, who, during his life-time, was well known in Cape Town and Kimberley. Miss Hawa is at present in London, and intends studying medicine. The third Moslem girl to

distinguish herself is Miss Waradea, daughter of Dr. Abdurahman. She obtained the Cape Junior Certificate. Our contemporary believes that Misses Hawa and Waradea are, not only the first Moslem girls, but, the first non-European girls of South Africa to pass either the Cape Junior Certificate or the London Matric.

In regard to a resolution forwarded by the United Municipal Associations of South Africa, asking for statutory powers to enable Provincial Councils to legislate for the control by Municipalities of the use of footpaths by natives, the Transvaal Provincial Administrator has replied that a Bill is at present under consideration to be introduced into the Union Parliament which is intended to give this power to Municipalities. The Administrator adds that he does not think it will be possible to introduce legislation delegating powers to the Provincial Councils to legislate in respect of these matters, as such powers are specially reserved to the Union Government under the provisions of the South Africa Act.

[NOTE: "Natives" is meant to include Indians in this matter.—Ed. I.O.]

The Natives in the Benoni Location, says the *East Rand Express*, held a meeting on the 19th ultimo to consider the advisability of drawing the attention of the authorities to the serious need of recognised Native Councils in Municipal Reserves. It was pointed out that the Native residents are contributing largely towards the Municipal Exchequer in the form of stand rents and charges, which in some instances amount to £15 per annum per stand 100 by 50. Other charges are 10/- for tea parties and 6d. for visitors, without giving them sleeping accommodation. These taxes are not used for the benefit and improvement of the Location. At night time the Location is plunged into outer darkness, the sanitary arrangements are not satisfactory, and the large increase of native criminals and other undesirable causes the constant molestation of the law-abiding Native by the police. Further, the increase of immorality among native girls in the Location is a serious menace, and leads to the degradation of the Native race.

The visit of the Hon. Mr. Gokhale was a landmark in the history of the Indian immigration into South Africa (says the *Natal Mercury*) and great hopes are built upon it that the long-drawn-out agitation will be settled through his representations to the Imperial and Union Governments. It is fitting that a full record of his doings in South Africa should be put into some permanent form, and *INDIAN OPINION* has produced a souvenir that is worthy of the famous legislator, and of the object of his visit. It almost seems incredible that, in the few weeks he spent in the country, he could have accomplished so much, but one has only to glance through this well-printed record to see that Mr. Gokhale had opportunities to get a full grip of the subject for which he journeyed from India to South Africa. From the day he landed at Capetown on Oct. 22 to the day he left Lourenco Marques, Nov. 17, less than a month, he was kept more than busy. He was, as the Americans say, absolutely hustled, and the diary of his tour is amazing on account of the enormous amount of work got through. The record is a book worth keeping, and we congratulate *INDIAN OPINION* on its completeness, for, as far as we can see, nothing of importance is omitted. It will be a book of reference on the Indian question for some years to come.

"Your native is rising; his courage is rising; his moral powers are rising. And your European's moral powers are gradually lowering, and I am convinced that eventually your European will have to go to the bottom."—General Hertzog at Pretoria.

"If they were going to rule the native in this country, it would be not because they had called themselves superior, but because they had proved their superiority."—Sir Lionel Phillips at Johannesburg.