

Indian Opinion

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PROSECUTORS SIT AS JUDGES

MR. M. ALEXANDER, M.L.A., Capetown, was recently asked his views by a representative of the *Cape Times* in regard to the appointments announced under the Immigration Act. Mr. Alexander expressed the utmost disappointment and disapprobation in regard to the action of the authorities in placing an immigration officer on each of the Boards. He characterised this as a violation of the elementary principles of justice, which would reduce the Boards to a mockery. After what took place in Parliament while the Bill was passing through last session, he was more than surprised when he saw that immigration officers were to sit in judgment upon their own or their subordinates' decisions.

"As far as the Union is concerned," he said, "the Appeal Board is the only remedy provided for the prohibited immigrant, who feels aggrieved. The alien must be content with the finding of the Board if he has been placed under a ban by the Immigration Department, though the British subject has a right of appeal on question of law reserved from the Board's finding to the Superior Courts. It is essential, therefore, in order to inspire confidence in the minds of the immigrants arriving here, whether they are British subjects or aliens, in the impartiality and independence of the Appeal Board; but that can hardly be the case when the Government appoints its immigration officer to sit in appeal upon his own judgment. Parliament intended that the Board should be a real Board of Appeal. In the original draft of the Bill it was stated that such Board 'shall, subject to such directions as the Minister may lawfully issue under this Act, have jurisdiction,' etc. The effect of that undoubtedly would have been to place the Board under the control of the Minister. Parliament altered that by striking out all reference to the 'directions' of the Minister, thus clearly showing that it intended that the Boards should be absolutely independent bodies.

"Let us consider how the matter will work out now. Every appeal to the Board is, in effect, an endeavour to set aside the decision of the Immigration Department. The way in which the Immigration Officer has carried out his duties is being brought under review, and yet that Immigration Officer is placed in the position of adjudicating upon the work of himself or his subordinates. We will take a simple illustration. In the original draft one of the provisions related to persons who were 'unable to read or write in any European language, to the satisfaction of the Immigration Officer.' When the clause came before Parliament it was pointed out that, if you were giving an appeal to the Board, you should give the Board an opportunity of going into the question, otherwise all the Board would have to decide would be whether the Immigration Officer was satisfied that the prohibited person could not read or write in any European language. It has

already been decided by the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court that where the Act says 'to the satisfaction of the Immigration Officer,' all the Court has to determine is whether the Immigration Officer has been satisfied. Parliament, therefore, said to the Minister, 'You must put in words to provide that, in case of appeal, the immigrant must write to the satisfaction of the Board.'

"The Immigration Officer says he is not satisfied with this man's writing and tells him he can go to the Appeal Board and ask them to decide, but the self-same party who has objected to the immigrant's writing has a seat on the Board. So in regard to a person who has to prove that she or he is the wife or minor child of an immigrant. The proof has to be to the satisfaction of the Immigration Officer, or, in case of appeal, to the satisfaction of the Board under section 5. The whole system, I think, will lead the Immigration Department into great difficulties. Surely, it would be far better for the Immigration Officer to appear before the Board to show cause rather than to sit as one of the judges. He should be in the same position as a plaintiff or prosecutor or respondent on appeal. He should come before the Board to show that the immigrant was rightly prohibited. When the appellant has made out a *prima facie* case in favour of his admission, it should be for the Board to call upon the respondent, the Immigration Officer, to make good his objection. If the Immigration Officer has a seat on the Board, on whom can you call to make good the objection?"

"The introduction of this vicious principle of making the man who is virtually the accuser one of the judges is bound to produce the greatest dissatisfaction in practice. It practically means that, with a Board of three members, if one independent member is in favour of exclusion, then the appellant will be excluded, because the Immigration Officer will naturally support the decision of his own department. The rest of the appointments will, I believe, be generally approved throughout the country, but it is a fatal mistake to place the Immigration Officer on the Board and it is to be hoped that the Government will soon realise that, and amend the constitution of the Boards accordingly."

If India is *within* the British Empire (says the *Maharatta*) it must be within it not only for taxation and trade, but also for all the loaves and fishes that British citizenship carries with it. It is indeed one of the saddest of anomalies that while the Anglo-Government is willing to admit that Indians are *within* so far as the law of domicile is concerned, the South African Government should never feel tired of pouring contemptuously on their devoted head by the insulting and irritating repetition of the term *coloured*.

A Colour Division

Mr. A. Christopher, Hon. Secretary of the Colonial-born Indian Association, has addressed the following letter, dated the 13th instant, to the Minister of Justice:—

"With the opening of the New Law Courts my Association is surprised to observe that a division is made in that portion of the Court rooms open to the public, setting aside a place for the coloured people only.

"We venture to submit that such a distinction appears foreign in a Court of Law understood to administer justice to all irrespective of colour, creed or race, and it is a matter of pain to us that even here we are to be subject to differential treatment.

"My Association is not without hope that you will give our respectful representation your favourable consideration, and remove what cannot but be the cause of continual irritation and unpleasantness to Indians and others."

Immigration Appeal Board

The Immigration Appeal Board, constituted under the Immigration Regulations Act, 1913, held its first sitting in the Chief Magistrate's Court on the 11th instant, the members present being Mr. Percy Binns, K.C., chief magistrate (presiding), Mr. Maurice Evans C.M.G., and Mr. G. W. Dick. A large number of Indians attended, says the *Natal Mercury*.

The President explained the authority of the Board, and said it was his desire to have the proceedings as public as possible.

Mr. E. Renaud asked that the appellants who would come before the Court should be furnished with a clear statement of the grounds on which the right to land had been refused by the immigration authorities.

The President replied that every facility would be given to counsel and those concerned.

The first appeal was that of an Indian woman, who claimed the right to land as the lawful wife of one Abookhan. The appellant appeared veiled in the orthodox Mohammedan fashion, and on stepping into the witness box a question of identification at once arose.

The President remarked that the Court did not in any way wish to injure the religious susceptibilities of those who came before them, but it was necessary to prove that the woman in the box was the same woman whom Mr. Darby, one of the immigration officers, had seen on the ship, and was the one concerned in the present case.

Abookhan, the husband, was then called into Court, and had the position explained to him. In reply to the President, he said that to lift the veil was against his religion, but if the Court demanded it he would consent.

The President: We will not look at her.

Mr. Darby then stepped up to the witness box, and on as the witness momentarily uncovering her face he identified her as the woman whom he had seen on the ship, and in respect of whom the appeal was brought.

The witness then proceeded with her evidence. She said, in reply to Mr. E. Renaud, that she was married, with the consent of her parents, to Abookhan, who at the time was a widower. He gave her parents 250 rupees on the marriage taking place. She was Abookhan's only wife, and there was one child, a boy 5 years, born of the marriage. She identified the Court as her son. She had been away from her husband in India for eight or nine years. She had gone to the magistrate of the district to get necessary papers. She now claimed the right to her husband.

In another matter, in which Mr. Goulding appeared, he objected to the general prohibition of Asiatics as *ultra vires*. The Minister had power to prohibit a person or class of persons, but the whole inhabitants of a continent could not be regarded as a class. Counsel also maintained that in the case of his client, as in that of other matters to come before the court, it was for the immigration authorities to prove that there was no domicile where a man held a certificate of domicile.

The Court reserved judgment in both cases, and adjourned till Thursday.

Chinese Farmers' Methods

In a series of extremely interesting and instructive articles headed "Farmers of Forty Centuries," a writer in the *Rural New Yorker* offers to the readers of that journal an opportunity of admiring the thrifty methods of the Chinese farmers in the matter of dealing with manurial wastes. As a few extracts from the articles in question may interest our readers also, we take leave to reproduce them.

Plant Food.—It is hard for our people to realise the extent to which the Chinese save all manurial wastes. There is no sewerage system of carrying away human wastes in the large Chinese cities, because this would mean a vast drain of fertility into the river and ocean. It is all needed on the land, and so earth closets are used—the wastes being collected every morning. They are carried away in boats through the canals or in small wheelbarrow tanks. The idea is to put everything of this nature into the soil. Every scrap of manure is gathered from the roads or streets and nothing is wasted. Instead of paying great sums of money to have these wastes removed, King states that the city of Shanghai sold the right to remove these wastes once per day for over £6,000 in gold! On the farms are to be found great earthenware jars of 500 to 1,000 pounds capacity for holding these wastes. King saw a pig-pen with a tight floor of stone which had been washed clean—even the washings used in a compost. All this may seem very small business to many of our farmers—but see what it means! After 4,000 years of cultivation one-sixth of an acre of good land in China will maintain one person! This is the result of saving water and plant food which in our system of farming is wasted.

Saving Wastes.—Up to within a few years the Chinese have made little or no use of "fertilizers" as we understand chemical plant food. In England and along the Atlantic coast in this country, plant food from the corners of the earth has been gathered and applied to the soil. Battlefields have been dug up, sea islands scraped, swamps tapped, and mines opened, with the result that in both continents the older soils are most productive and profitable. The Chinese have not been able to obtain this commercial plant food, but by saving what other nations waste they have kept up their soil. There could be no better illustration of the difference between Eastern and Western economy. One saves every scrap of fertility and keeps its money at home. The other wastes billions of value in plant food and then spends millions in an effort to replace it. Let us see what this means. The chemists tell us that the average annual waste for 1,000,000 of adult population will carry over 7,000,000 pounds of nitrogen, 2,500,000 pounds of potash, and 1,000,000 pounds of phosphoric acid. Under our present system of sewerage this and more is swept away into the sea. We think this "sanitary" disposal of these wastes a great achievement. Clustered around the mouth of the Hudson River are the homes of 3,000,000 and more adults—all draining to the ocean. We nearly had a "tariff war" with Germany over the importation of less than half the potash wasted in this way from the single

city of New York. In China the system of using these wastes enables the Chinese people to put back to their soil each year 182,000,000 tons of nitrogen, potash, and phosphoric acid.

From the Editor's Chair

AN EFFECT OF THE NEW ACT

We understand that an Indian named Purshotam Manji, a British Indian, duly registered, in terms of Act 36 of 1908 (Transvaal), was deprived of his registration certificate whilst he was on his way to India and was told by the officer who took the certificate from him that it would be restored to him if he returned within one year of the date of his departure from the Transvaal. We do hope that our information is not correct or that, if it is correct, it is merely an error committed by an over-zealous officer. But if the Act is interpreted by the Government to mean that the rights acquired under the Registration Act of the Transvaal are adversely affected, it would be one more grievance against the Government and a further justification for a revival of the struggle.

THE LATE SIR ADAMJEE PEERBHAI

We learn through Reuter's cables with regret that Sir Adamjee Peerbhai, a great philanthropist of Bombay, is no more. He was a wealthy merchant who knew how to use his money. He was best known to many as the owner of a famous Sanatorium in Bombay. But his charities were not confined to a particular project or persons. They were most catholic. Sir Adamjee's son, Mr. Cureembhai, it will be remembered, paid a visit to Natal some years ago. Ever since that time a link was established between the Indians of South Africa and the late Sir Adamjee who always took a kindly interest in all South African Indians who visited him. We sympathise with the deceased's family in their loss.

Under the Gold Law

At the Krugersdorp Police Court on the 8th instant, before Mr. E. J. Le Roux, Mr. James Henry Smit, Clerk at the Post Office, appeared to answer a summons charging him with "that, in or about the month of January, 1911, or alternatively in or about the month of July, 1913, in the town of Krugersdorp, he contravened Section 130 (1) of Act 35 of 1908, in that he, being the owner or holder of Stands 375/6 situate on Commissioner and Rissik Streets, wrongfully and unlawfully permitted to be let or sub-let or to let or sub-let a portion or the whole of the Stands or one or other of them to a coloured person or persons, to wit certain Asiatics named Mahomed Mamoojee Dadoo and Amod Ebrahim Chotabhai, the Stands being rights acquired under Law 15 of 1898 or a prior law or under Act 35 of 1908, or permitted the coloured person or persons to occupy or reside upon the Stands, such person or persons not being the *bona fide* servant or servants of Mr. James Henry Smit."

The Stands in question (says the *Rand Daily Mail*) make up a prominent business site and the case raises the knotty point as to the legality of Asiatic occupation. Mr. Retief appeared for the defence and a formal remand was granted until the 19th inst.

Indians in the Colonies

The Secretary to the Government of India in the Political Department has addressed the following reply, dated 1st July, to Sir Jamshedji Jeejiboy, Bart. Bombay:—

With reference to my letter No. 7963, dated the 30th October 1912, I am directed to inform you that your memorial on the subject of the grievances of British Indian subjects residing in certain of the Colonies has been before the Secretary of State for India, and I am now to convey to you the observations of the Government of India on your memorial.

1. Paragraphs 6 to 21 of your memorial deal with the position of British Indians in South Africa, and in this connection the Government of India notice the more important issues raised. You deplore the failure of the Union Government to pass the Immigration Bill which was introduced during the last session of the Union Parliament, and protest against the curtailment of privileges now enjoyed in regard to immigration into Natal and Cape Colony. The Government of India presume that you are no doubt aware that a revised Bill has now been passed in the Union Parliament. They are not yet in possession of reliable information as to the details of the Bill, but the whole matter has been the subject of constant communication between the Government of India and His Majesty's Government, and I am to convey to you their assurance that no effort has been spared to bring about a satisfactory settlement of the question at issue.

In reference to the position of Indians under the Transvaal Precious and Base Metals Act and the Townships Amendment Act, the Government of India explain that the former does not affect rights or privileges which existed at the time it was passed, and that an assurance has been obtained from the Union Government that vested rights, which were acquired by individuals prior to the grant of freehold under the Townships Amendment Act, will not be interfered with.

In connection with the complaint made regarding the practice of framing regulations on a basis of racial inequality under cover of laws ostensibly free from racial discrimination, the Government of India point out that regulations which transcend powers conferred by law are presumably *ultra vires*, and if so the Courts will decline to enforce them. They add that the question of the continuance in Natal of the £3 tax imposed on ex-indentured Indians is now under consideration by the South African Government, and the question of the non-recognition by the Transvaal Courts of polygamous marriages contracted by Indians and the transfer to the provincial Councils of trading licences, are still the subject of correspondence between His Majesty's Government and the Government of the Dominion.

3. With reference to the case of Canada which is dealt with in paragraphs 22 to 25 of your memorial, the Government of India state that the question of the admission into the Dominion of the families of resident Indians has not yet been finally settled. They at the same time observe that the statements in paragraphs 24 and 25 of the memorial appear to be devoid of foundation. The cabled statements that the Honourable Mr. Roberts had promised that the families of Indian residents would be admitted, were contrary to fact, and it follows, therefore, that the regret expressed by the citizens of Bombay that a pledge given by a responsible Minister should remain unfulfilled, is based on a misapprehension. The Government of India are also informed that the statement contained in the memorial, that Indian immigrants must produce a sum four times as great as that required of Asiatics of foreign extraction, is inaccurate. While it is true that at present Indian immigrants are required to show that they are in possession of 200 dollars on entry into Canada Chinese immigrants are required to pay to the Government a sum of £100 a head, and only those Japanese immigrants who can produce passports granted by the

Japanese Government in accordance with an arrangement entered into between the Governments of Canada and Japan are permitted to enter at all. It does not appear that any other alien Asiatics are admitted on terms more favourable than those accorded to British Indians.

4. As regards British East Africa, I am to enclose a copy of a letter dated the 30th March 1911, addressed by the Colonial Office to the London All-India Moslem League, which deals with many of the questions raised in paragraphs 26 to 28 of the memorial. With reference to paragraph 17 of the letter, it has since been ascertained that the Administration of British East Africa propose to provide for the appointment of assessors in the draft Civil Procedure Ordinance which is now in course of preparation.

In regard to the levy of a poll tax in British East Africa, the Government of India explain that the Ordinance imposing this tax lays upon European residents and Asiatics a direct liability to contribute to the revenue, similar to that imposed upon Native residents. There is thus no discrimination between any classes of the non-native community. Moreover, the Ordinance provides power for remission of the tax in cases where the poverty of the person concerned might render it oppressive. The Ordinance, therefore, should not lead to hardship in the case of indigent residents.

The Uganda Licensing Ordinance has been passed with modifications lowering the cost of a general trading licence from Rs. 300 to Rs. 150 and including Urdu among the languages in which accounts may be kept. The Ordinance, which is based upon one which has operated satisfactorily in Nyasaland is applicable to all non-natives whether Europeans or Asiatics. It is not at present proposed to institute a system of hawkers' and pedlars' licences. The poorest class of Indian traders will thus not be affected thereby.

The Government of India regret that they are unable to concur in the observations made in paragraph 30 of the memorial in regard to indentured Indian labour in the Colonies. The principle which they have consistently observed in this matter is that the Indian labourer has a right to emigrate and that he should not be prevented from proceeding to the Colonies under indenture provided that he is informed of the conditions to which he will be subject and that these conditions are such as Government can approve. The conditions of Indian labourers in the Colonies is at present being enquired into by a representative of the Indian Government in conjunction with a non-official Indian gentlemen, who will draw up a report on the subject.

6. The Government of India do not fail to appreciate the spirit which has led the citizens of Bombay to prepare this memorial on behalf of their fellow Indians in other parts of the Empire. Many of the subjects dealt with in the memorial are already receiving their most careful consideration, and they assure the citizens of Bombay that all matters affecting the welfare of Indians in the Dominions and Colonies engage, and will continue to engage, the earnest attention of His Majesty's Government.

The natives have too much freedom (says the acting Chief Constable of Durban); they can roam about the country without hindrance or restraint. They engage themselves where and to whom they choose, and they break away when and how they like, and the outcome of this entire want of system is a difficulty in making the contract binding, and of establishing the identity of the culprit concerned. The existing pass system is undesirably faulty, and our Master and Servants Act is unworkable to a very great extent.

Germiston Location

At the meeting of the Germiston Town Council on the 5th instant, says the *East Rand Express*, the Works Committee reported that the Council's contribution towards the capital charges for installing the electric light at the Germiston Municipal Location and Asiatic Bazaar was approximately £270. This was within the amount provided for in the Estimates.

The Council resolved: "That it be an instruction to the Works Committee to proceed with the carrying out of the lighting scheme in the municipal location and Asiatic bazaar as provided in the estimates."

It was resolved: "That it be an instruction to the Works Committee to define and put in reasonable repair the road to the location, detailed in the above report—cost not to exceed £300."

Imperial Federation

Mr. Frank E. Dorchester, Vancouver, B.C., writing to the *Bristol Times and Mirror* on "Federation," says that any future status that may be deemed advisable to confer on our coloured subjects anywhere could best be considered at the general conference of representatives of the rest of the Empire. Should such conference decide to give a restricted representation to natives of India, and should the unexpected happen, and a native prince be elected to the Imperial Parliament, such a man would be a good man to receive the endorsement of a majority of white votes, and the votes of the governing races would mean such a prince was thoroughly trusted to do that which was best for the Empire interests. If the idea of native votes is inadmissible in any form, why not say so squarely, and get on with that which we can do. No political or diplomatic reason would exist then that does not exist now, and our hands would be stronger under union. The Empire was built on strength, not weakness. Are we to weakly plead that we fear the consequence of federation? What do we fear? Asiatic upheavals? We've faced and conquered them before. A united Empire need not fear the consequences. This does not suggest such a possibility, but merely states that such a supposition need not make us needlessly weak-kneed.

As for those British subjects who happen to be Chinese, owing to the fact that, unlike the natives of India, the Chinese are only in a very small part under British control, no good reason seems admissible why they should have anything but local representative rights. Aught else is out of question, and is not our fault. We can only condole with them that they are between the devil and the deep sea, but we cannot allow their misfortune to hinder Empire progress. In considering Empire we may be rather ruthless, but it will benefit so much that the bad will be justifiable. If such Chinese as are British subjects were given privileges as British subjects this very fact would be qualification enough, and such privilege would be because they have the fortune to be British subjects, and despite their race, and therefore would have no bearing on matters Imperial to any appreciable extent, and certainly would not present us with a new Asiatic problem.

In leaving the subject the writer would like to end by again quoting the main articles, which seem to be the vital ones:

1. Permanent alliance of defence subject to no changes of governments or constitutions, and outside of ordinary party politics.
2. Permanent reciprocal relations, or free trade, within the Empire.

3. Stimulation of British emigration within the Empire, and corresponding restricted alien emigration.

In future discussion of representation the Dominions will do well to remember that just as in time they will probably exceed the Mother Country in representation, so must they be prepared to sacrifice at first a little to the mother that gave them birth, and who just now is actually the greatest Power on earth, even without her Colonies, and consequently deserving of a sacrifice for the future of our children.

Immigration Act Regulations

The Chairman of the Zoroastrian Anjuman, Durban, has addressed the following letter, dated the 14th instant, to the Minister of the Interior:—

"The Committee of my Anjuman has considered the regulations framed under the Immigrants' Regulation Act and desires me to submit the following for the Minister's consideration.

"The regulations will press heavily upon the British Indians in that (1) Undue powers have been given by them to the immigration officers regarding the rights of wives and minor children of non-prohibited immigrants to enter the Union. In the opinion of my committee, official proof such as is contemplated by the Regulations will not be possible to produce in many cases. (2) Certificates of identity being rendered valueless after a year from the date of issue, will be of very little use to those for whose convenience they are to be issued. My committee submits that as these certificates will be issued after due inquiry, they should be of permanent use. My committee fails to understand why their value should be affected by lapse of time. My committee feels sure that the Government do not contemplate that each time an Indian leaves Natal, for instance, for the Transvaal for one week's stay there, he should take out, at a fee of £1, a certificate of identity to be surrendered on his return. The imposition of the fee of £1 on certificates of a transitory nature is, in my committee's opinion, a heavy charge which can only be interpreted to be in the nature of a penalty or deterrent against absence from the Province of one's domicile. Moreover, my committee considers that, hard as is the law regarding inter-provincial migration, its working is rendered harsher by requiring an almost prohibitive fee for certificates and visiting permits. My committee entertains the hope that the fee of £1 required for visiting passes for the different Provinces will be reduced and that temporary permits for business purposes will be liberally issued to British Indians settled in the Union.

"My committee desires me further to draw the attention of the Minister to the inclusion of the immigration officers of the respective Provinces among the members of Appeal Boards appointed in terms of the Act. In the opinion of my committee, aggrieved parties will be practically deprived of the modified safeguard of appeal provided in the Act, by the appointments above referred to. My committee is unable to understand why immigration officers should be judges against their own decisions. Their proper function, as understood by the public, is to appear as respondents to support their decisions.

"My Committee hopes that the Minister will be pleased to give favourable consideration to this representation and revise the regulations so as to meet the objections herein submitted, and reconsider the appointment of immigration officers as members of Appeal Boards."

We hope to give next week the judgment of Mr. Justice Gardiner in regard to an application for a special marriage licence made by an Indian to the Chief Magistrate of Durban.

Religion the Motive Force

His Highness the Aga Khan said recently that the motive force in the development of India by her own peoples must be religion, 'because for nothing else will the vast masses of the East toil on for generations along the path of self-denial.'

"These words, spoken at the annual meeting of the London offshoot of the Indian Moslem League, contain a profound truth, one of those broad fundamental sweeping truths which underlie the politics of the world," says the *Times*. "It is a truth which Englishmen generally forget when they think about the advancement of India. They forget it because unhappily in England our national ideals grow more and more material, and are ceasing to be coloured and inspired by the religion of sacrifice. Englishmen display their drain-pipes and their bright brick schools before India, and fondly hope that they are satisfying the cravings of the multitude.

"The political leader of sixty millions of Indian Moslems, who is also the spiritual head of crowds of Moslems all through the East, himself possessing the longest lineage traceable by any living Moslems, knows otherwise. He is bound to be vividly conscious that the forms of religion, and something of its spirit, touch the daily life of myriads in the Orient in ways to which the West has become half oblivious."

Western Civilisation

Mr. G. Spiller, organiser of the First Universal Races Congress, in his contribution to the *Sociological Review* and reprinted in pamphlet form, asks, "How far is Western Civilisation of strictly Western Origin?" and answers thus:—

"Earlier than the Greek and Roman Civilisations were those of Egypt, Assyria, Phœnicia, India, and China, and much of Western civilisation, certainly much of Greek civilisation, is derived from those countries. At an even later period the Arabs made the first successful start in science. Our alphabet, our astronomy, our chemistry, our medicine, our arithmetical notation, and our algebra, we get largely from the relatively near and racially mixed East—Phœnicia, Egypt and Arabia, and the religion which most Europeans so highly prize comes from Palestine. China has been a great nation for thousands of years. When Europe was stagnating in the Middle Ages, it flourished exceedingly, and its institutions, almost without exception, were then far superior to those of medieval Europe. The printing press, paper, the mariner's compass, the mining of coal, porcelain, tea, silk, and much else, we owe almost certainly to China. Taking such data into consideration, we are entitled to claim that there is nothing specifically Western about Western civilisation, just as there is nothing specifically Eastern about Eastern civilisation, and that there has been a mixing of civilisations as there has been a mixing of stocks."

Its Defects

Writing on its defects the writer says:—

"Moreover, we are too apt to speak of Western civilisation not only as if it had originated in the West, but as if it had reached its climax. As a matter of fact, judged by a same standard, our civilisation is faulty and undeveloped to a degree. If we omit physical science and industrial inventions, there is scarcely a department in Western life which to the seeing eye is not in a sad backward condition, nearer to savagery than to the ideal. Think only in this connection of the dire poverty, the semi-drunkenness and drunkenness, the absence of robust health, the high death-rate, the enormous armaments, the backwardness in education (especially in the home), the interest in mere pleasure and sensa-

tionalism, which prevail so very widely; or remember what subject peoples say, viz., that Western intoxicants, diseases, and exploitation have been their physical and moral ruin. Under these conditions, those who read history aright will look forward hopefully to the East's helping to stimulate and develop the civilisation of the West. The case of Japan lends colour to this view."

News in Brief

The Catholic Indian Women's Needlework Guild, 133 Victoria Street, Durban, are holding a Bazaar at the end of the present year, in aid of an Indian Boys' Orphanage. The committee will be thankful for contributions in the way of clothing, fancy-work, etc., towards making this Bazaar a success. All contributions may be sent to the above Guild c/o Rev. Father R. Maingot, O.M.I., St. Anthony's Chapel, Victoria Street, by the 30th November next. Mrs. A. Gabriel is the President, and Rev. A. Tanguy, O.M.I., is the Spiritual Director. The committee consists of Mrs. E. Paul, Mrs. J. Lawrence, Mrs. E. Lazarus, Mrs. J. Davis (Treasurer.), Mrs. L. M. Gabriel, Miss M. Sigamoney, Mrs. M. E. Gabriel, and Miss A. Paul. (Secretary.)

Miss E. Wood, a coloured lady, who has been in England for some time, has completed her course as a maternity nurse, and has obtained the C.M.B. of the Central Midwifery Board. We believe Nurse Wood intends returning to South Africa in a year's time (says the *A.P.O.*) There is much scope for her in this country, and we trust that we may soon be able to welcome her.

In the course of a leading article on the South African question, the *Wednesday Review* says:—
We do not hesitate to say that this legislation to exclude Asiatics has absolutely nothing to do with the maintenance of the standard of white civilisation, whatever might be that standard. It is a barefaced attempt to make the position of British Indians impossible in South Africa by imposing restrictions which no people with a grain of self-respect in them will tolerate, and the ingratitude of it all is that the Immigration Bill is aimed at the class of people who by the sweat of their brow have made South Africa habitable to the white settler. Mr. Fischer's reference to the policy of the British Empire and the rest of it merely suggest the crocodile and its tears. The hopes raised by Mr. Gokhale's recent visit have been practically falsified and we can only wait and see how the Imperial Government propose to meet the situation.

The Hon. Pandit Motilal Nehru, president of the United Provinces Congress Committee, has sent the following telegram to his Excellency the Viceroy:

"The United Provinces Committee of the Indian National Congress begs to approach his Excellency the Viceroy with the prayer that in view of the passing of the Immigrants' Restriction Bill by the South African Parliament in a form which has deeply disappointed and pained the Indian settlers in that sub-continent as well as their countrymen here, and the imminent revival by the former of passive resistance with all its attendant suffering and unpleasantness, his Excellency and his Excellency's Government may be pleased to recommend to his Majesty's Government that the Royal assent may be withheld from the said Bill and that they may urge the Union Government to introduce in its place and pass at an early date a bill the provisions of which will be in consonance with the provisional settlement effected between Mr. Smuts on behalf of the Union Government and Mr. Gandhi on behalf of the Indian settlers by virtue of which the last passive resistance movement was suspended. The United

Provinces Congress Committee desires most respectfully to impress upon his Excellency that there is a keen and widely prevalent feeling in this country that the Indians settled in that part of his Imperial Majesty's dominions are being subjected to very harassing and humiliating treatment and that a satisfactory and permanent settlement of the problem at an early date will go far to allay discontent and deepen loyalty."

In assuming the presidency of the Indian Church Aid Association, Dr. COPLESTON, speaking with all authority attaching to the words of one who has lately relinquished the high office of METROPOLITAN OF INDIA, had some weighty observations to offer on the work of the Church in India and the tasks which lie before it (says *The Guardian*). "The true power of England to benefit India," said Dr COPLESTON himself in a notable speech two years ago, "rests on the character of the Englishman. Christian lives are more effective than sermons to convert souls; and it is vain to invite Hindus or Mohamedans to join a religious body whose own members can be pointed to as uncared for by their Church or unaffected by her principles."

The Quest

Oh! that I knew where I might find Him!
And while our yearning souls thus cry, our erring feet
Are seeking Him amid the haunts of rank and power,
Leaving the byways, where He might be found,
Turning our steps at each illusive sound,
And while we seek, He lingers where we see Him not,
Within the heart of each day's common hour.

Oh! that I knew where I might find Him!
In things profound we plunge, amid
Keen mysteries of thought we seek His form to trace,
Ofttimes in darkness groping, all our care
To gain His presence, and yet everywhere
Amid the mundane things of life He may be found,
In every bush-bird's song He has a place.

Oh! that I knew where I might find Him!
And while we yearn, we dream of lofty flight,
Forgetting step by step the heights are found,
That every holy act brings Him more near.
That even on the dusty highway drear
His prints are seen, moving among us as a guest,
But oft forgotten in life's common round.

—Selected.

Notice

Attention is called to the provisions of the Natal Ordinance, No. 5 of 1913, promulgated in the Provincial *Gazette* of the 3rd July, 1913, which requires dealers in manufactured produce of the Union of South Africa to take out the annual licence prescribed under the Licence and Stamp Act (Natal) No. 43 of 1898.

The Ordinance will come into operation as from the 1st September, 1913, and application should be made for the issue of licences to the Receivers of Revenue in Pietermaritzburg and Durban and to the Magistrates in other Divisions of the Province.

G. T. PLOWMAN,
Provincial Secretary.

Pietermaritzburg,

11th August, 1913.