

Indian Opinion

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THE IMMIGRATION BLUE-BOOK

THE Blue-book (Cd. 6940), about whose publication in London cable advice was received sometime ago, has now arrived. It is a voluminous document, containing Lord Gladstone's reports of the progress of the Immigration Bill, the text of the original draft and the Act as assented to; also the resolutions of different Indian Associations and the speech of Mr. Cachalia delivered at the Mass meeting. From this compilation we give such material portions as have not hitherto been published.

The following is the Ministers' minute to the Governor-General:—

Prime Minister's Office, Capetown,
10th February, 1913.

With reference to His Excellency the Governor-General's minute of the 5th instant, No. 15/338, Ministers have the honour to state that they are unable to express any opinion with regard to Mr. Gokhale's visit. That gentleman came to South Africa on an unofficial visit and was received by the Prime Minister and the Ministers of the Interior and Finance, to whom he made informal representations connected with the position of Indians in South Africa. He was informed that Ministers would give consideration to the points raised by him, more especially in regard to the £3 tax imposed on Indians in Natal who have served their indentures.

In connection with the enquiry made by the Secretary of State on the subject of the Immigration Bill, Ministers desire to state that, as serious doubts existed last session that the Bill, in the form in which it was introduced in Parliament, would pass, it has been deemed desirable to amend it in certain respects; but the final form of the amendments has not yet been settled. Ministers hope, however, to be in a position to furnish His Excellency with a complete amended draft very shortly.

LOUIS BOTHA.

In a Minute, dated the 11th March, Ministers inform the Governor-General:—

Ministers have also decided, in Section 4 of the Bill, to follow, as far as is practicable under the circumstances existing in South Africa, the Canadian method of exclusion of persons who, on account of race, class, occupation or character, are deemed to be undesirables, but, in order to avoid offending the susceptibilities of the Asiatic community, it has been necessary to adopt different wording, though the underlying principle in the Canadian clause and in paragraph 4 (1) (a) of this Bill is the same. Ministers are also of opinion that this method of prescribing what persons shall be prohibited immigrants, without actually naming particular races in the law, is preferable to the Australian

method, which was incorporated in earlier drafts of this measure.

Regarding the method by which undesirable immigrants are to be indicated, it was at first proposed to provide for the issue of a proclamation under the hand of the Governor-General specifically excluding certain races; but as His Excellency will remember this course was abandoned in deference to His Excellency's wishes. Accordingly, under the restricting clause as now framed, the Minister will communicate his decision as to the persons whom, on economic grounds, or on account of their standard or habits of life, he deems to be unsuited to the requirements of the Union, to the Immigration Officers and Boards of Appeal; and in the ordinary way the Minister will issue a standing instruction that persons of Asiatic race are to be restricted, except in those special cases where, in terms of the arrangement with the Asiatic leaders, a certain number are to be exempted from the restriction clauses of the Bill and allowed into the Union each year.

Power to make such exemptions is taken in Section 25 of the Bill.

Paragraph (a) of Section 4 will be used only to restrict Asiatic and other persons of colour who may be regarded as undesirable inhabitants of the Union; and it consequently becomes necessary to re-introduce an education test to be applied in cases where undesirable persons of European race or descent seek entry, which has been done in paragraph (b).

Ministers have also decided that if the law is to be effectively administered it will be necessary to limit the ports at which Asiatics may apply for admission; and they are accordingly taking power in the Bill to declare that persons who belong to the same race or class as those who may be deemed prohibited immigrants under paragraph (a) (but who have a domicile in the Union or any Province) may, after absence, enter or return only at a specified port or ports. This provision is most desirable on account of the large number of prohibited immigrants who make their way into the Union after having landed in Portuguese territory; and it is hoped that when it becomes known that Ministers do not intend in future to allow Asiatics, except those who are to be exempted under Section 25, to enter the Transvaal via Komati Poort, the Portuguese authorities, who at present are unable to distinguish between Asiatics who have a lawful right to return to the Union and those who have not, will not consent to the landing in their territory of any Asiatics who allege that their destination is the Union.

Section five of last year's Bill has been amplified by the addition of certain provisos, the first of which was previously contained in section seven, and the second of which lays down that if any resident of the Union or a Province absents himself for a period of three years or more, he shall be obliged to satisfy the requirements

of section *four* on return. This is tantamount to a declaration that a loss of domicile follows after three years' absence, and is, in Ministers' opinion, a reasonable provision, as persons who absent themselves from South Africa for lengthy periods in nearly all cases acquire interests elsewhere, and should have no permanent right of re-entry unless they can satisfy the requirements of the Immigration Law.

New Section *seven* takes the place of old sub-section (2) of Section 28, and deals with the position of Asiatics in the Orange Free State. It provides, *inter alia*, that although an Asiatic may become a lawful resident of the Union, he is still debarred in that Province from trading, or holding fixed property. Any relaxation of the existing Orange Free State law on this subject would be strongly opposed in Parliament, especially by the members who are elected in that Province, and would jeopardise the passing of the Bill. The section, though somewhat differently worded from the clause in last year's Bill, attains the same object as it was intended to secure in the last draft.

The Secretary of State on the 8th May, sent the following telegram to the Governor-General:—

I have observed from cabled reports of debate on Immigration Bill that some doubt still seems to exist as to attitude of His Majesty's Government. If Ministers consider that a renewed expression of views of His Majesty's Government is desirable, they may state that His Majesty's Government consider it of Imperial importance that legislation should be passed without further postponement which will alter the present extremely unsatisfactory position of Indians by abolishing differentiation before the law, and that while Indian opinion cannot be expected to be wholly satisfied by the present Bill, His Majesty's Government, having regard to all the circumstances, are prepared to accept it as a settlement of the Indian Immigration question.—HARCOURT.

The Governor-General's minute of the 25th April reads:—

The Governor-General informs Ministers that the Secretary of State for the Colonies has forwarded to him, for consideration, a copy of a letter from the India Office, dated the 12th March, with reference to the Immigrants Restriction Bill, of which a preliminary draft had been communicated confidentially to the Imperial Government.

In the course of his observations, Lord Crewe expresses the view that the new sub-clause 1 (a) of Clause 4 has the distinct advantage of removing the semblance of a dictation test, and of avoiding any phrase implying racial discrimination. But, he adds, it is somewhat difficult to see how in administration it is to be combined with the policy, definitely accepted by Union Ministers, of admitting to South Africa a few educated Asiatics each year. Lord Crewe presumes that the Minister will issue certain general instructions for the guidance of the immigration authorities; if these are of such a tenor as to exclude all Indian immigrants coming to South Africa for the first time, there would seem, it is suggested, to be some danger that individuals to whom the Minister would be willing to grant a permit might be restricted before they could appeal to him.

Having regard to the complaints which are circulated in such papers as *INDIAN OPINION*, or which reach the Imperial Government directly, the Secretary of State for India is impressed with the importance of the powers proposed to be conferred upon Immigration Boards as tribunals of appeal from decisions of Immigration Officers.

In this connection, he enquires with what authority will rest the final decision as to the validity of the marriage of a female immigrant who claims to be the lawful wife of an admittedly domiciled person.

Lord Crewe would be grateful for some further explanation of Clause 19, of which—at the time of writ-

ing—only a telegraphic summary was before him. He points out that the clause, as summarised, appears, to enable Immigration Officers to require persons resident in inland districts to appear before them at a port at any time, and produce evidence that they are not prohibited immigrants. He assumes that some *prima facie* evidence that a resident Asiatic has evaded the law will be required before the Immigration Officer is allowed to take action under this clause. He also seeks information as to the precise restriction to be imposed on persons "entitled to reside," though not domiciled, when they return after three years' absence. The India Office letter concludes with the enquiry whether it is known how many educated Asiatic immigrants have been allowed to enter the Provinces of the Cape of Good Hope and Natal during the past year.

The Governor-General would be obliged if Ministers would be so good as to take these points into consideration, and advise him what answer he can send to the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

GLADSTONE,
Governor-General.

In reply to the above, Ministers write, on the 2nd May:—

With reference to the Governor-General's minute No. 15/389, of the 25th April, on the subject of the Immigrants Restriction Bill, in which His Excellency communicated certain observations made by the Secretary of State for India on the draft measure in question, Ministers have the honour to state that, in regard to the point raised in connection with paragraph (a) of Sub-section (1) of Section 4, no difficulty is anticipated in connection with the admission of the specially selected educated entrants. It is intended that these individuals should be exempted by the Minister under the powers conferred on him in Section 25 from the necessity for submitting to the provisions of paragraph (a) of Section 4. It is not contemplated that any of these Indians will attempt to seek entry into the Union until they have received a notification in advance that they will be allowed in; and, when the list of these persons is made up each year, the Immigration Officers at the ports will be notified and instructed to pass the individuals whose names and descriptions are contained in that list.

In this connection, Ministers desire to enquire whether the Indian Government would wish to concern itself in any way with the selection of these persons. As the number to be admitted each year will be strictly limited, it is thought that it would be desirable, owing to the diverse claims to consideration which are sure to be put forward in South Africa on behalf of different individuals by the various societies which exist amongst the Indian community in South Africa, and by individuals who have some influence in the different sections of the community, if the Indian Government could scrutinize the applications, and, if not actually select the persons to be admitted, at all events advise thereon.

With regard to the claims of immigrants to be admitted by virtue of being the wives of persons domiciled in South Africa, Ministers would be glad if Lord Crewe could be informed that it is not intended in the Bill to interfere in any way with the jurisdiction of the Courts on questions of domicile. Questions which may arise concerning the validity of the marriage of a female immigrant will, however, be dealt with, as at present, by Immigration Officers. The South African Courts have made it clear that in cases of this nature where proof has to be submitted to the satisfaction of an Immigration Officer in order to prove a claim to enter, they cannot interfere unless it can be shown that the officer has not given proper consideration to the evidence tendered. It has been held by a Judge of the Supreme Court in the Cape Province that the Immigration Officer occupies a quasi-judicial position in these cases, and that the onus of proof is

definitely thrown upon the immigrant to prove his or her claim to admission. In Natal a Judge of the Supreme Court has stated, in regard to similar cases, that all the Court has to do is to enquire whether the officer has approached the matter in such a way as to fulfil his statutory duties, and has dealt with it in good faith and with a reasonable spirit, and has not restricted an applicant arbitrarily without a genuine exercise of the discretion vested in him.

As a matter of fact, the position of persons such as those to whom Lord Crewe has referred is considerably improved under the new Bill, as they will now have a definite right to appeal from the decision of an Immigration Officer to a Board.

Ministers note that Lord Crewe is also desirous of having some further explanation of Section 19 of the Bill. It is not the intention to require persons resident in inland districts to appear before Immigration Officers at the ports to produce evidence that they are not prohibited immigrants. Immigration Officers are stationed at other places besides the coast ports, and, for the purposes of inland districts, certain police officers are vested with authority to act for the Immigration Department. There must naturally be a *prima facie* case before an Immigration Officer can take action against a supposed prohibited immigrant who is found within the Union.

Regarding the enquiry as to the precise restrictions to be imposed on persons "entitled to reside," though not domiciled, when they return after three years' absence, Ministers desire to state that the position would be that, if such persons appeared to be undesirable, they might be subjected to the provisions of Section 4 of the Bill.

With regard to the last point referred to in the Governor-General's Minute, Ministers beg to inform His Excellency that during 1912 twenty-nine male Asiatics were allowed into Natal, and seventeen into the Cape Province, by virtue of having complied with the education test at present in force in those Provinces.

LOUIS BOTHA.

Narayansamy-Nagappan Memorial

The Secretary of the Indian Women's Association advises us that the memorial for the late passive resisters, Narayansamy and Nagappan, is to take the shape of scholarships, tenable at least for four years, at the rate of £15 per year, for education in India of South Africa-born Tamil youths. The conditions attached to these scholarships are that the scholars should be over the age of 12 years and up to or under 18 years; secondly their qualification should be tested by a Committee to be appointed by the Indian Women's Association; thirdly the scholar or scholars that might be selected by the Committee shall remain during their educational course in India under the guidance of those whom the Committee may appoint, and that any independent action on the part of the scholar shall forthwith disentitle him to any payment after the exercise of such independence. The fare for the outward and return passage shall be paid out of the Memorial Fund. The scholars shall be selected out of the children of parents who are unable to find the expenses of the education in India of their children. The character of the children will be the final test. The number of scholarships will be announced in due course. Application should be made, with full particulars, to the Secretary of the Indian Women's Association, Box 6522, Johannesburg, on or before the 31st day of August next. Parents are requested to supply all the particulars available regarding the boys whose names they wish to submit as Narayansamy and Nagappan scholars.

From the Editor's Chair

INDIA'S GRAND OLD MAN

OUR readers hardly need a reminder that India's G.O.M. celebrates his eighty-ninth birthday on Thursday next, the 4th September. We again have the pleasure of expressing our good wishes to India's greatest son. Mr. Dadabhai Naoroji has done more than one man's share of public work and is now enjoying rest from his labours. The memory of his strenuous life in the interests of his countrymen is a constant spur to our small efforts. Such lives make a nation rich—not in material possession—but in all that goes to make national honour and faithfulness to duty. For those who may wish to send messages of congratulation and who may not know his cable address we may state that messages addressed "Dadabhai Naoroji, Versova, Bombay," will find him. We present with this issue a special supplement, giving the portrait of Mr. Dadabhai Naoroji.

MORE FRIENDS GONE

THE fates seem to have decreed that South Africa should lose, in quick succession, some of its best men. Following on the heels of the news of Mr. Duke's death, comes the shocking news of the death of Dr. Ross, that well-known Presbyterian Minister on the Rand who relinquished his ministry only last year, and the death of the popular Editor of the *Natal Mercury*, Mr. Milligan. Dr. Ross's was an influent personality. We say nothing about him as a public man of Johannesburg. But we cannot help recalling with gratefulness the fact that Dr. Ross had made himself acquainted with the Transvaal Indian struggle and that he had joined Mr. Hosken's Committee. He was often present at Indian functions and never hesitated, in unequivocal language, to show his sympathy towards us. We know that, when passive resistance was at its height, he even carried on personal correspondence with General Smuts, urging him to grant the demands of passive resisters.

With Mr. Milligan's services to the Indian cause, Indians are quite familiar. He carried out the best traditions of the *Mercury* and worthily filled the chair that used to be occupied by the late Sir John Robinson and the late Mr. Ramsay Collins—no easy task. Only the other week we had the pleasure to reproduce a trenchant leading article written in his paper by the deceased regarding the arbitrary action of immigration officials. His pen was ever ready to be used for any just cause.

In the passing away of such men, South Africa is undoubtedly the poorer. And the loss will be difficult to make up. We tender our sympathy to the families of the deceased.

CRIMINAL NEGLIGENCE

THE latest Blue-book received from London makes most sorrowful reading. Mr. Harcourt has not only failed to represent the Imperial and Indian view but seems actually to have gone out of his way to facilitate the progress of the Bill in its original form, full though it was of clauses that were calculated to take away many most important existing rights. The cable sent by Mr. Harcourt on the 8th May can only bear one meaning. Mr. Fischer found unexpectedly powerful opposition to his Bill from the Unionist party. Mr. Drummond Chaplin publicly stated that the Bill, even if it passed the Union Parliament, could not be accepted by the Imperial Government. He also wanted to know whether it was acceptable to the Indian community. Mr. Fischer became nervous and Mr. Harcourt came to his assistance by cabling that

the Imperial Government would be satisfied with the Bill as it was, in that it seemed to remove racial differentiation, and this although the Indians might not be satisfied with it. This cable was announced by Mr. Fischer in the House of Assembly and produced the desired effect. The Unionist opposition slackened. They opposed the Bill to assist the Imperial Government, but if the latter were satisfied with it, it was "none of their business" to worry over the Bill. Yet, be it said to their credit, they, knowing the local situation and knowing how cruelly harsh the measure was, tried as well as they could to deprive the measure of some of its very grave defects. To them the breach of the provisional settlement was quite manifest. The Indian Government, too, seem to have studied the measure in a most perfunctory manner. They raised questions about the Bill which were quite unnecessary and omitted to touch the most vital points. For instance, they had no protest to offer against the clause which made the right of domicile nugatory by three years' absence even in the case of holders of registration certificates under the Asiatic Act; they had nothing to say against nullity of Indian marriages; they were unconcerned that Indians would be put to great trouble by being made to re-enter South Africa only through stated ports and no other; they did not mind the autocratic manner of the appointment of Appeal Boards; they never studied the provisional settlement of 1911. Lord Gladstone kept them in the dark as to the state of Indian feeling in the matter. And on the top of this gross negligence comes instructions sent in indecent haste to Lord Gladstone to assent to the Bill in the name of the King. Mr. Harcourt did not think it necessary to await the full text of the revised measure or the speeches of the Members of the Union Parliament delivered during the progress of the Bill. No wonder Lord Curzon deplored strongly this lamentable lack of knowledge of and interest in Indian affairs on the part of those who were most expected to consider them their prime care. We are learning more and more by painful and bitter experience that we must not rely upon the protection of the Imperial Government where it may be most needed.

OUR PROBLEMS AND OUR FRIENDS

THE last mail brought some important papers from London, (which we hope to summarise and publish shortly), indicative of some of the activity aroused by Lord Ampthill and Mr. Gokhale there. The former, as was but to be expected of his chivalry, could not bear the reproach of being silent when his Indian fellow-subjects were in peril of the renewal of a perilous contest with the Union Government in respect of the Immigration Act. The latter's restless and patriotic energy needs no underlining from our pen. That he was in London at a critical moment was something more than a happy chance. Mr. Gokhale has somehow the knack of being in the right place at the right time and doing the right thing when he is there. It is that faculty which has bred such general confidence in him and his judgment, and South African Indians would be but human to congratulate themselves that his great heart has gone out to them in their trouble and that he has felt that he could not rest so long as anything remained for him to do to procure redress. The debate in the House of Lords was of a most useful nature. Lord Ampthill's indictment of the apathy and indifference of the Colonial Office, whilst the Act was being engineered through Parliament, was proved beyond question. He showed how, so far from endeavouring to obtain satisfaction for the Indian community, Mr. Harcourt had, in the very earliest stages of the measure's progress, deliberately played into the hands of the Union Ministry. The telegram of May 8th is indicative of a great betrayal, for it succeeded, as it was meant to succeed, in paralysing the efforts of the Opposition. Lord Syden-

ham's powerful support, coming so soon after his return from responsible service under the Crown, was highly significant. Nobody can read Lord Crew's halting defence without painful surprise. In effect he admitted all the laches of which the Colonial Office had been accused, and offered what was practically an apology for the fact that the Act, as assented to, did not carry out the terms of the provisional settlement in vital particulars and that the Colonial Office had failed altogether in its duty to the Indian community. There was therefore little difficulty for Lord Curzon, in an extraordinarily able and sympathetic speech, to demolish Lord Crew's feeble argument, as they were, in part, upon a strange lack of correct information. He did not hesitate to condemn in severe terms upon the failure of the Colonial Office even to inquire whether the Bill, as originally introduced, did or did not satisfy South African Indians, and the equally grave omission of Lord Gladstone to telegraph the substance of the Indian objections to the Imperial Government, instead of sending the text of Mr. Cachalia's speech and the accompanying warning resolution under cover of an ordinary despatch. The London press, too, has not failed to express its views on the subject in terms sympathetic to the Indian cause, and it is evident that much anxiety has been caused to people in England lest South African Indians should be driven anew to resort to passive resistance in order to maintain their most elementary rights in the Union.

The Late Mr. Doke Memorial Services

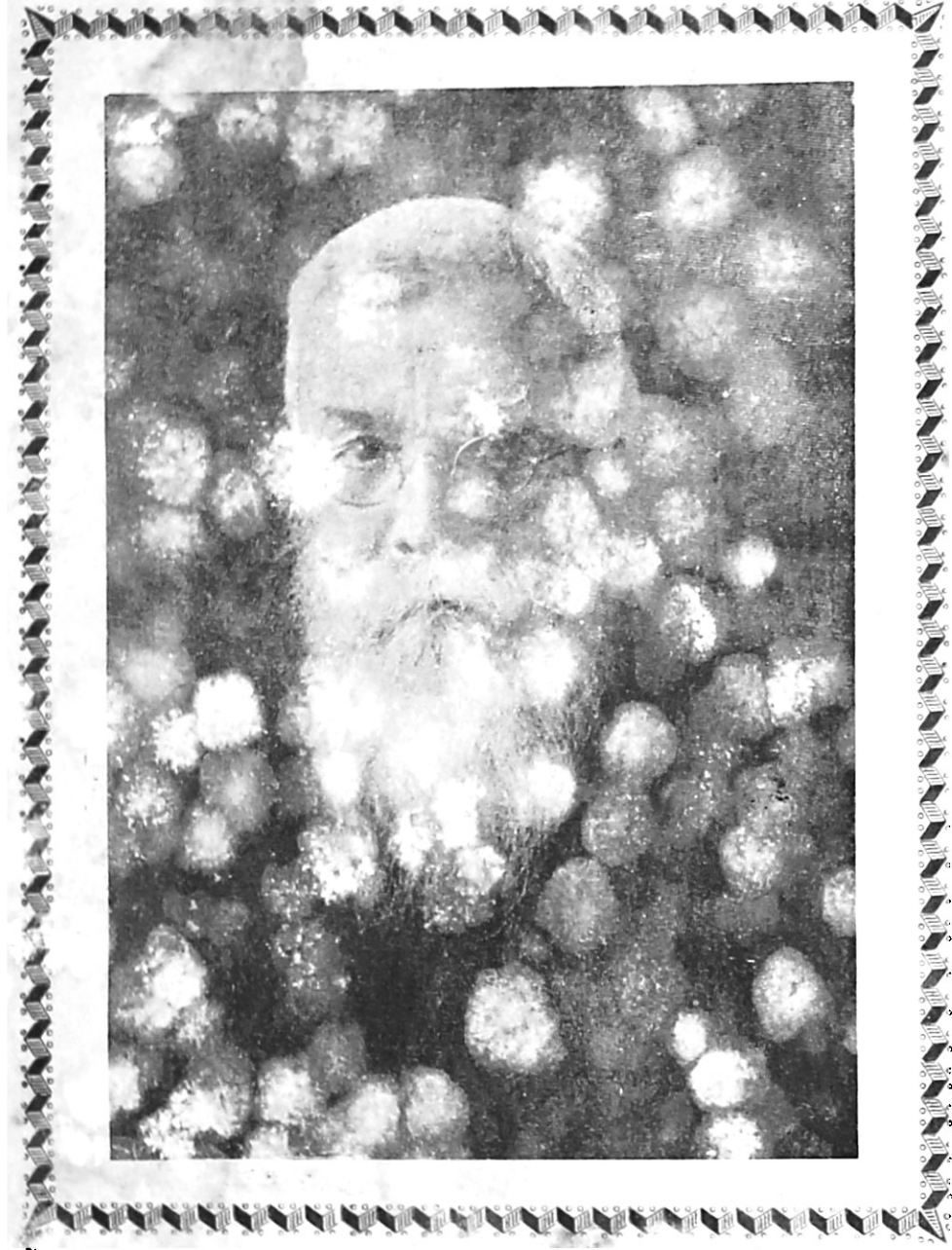
Two memorial services were held last Sunday in order to testify to the great worth of the deceased and to enable the citizens of Johannesburg to express their sympathy towards the late Mr. Doke's family. A citizens' meeting was held at St. George's Presbyterian Church, at 4 p.m. The Mayor, Mr. W. R. Boustred, presided, and was supported by Rev. L. E. Brandt (President of the Witwatersrand Church Council), Rev. David Russell, Rev. Saul Solomon, Rev. H. Godwin, Rev. H. J. Batts and Rev. D. Theron. The Hall was well filled and in it were to be seen Indian representatives who were specially invited. In the course of his address, the Mayor described Mr. Doke as a good, a true, and a noble man—noble in the highest sense of the word, because he gave up his life, from an earthly point of view, for the good of humanity, for the benefit of the poor and the needy.

Rev. Saul Solomon said that, for his colleagues, he conveyed a testimony of gratitude for the life and work of Mr. Doke. The deceased pastor he had always felt was a man who was infinitely transformed by personal contact with Christ, and one who gave out an atmosphere of the supernatural. He respected Mr. Doke as a man of character. Where any public wrong called for public protest, Mr. Doke was the man who made it. When he (the speaker) heard of Mr. Doke's death he realised the loss to the town and to the family, and he could say, without exaggeration, he felt a sense of personal loss. Mr. Doke died as he would have wished—while about his Master's business.

Rev. David Russell, the well-known Scottish evangelist, in a testimony to the sterling qualities of the deceased, said Mr. Doke was one with strong humanitarian instincts. Wherever there was any wrong, or injustice, or oppression, Joseph Doke was there. He became the champion of the wronged and of the oppressed, no matter what the colour of the skin. It was enough for him that brothers were suffering. He was a man with the mind of the Master—he wanted to know all about the people who were weary and oppressed and broken. The last time he (Mr. Russell) saw him, the feeling came

Supplement to INDIAN OPINION,
30th August, 1913.

Many Happy Returns



to
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THE GRAND OLD MAN OF INDIA

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into his mind: "There goes a man who walks with God."

Rev. H. Goodwin thought that Mr. Doke "had a brave soul in his frail little body or he would not undertake a journey like that," referring to the last journey of Mr. Doke into the interior.

Rev. Mr. Brandt alluded to the deceased's independence. It was characteristic, went on Mr. Brandt, of a prophet, whether in the Old Testament or in New Testament atmosphere, that he should stand alone. The prophet had a message from God to deliver; therefore it was not for him to consider other men, but to consider Him whose message he carried. There had been many instances where Mr. Doke stood alone for righteousness, and others had rallied around him when they felt the inspiration in his word. Mr. Doke would be sadly missed from his place in the Church Council and in the Sunday School Union, of which he was president for this year.

The memorial service in the Baptist Church, of which Mr. Doke was the Pastor, was held at 7.30 p.m. The Church was crowded. Rev. H. J. Batts conducted the service. Indian representatives were invited to this service also. Mr. Gandhi, who had specially arrived from Phoenix to attend the memorial services, testified to Mr. Doke's great work on behalf of the Indian community. Mr. Gandhi said that the Indian community revered Mr. Doke's memory for the great work done by him for them. He was one of its truest friends. It could not be said of every man that death was swallowed up in victory and that death had no sting. But it could undoubtedly be said of Mr. Doke. A death like Mr. Doke's really called for no mourning. Mr. Doke's was a life of perfect self-surrender. He had dedicated his all to his Maker. He would now rise with a glorified and better body for the service of his Maker. But it required men like Mr. Doke not to mourn. For him (the speaker) with whom probably the soul was crushed in the care for the body, he needed a friend in the flesh. He therefore mourned for a true friend and wise counsellor. Mr. Gandhi here recalled the assault committed on him by a countryman which he said was delivered in order to redress a wrong which his assailant thought, rightly or wrongly, he had done to the community and which, in the assailant's opinion, could only be redressed by an assault. Mr. Gandhi proceeded:— "When I was lying in the office of a friend in a helpless condition there stood over me Mr. Doke, and his words ring in my memory to-day, as they were so appealing to me that afternoon. They were something like these: "Would you rather go to hospital, or would you rather be carried to my home? I am sure that Mrs. Doke and my family will welcome you, and we shall do all we can in order to relieve your pain." I had no hesitation in making my choice, and I shall never regret the choice I made. I remember the evening when, at my request, the whole family sang to me the beautiful hymn, "Lead Kindly Light." That tune will never die from my memory; it will never fade out. It is as fresh to me to-night as it was soothing to my nerves on that great evening when I saw myself surrounded by people who were no longer strangers. "During the night, whether it was 12 or 1 or 2 o'clock, I could see peeping through the door, that had been purposely left open, Mr. Doke's face, just glancing in occasionally to ascertain whether I was suffering or whether I needed anything. The whole family were at my disposal in order to nourish me, in order to serve me, in order to soothe me, although I was a stranger to them and had never done a single service to them. Mr. Gandhi added that he was certainly proud to have had such a friend. Mr. Doke had always been willing to help those who needed his help, and those who needed his help had not to go to him. He went to them. The speaker also recalled in instance Mr. Doke's fervent faith in his own religion and his (Mr. Doke's) efforts to convert him to Christianity. Mr. Gandhi told him that he, as a Hindu, believed that

the fullness of Christianity could only be found in its interpretation in the light and by the aid of Hinduism. But Mr. Doke was not satisfied. He missed no occasion to bring home to him (the speaker) the truth as he (Mr. Doke) knew it and which brought him and his so much inward peace. Mr. Doke's was not modernized and civilized Christianity. He practised the original. Mr. Doke believed in practising as he preached. The speaker thought the deceased was quite capable, like the martyrs of old, of being burnt at the stake for the sake of his convictions. The binding tie between them was the belief they shared in the doctrine preached by Jesus of non-resistance to evil—a doctrine that was smothered nowadays in a multiplicity of exceptions. With Mr. Doke, hatred was to be conquered by love, vice by the fullest exercise of virtue. Mr. Gandhi wished that Mr. Doke's mantle would descend to his children and that the thought that Mrs. Doke had such a noble husband, whose memory was revered by so many men and so many races would sustain and comfort her.

The Immigration Regulations

The Chairman of the Zoroastrian Anjuman has received the following reply, dated the 21st instant, from the Secretary for the Interior:—

"I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 15th instant in which you refer to the regulations framed under the Immigration Regulation Act and certain other matters connected with the administration of that law and to inform you that the regulations in question were most carefully considered by the Government before they were promulgated and a reasonable time must be allowed to judge how they are working before any suggestion can be favourably considered for amending them in any particular.

"Regarding the appointment of the Principal Immigration Officers as Members of the Boards of Appeal, I am to point out that your committee appears to be under a misconception of the position of these officers under the new law. The restriction of prohibited immigrants is not effected by the Principal Immigration Officers who are administrative officers in charge of the general arrangements connected with the working of the Act but by the Examining Immigration Officers under the provisions of section 19 of the law. Your contention that the Principal Immigration Officers are judges against their own decisions is entirely without foundation."

The Indian Vernaculars

Sir, Theodore Morison delivered an address at "India House" recently in support of the proposition that the vernaculars should be the medium of instruction in the Indian universities. A large audience of Indian students assembled (says the *Bombay Chronicle*), several of whom in the subsequent discussion made appreciative references to the lecturer's notable work as principal of the Mahomedan College of Aligarh. Sir Theodore declared that we must work towards the creation of universities in India imparting their knowledge in the vernacular. English education had been an enormous boon to India, and Western ideas had produced a beneficent direction of Indian thought. But this revolution might have been more general and useful if ideas had been spread in the vernaculars. The main disadvantage of the system of instruction in English was that it kept the Indian vernaculars poorer and unenriched by the thought and learning of Indians who are making large contributions to the thought of the world. The value of their work did not pass to the vernacular-speaking peoples. Then the student was hampered by the task of reproducing his ideas afresh after learning them in English, and words have a

genius of their own which frequently cannot be recovered in another tongue. The continuance of the present bilingual system in India was undesirable, and we must seek in the universities to enrich, enlarge and expand the vernaculars so that they may become an adequate medium for the expression of Indian thought and emotion.

Sons of the Soil

The Natives Land Act of the Union Parliament has created consternation among the Natives. Indeed, every other question, not excluding the Indian question, pales into insignificance before the great Native question. This land is theirs by birth and this Act of confiscation—for such it is—is likely to give rise to serious consequences unless the Government take care. Anyhow, such is the impression created by the piteous, pathetic and passionate appeal addressed to the British public by Mr. John L. Dube, President of the South African Native National Congress. We take the following from the appeal published in the *Mercury*:—

"While you are sitting happy and comfortable in your bright and wealthy homes, just give one thought to the hundreds of native families, men, women, and little children, even at this moment, being ruthlessly evicted from their humble homes, where perchance they were born, turned homeless, helpless, and hopeless, on to the roads—wandering in misery about the land of their forefathers in search of any wretched spot whereon to live and rest. And then, think you, that at the very moment this calamity is overwhelming them, your Government and your representatives actually come forward and block the way of these wretched people to raise for themselves a new home on any farm-land. And the farm-lands are nine-elevenths of the total surface of this Province. Why, I ask, should you treat us thus? We do not ask any social equality or intercourse with your race. We do not ask anything the most fastidious of you could call unreasonable. We do not ask for anything even the lowest and vilest of your own race does not already possess. We do not ask for anything the most niggardly among you could honestly refuse us. We ask for freedom to purchase land wherever opportunities occur, and our sparse means permit. We ask that we be permitted to build for ourselves a home wheresoever a landlord is agreeable. Who can affirm that such requests are unreasonable or impossible? You must know that every one of us has been born in this land, and we have no other. You must know that for untold generations this land was solely ours—long before your fathers had put a foot on our shores. Have we not humbly submitted to your might, and given up to you the possessions and the wealth and the government of our fatherland? Have we not since then, willingly and cheerfully, done for you all the hard and ungenial work you would not do for yourselves—of your industries, your commerce, your homes? Have we not re-spent our small earnings to your own profit, bringing you considerable trade, pouring our money back into your coffers, faithfully paying you rack-rents of £10, £15, and £20 a year for the mere right of squatting on your farms, which were originally our farms? In what have we harmed or angered you, that you should now turn upon us with the pitilessness of men devoid of hearts, with the despotism born of tyrants? Yes, such is our reward, and all we need hope for—and from a British people in a British land! All the benevolent wishes of our dead good Queen towards her native subjects, all the hopes her name inspired, all the promises her Ministers gave us—all now trampled under foot as mere anachronous drivel. And she is not yet 20 years in her grave. No hearts move for us; no sympathy now for the weak, the poor, the helpless, inarticulate, downtrodden, in a British land. Only God now left to help us and protect us.

News in Brief

Mrs. Duke desires us to thank the many Indian Associations and Indian friends for their telegrams and messages of sympathy in her bereavement.

At a recent meeting of the St. Aidan's Literary and Debating Society, held in St. Aidan's College hall, Sydenham, a very interesting and instructive address on the "Benefits of Debating Societies" was delivered by the Vice-President, Mr. F. Howard Bird, A.C.P.

If the people of India (says the *Indian Patriot*) should rise in the estimation of the world, it must be not by their appeals to their countrymen in South Africa to die rather than bear their neck for the unjust yoke: not by the indignant protests and sensational telegrams from the Government of India to the South Africa Government against the strange and barbarous treatment accorded to their subjects; not by the united opposition and determined attitude of the Chambers of Commerce not to tolerate the intolerable. If the people of India are respected at all abroad it must be because of what their countrymen in South Africa are doing and have proved they are prepared to do. It is they that have proclaimed to the world, in a manner that the world cannot afford to forget, that Indians cannot be slaves.

The Johannesburg correspondence of the Anglo-Indian paper, *The Pioneer* (Allahabad) says, in the course of a letter regarding the Immigration Bill:—In its original form all appeals from immigration boards to be sent to the courts of the land were expressly prohibited. However unjust a decision may be there was no legal redress obtainable. In fact the measure was so drastic that protests were lodged against it on behalf of the white immigrants, and Mr. Fischer had in the end to allow a modified form of appeal to the Supreme Court. Still, from an Indian view point, the measure, in the form in which it has emerged from the House of Assembly, is distinctly unsatisfactory. Without entering into all the details of every complicated enactment it may be said that it does not safeguard the rights of many Indians who have been resident in South Africa for a long period. In fact the Indian authorities in this country vow that if strictly interpreted the new law will be more harsh than the old one. It is difficult, however, to judge of its full effect now. The measure may be harsh or lenient, according to the spirit in which it is carried out. With the Minister and the Immigration Department in a kindly frame of mind it is no doubt possible that the new Act will be administered in such a way as not to press harshly upon the British Indian population, but the British Indian cannot be blamed for protesting against a system depending so much upon the personal equation, when it is remembered that many of the actions of the Immigration Department and other officials in the past have evinced a desire to enforce the letter of the law as strictly as possible.

Notice.

MANUFACTURED S. A. PRODUCE.

Applications for licences required under the provisions of Natal Ordinance No 5 of 1913 must be forwarded to the LICENSING OFFICER FOR THE PROVINCE OF NATAL, PIETERMARITZBURG, and not to the Receivers of Revenue or Magistrates, as stated in a previous advertisement.

JOHN H. HERSHENSOHN,
Acting Provincial Secretary,
Pietermaritzburg, 21st August, 1913.