

Indian Opinion

PUBLISHED WEEKLY IN ENGLISH, GUJARATI, HINDI AND TAMIL

No. 9—VOL. XI.

WEDNESDAY MARCH 4TH, 1914.

Registered at the G.P.O. as a Newspaper
PRICE THREEPENCE

MR. ANDREWS' LETTER TO THE PRESS

THE Rev. C. F. Andrews, on the eve of his departure from Capetown, addressed the following letter to the *Cape Times* and other papers:—

Sir,—I am sailing to-day by the R.M.S. *Briton* for England, on my way back to India, and would wish to express my warmest thanks to my own countrymen for the unbounded kindness which has been shown me in South Africa, and especially in Capetown itself. My position in coming out privately to try to help in the Indian question was a difficult and delicate one; for, in my own case, in order to be of any use at all, I had to come unofficially, without any credentials. But this position has been most generously understood by one and all alike. I could not have been trusted more frankly; and I go away with a very grateful heart.

The wonder and the beauty of the Cape Peninsula will remain one of the cherished possessions of my visit. It came upon me with a shock of glorious surprise, and its effect was almost overpowering. The scene that will remain longest in my memory is the sunrise, which I used to watch each morning from the slopes of Signal Hill. The low-lying mists still cold and white across the Bay, the darkly luminous mountain rampart guarding the sleeping city, the deep red rose of dawn overtaking star after star, and banishing the purple night—there was something here which profoundly moved all the poet and the artist in me, even though I was never able to give it clear expression.

I had always regarded hitherto Bombay Harbour as the most beautiful in the world; but in Capetown I have found a scene incomparably more wonderful. I do not marvel now that the Anglo-Indians of pre-Mutiny days, on their long journey round the Cape, were tempted to outstay their leave and sometimes never reached India at all! Indeed, the temptation has already come to me to avoid in future that dirty, noisome, mosquito-ridden ditch of Suez, and the cigarette-smelling sand-flats of Port Said, and (in my sea-voyaging at least) revert to the early Victorian way!

On the eve of my departure, it is a great relief to me to know, with regard to the Indian trouble itself, that the atmosphere has wonderfully changed since the beginning of the present year. When I came to Natal at that time, and began to seek the causes of the distress—using my Indian experience—I felt certain that the points at issue needing legislation were exceedingly small. What was, above all, required was a spirit of reasonableness and conciliation. Later on in the month, Mr. Gandhi's chivalrous attitude about the strike, on the one hand, and General Smuts' great considerateness (at a time of overwhelming pressure), on the other, brought about that very conciliatory and reasonable spirit needed. The attitude of the public Press and public opinion at the same time became more favourable. There was a growing feeling abroad that, with immensely larger industrial issues at stake, it was madness; not to settle as speedily as possible a lesser trouble, which might at any time revive. The

Commission has been very prompt and businesslike, and its findings may be soon expected. Major Acts of legislation are not likely to be brought forward in the present Parliamentary session, after the Budget; but a minor measure of relief, such as is needed to settle, once and for all, the Indian trouble, may well have a place. There is thus (so it appears to me) at the present time, owing to a concurrence of favouring circumstances, that supremely important thing, namely, an atmosphere of settlement. It will be a thousand pities if this atmosphere is allowed to evaporate without effective action.

The legislative needs, as I have said, are exceedingly small. The £3 tax in Natal, bringing in a diminishing return of £9,000 a year, is surely not a question to upset the whole of South Africa about. It would be much more useful to turn attention to removing causes which prevent Indians returning to India when they actually wish to depart. That many are actually kept back, under present conditions, is now to me a matter of certain knowledge, and I have spoken to the authorities about it. I would urge only one thing with regard to the poll tax, namely, that its abolition should be done generously, as an act of grace, and not hampered with fresh conditions and restrictions. The people of India are the most generous in the world; and respond readily to the principle of *noblesse oblige*.

With regard to the marriage question, I have still sufficient faith in the omniscience of lawyers to be certain that they will find a phrase in law which will meet the situation. The only rock ahead that I can see is on the side of the Mahomedans. "Let there be no compulsion in religion" is one of the most admirable precepts of the Quran. If the Union Government legalises and registers one marriage, and one marriage only, there will be no objection raised. But if the State goes beyond that, and attacks, or appears to attack, the Mahomedan religion itself, there will be endless trouble and endless misunderstanding.

The Cape entry question requires no legislation, and indeed no present action. The Indian community merely asks that, as the entry of Colonial-born Indians is an old, long-standing right which has not been abused, the existing practice should not be disturbed until, if ever, an abuse of it occurs. It seems likely that such an abuse will never take place; if it does take place, the remedy is at hand, and action can immediately be taken.

The Orange Free State question is all but settled to everyone's satisfaction. It is now so insignificant that it scarcely even requires mention. The question of the administration of existing laws is very important, and we may hope that the Commission will give some valuable recommendations; for real grievances undoubtedly exist under this head. The general public, however, can hardly follow the technical points involved, and there is now the satisfaction that these matters will be gone into carefully and thoroughly.

If it be asked, what assurance will there be, on Mr. Gandhi's part, that, if these matters are now settled, others will not immediately be raised—if that be the question asked, Mr. Gandhi gives one simple answer. The moment a settlement of these points is reached, he will feel that his work in South Africa is finished, and will leave this country for India, his motherland. Those who know Mr. Gandhi will understand that he would not do this, if he were not certain that these grants will be actually a settlement of present troubles. I do not think he could give a clearer and more valid assurance than the action he promises.

In conclusion, I wish to apologise, before leaving, for a hastily uttered word from the pulpit, which seemed to imply that I regarded Johannesburg as an altogether godless place. I did not intend anything of the kind. I believe that there are in that city the noblest men working for righteousness under most difficult conditions. It was the atmosphere of Johannesburg that horrified me, not the individuals whom I met. I trust the Johannesburg people will forgive me for any injustice I may have done them. I would not like to leave South Africa, where I have been treated so generously, with any ill-will remaining, of which I myself had been the cause.

When I return to India I shall do my very best to make clear to the Indian people the kindness and goodwill which I have received. Two great countries such as South Africa and India, facing one another (as the nearest neighbours) across the sea, need to understand one another more and more. I shall try to explain South African ideals in India, as I have been permitted to explain Indian ideals here in South Africa.

The Transvaal Resisters in Natal

The following is a brief record of the work done in Natal by the Transvaal Passive Resisters, reference to which was made in our columns last week:—

Mr. Thanbi Naidoo, the 'Old Offender', and Chairman of the Tamil Benefit Society of Johannesburg, accompanied the first band of ladies from Johannesburg to Newcastle. Here he worked ceaselessly night and day among the indentured labourers, moving about from place to place in the Mine area; and it is to him and his party that is largely due the credit for the strike on the Mines. Curiously enough, while his party, which included his wife, his mother-in-law and his sister-in-law, was arrested, Mr. Naidoo himself was not. He remained in charge at Newcastle when Mr. Gandhi proceeded on the march; and, after the arrest of the strikers, on the commencement of the strike on the Sugar Estates, he came down to Durban, where, with his usual tireless energy, he was everywhere. He was also instrumental in bringing about the strike at Maritzburg and was arrested while addressing a Mass Meeting there. He was brought to Durban and detained in custody pending the hearing of his case, as he declined to give an assurance that he would refrain from taking further part in the Passive Resistance movement. He was subsequently released on £100 bail and, eventually, the charge against him was withdrawn.

Mr. B. Lalbahadursing, the Germiston leader, arrived in Durban when the strike was at its height. He was stationed at Verulam for the greater part of the time, and performed signal service in feeding the strikers there and tending the sick. A gaol-bird of the previous campaign, he was not fortunate enough to be arrested this time.

Mr. S.P. Padiachy, who returned to the Transvaal a few weeks previously, also came down to Durban when the strike was at its height and must be associated with Mr. Lalbahadursing in the excellent work done at Verulam.

Mr. Tilokisingh accompanied Mr. Lalbahadursing from Germiston, and has done useful work here assist-

ing with the indigent Passive Resisters encamped at the Farm New-Germany, in Pinetown.

Messrs. B. Dayal, Gulabhdas, Raghubar and Sivprasad left Germiston for Newcastle at the commencement of the strike, and were arrested there shortly after, while moving among the indentured labourers, and sentenced to three months' imprisonment with hard labour, which they served at the Newcastle, Maritzburg, Durban Central and Point Gaols. Mr. Bhavani Dayal met with a somewhat interesting experience on the day of his wife's release—a few days after his own. Learning that Mrs. Bhavani Dayal was, with the other ladies, being detained at the prison under the Immigration Act, he proceeded to the Immigration Office, and was himself detained, until he was identified by Mr. Polak and the Chief Immigration Officer! Mr. Bhavani Dayal's encounter with the Immigration Authorities on his arrival from India, just over a year ago, will be well within the memory of our readers. Mr. Bhavani Dayal is the President of the Indian Young Men's Association of Germiston. Mr. Gulabhdas is the Priest in charge of the Germiston Temple.

Messrs. Veerasamy Francis, Suppiah Pillay, and Annamaly joined the present struggle at its commencement. They proceeded forth as licenceless 'hawkers' in Johannesburg, and succeeded in getting ten days' imprisonment with hard labour. On their release, finding that the Government would no longer arrest them as hawkers, they proceeded, with Mr. Manilal Gandhi, to the Natal Border, recrossed and were duly sentenced to three months' rigorous, which they served in the Volksrust, Maritzburg and Durban Gaols. Mr. Veerasamy Francis is an old campaigner. During the last Struggle he served three terms of imprisonment and was also deported to India.

Messrs. Rajoo Narsoo and Willy Morgan were, in October last, sentenced to 24 hours' imprisonment as licenceless hawkers, at the same time being charged under the Asiatic Act and detained on remand for some fourteen days. They were discharged and then, with Mr. P. K. Naidoo, crossed the Cape border, returned, were arrested and kept in gaol for fourteen days before trial. They were then convicted and ordered by the Magistrate to appear when called upon to receive sentence. They proceeded to the strike centre and, on re-crossing the border, were sentenced to three months' hard labour. Mr. Willy Morgan served one term of imprisonment in the last campaign.

Mr. T. Coopoosamy Naidoo accompanied the last party to Christiansburg, and thence to Newcastle and Charlestown. He was in the great march but was not arrested. He returned to Charlestown, where he assisted in the care of the families of the imprisoned strikers. He made several attempts to court arrest by crossing the border, but was on each occasion recognised and allowed to pass unchallenged. He served three terms of imprisonment during the last campaign.

Mr. N. K. Pillay is a deportee of the previous campaign, and was one of those who re-entered the Transvaal via a Cape Port. He proceeded to the strike centre at the commencement of November and stayed there until a few weeks ago, being with Mr. Sheikh Mukdoom, in charge of the strikers' families at Charlestown. He likewise made several attempts to be arrested at the border, but without success.

Mr. S. Kumarasamy Padiachy came down to the storm-centre, early in November, and performed excellent work at Tongaat and Verulam in connection with the issuing of rations. He served five terms of imprisonment during the last campaign.

Mr. Fakira and Mr. Jeevanjee came to Natal during November and did useful work at Phoenix and Durban. Neither was successful in being arrested. Mr. Fakira served eight terms of imprisonment during the last campaign.

Mr. L. B. Naik came in November, and, with others, crossed the border and was sentenced to three months' imprisonment.

Mr. Veloo Chetty is a deportee and gaol-bird of the last campaign. He came down to Durban early in December, and sought and secured arrest at the border, being subsequently released under the agreement.

Mr. Mahomed Ebrahim Kunkey, the veteran passive resister, came down to Charlestown about the middle of November, thence proceeded to Durban, and, finally, succeeded in being arrested at Volksrust, where he received the usual three months.

(To be continued.)

From the Editor's Chair

MR. I. A. H. MOOSA

MR. ISMAIL A. H. MOOSA left for India on Friday last by the s.s. *Umvolosi*. Mr. Ismail has done very useful work for the Natal Indian community during the last two years. He was the Treasurer of the Hon. Gokhale Reception Committee and acted as Mr. Gokhale's host during the latter's stay in Durban, in 1912. He is a prominent member of the Natal Indian Association, being a member of the Committee, and took an active part in the passive resistance work during the recent crisis. He was arrested for inciting to violence, but the Attorney-General refused to prosecute as no evidence was, of course, available to support so ridiculous a charge. Mr. Ismail it was, too, who received Messrs. Andrews and Pearson at his house, upon their arrival from India. Mr. Moosa's work as Treasurer of the Red Crescent Society deserves special mention. His Majesty the Sultan thought so highly of the work which he and others did in contributing and collecting substantial funds that he conferred upon Mr. Moosa and other gentlemen the Order of the Medjidiah. On Tuesday last, Mr. Moosa was entertained at breakfast by Mr. Parsee Rustomjee, when eulogistic speeches were made. On Wednesday evening, Mr. Abdul Hack Kajee entertained him and Mr. Pearson, and similar entertainments were given to him on Thursday. We wish him bon voyage.

COLONIAL OFFICE BLINDNESS

WE very much doubt whether His Majesty's present Secretary of State for the Colonies realises exactly how he has placed himself in the eyes of the Indian people by his provocative reply to the London All-India South African League recently. One would have expected from the Imperial Minister that he would have remembered that his preoccupation is not the defence, in season and out of season, of the Government of an offending Dominion, but the holding even of the balance between them and their accusers. In assuming, as he has done, before any evidence was brought forward against or in support of the allegations of ill-treatment, that they were unfounded, he has flung an insult in the face of all India that the Motherland will not readily forget or forgive. It is characteristic of Mr. Harcourt that he should cringe to General Botha and entirely ignore Indian sentiment. The League, under the energetic direction of that old friend of South African Indians, Sir M. M. Bhowagree, who has once again successfully recommended himself to their sense of gratitude, has emphatically protested against this *ex cathedra* declaration upon matters still *sub judice*. Mr. Harcourt's off-hand reference, the other day, to the "so-called" passive resistance of Indians here was another instance of the egregious unfitness of this gentleman to conduct delicate negotiations, such as those that he declares—evidence whereof it is most difficult to discern—he is persistently carrying on. What right had he to attempt to mislead the House of Commons into confusing a couple of provoked riots, by ignorant and leaderless indentured Indians, with a great cause, such as that of passive resistance, led by men who have given ample proof of their intense belief

in pacific and self-sacrificing efforts to secure redress of crying grievances? We can understand that such a Secretary of State finds it "difficult" to conduct negotiations on these terms. A more tactless and unsympathetic man it would be difficult to find for the position. Lord Elgin—King Log—was bad enough, but Mr. Harcourt is a veritable King Stork, and, if any single person, outside of the Union Ministry, has succeeded in exacerbating Indian feeling, both in this country and in India, it is surely he.

A DIFFERENCE

It is significant that some foreign countries are more careful of the susceptibilities of British Indians than are some parts of the British Dominions. The United States, for example, has passed an Immigration Law from which the President—a man who has the reputation of being a cleansing force in the very dirty game of politics—has expunged all offensive racial differentiations. Indeed, he has gone further, and has refused even to consider an education test, realising, no doubt, that many a rascal would be allowed to enter under such a test which would exclude probably more good citizens. The President of the Republic appreciates the virtues of thrift and perseverance. Australia—if we may regard the Sydney *Bulletin* as voicing popular feeling, as we believe it does—prefers to regard the Indian as a species of white ant, which takes the place of moth and rust in modern economics. Canada has just promulgated fresh regulations against Asiatics in order to overcome Justice Hunter's recent dictum that the existing regulations were *ultra vires* of the Immigration Act. As to South Africa, the less we speak about the situation here, in spite of the unctuous platitudes of Immigration Officers, the better, perhaps, for the patience of our readers. No doubt, however, the people of India will read the signs of the times, and will mark, learn, and inwardly digest them.

London Indians and the Colonial Secretary

Under the auspices of the All-India South African League a general meeting of Indians resident in London was held on December 22, the President of the League, Sir M. M. Bhowagree, in the chair. Consideration was given to the following letter from the Colonial Office:—'I am directed by Mr. Secretary Harcourt to acknowledge your letter of the 5th instant on the subject of the position of British Indians in South Africa. In view of the full reply given by the Marquess of Crewe to the deputation of your League, Mr. Harcourt thinks it unnecessary to say more than that the situation in South Africa is receiving the anxious attention of his Majesty's Government. At the same time, I am to point out the unfounded charges of brutality and inhumanity made by the speakers against the Union Government make the situation more difficult for the Secretary of State.'

It was unanimously resolved to send a reply saying:—'The allegation in the Colonial Office reply that the unfounded charges of brutality and of inhumanity made by speakers against the Union Government make the situation more difficult for the Secretary of State is one which cannot be accepted without protest. In the statements in question, which were studiously moderate, there was nothing but the necessary reference to reports received here on the authority of well-informed people on the spot as regards harsh treatment and even loss of life. Such mention could not possibly be avoided on an occasion when the case for the strikers had to be placed before a Minister of the Crown. The point was then, and still must be, regarded as *sub judice*, since the deputation requested it should be investigated, and it is now included specifically in the reference to the Commission since appointed. It is regrettable, therefore, that the Colonial

Office has already practically pronounced a decision upon it by saying that the allegations are "unfounded," and giving that as a reason that the situation is made "more difficult for the Secretary of State." There is already a very strong feeling of dissatisfaction in India and South Africa as to the constitution of the Commission, and a statement like the one mentioned above, emanating on the authority of the Secretary of State for the Colonies, is not calculated to dispel or modify such feeling.'

The meeting resolved to send to the Secretary for India a letter, complaining of the constitution of the Commission of Inquiry and the terms of reference to it. The following resolution was enthusiastically adopted: "That this meeting wishes to record its high appreciation and admiration of the martyrdom suffered by the heroic band of strikers and passive resisters, and the great sacrifices made by our brave countrymen and countrywomen and Messrs. M. K. Gandhi, H. S. L. Polak, H. Kallenbach, and A. H. West, who have carried on this strenuous struggle in defence of the rights and honour of our country."

En Route to India

Mr. W. W. Pearson, after a strenuous period of investigation of the Indian problem and especially the indenture question, left for India on Friday by the S.S. *Umvolost*, a large gathering being present at the wharf. The same morning the Tavidkar Bhanabhai Bhajan Mandali presented him with a gold ring, at Mr. Parsee Rustomjee's residence. On Wednesday evening he was present as one of the principal guests at a dinner given by Mr. Abdul Hack Kajee, at which he delivered a felicitous speech in reply to addresses eulogising his work in South Africa. Mr. Pearson was also the recipient of a book and a writing-case from the new Indian Women's Sabha.

The Soorzai Death Inquiry

(Concluded)

Egambaram, sworn, stated that he worked at the Phoenix Wattle Company. He knew Soorzai. He remembered the time of the trouble between Soorzai and Todd. It was part of witness's duty every morning to blow the whistle for the men to attend roll-call. Some Indians attended roll-call on that particular morning. Some did not. Witness went into the barracks to get them to turn out. While he was in the barracks Todd arrived. A native was with him named Umhlasani. Witness went to the top of the barracks and the Indians refused to come. Todd caught hold of them and pulled them out. Todd then got to where Soorzai was. Soorzai was standing with a stick in his hand, near his door, outside his hut. Todd pushed him and Soorzai fell down. Witness turned away and went off in another direction. Soorzai was still lying on the ground. Soorzai's wife was close by. He heard Soorzai using bad language towards the Indians. He did not hear him abuse Mr. Todd. He said: "Why are you all running off to roll-call?—We have not got our rations." Witness saw nothing in Mr. Todd's hand. He did not hear a pistol shot. He did not see a sjambok. He saw the native. He was holding a horse by the bridle, witness did not know whether he was carrying a sjambok. He was holding the horse with both hands. Maligadu, Varaden, Ramlal Naidoo and Narayan Konor were standing near by.

By Mr. Britter: Witness was about 15 yards away from Soorzai at the time Todd pushed Soorzai down. He saw Todd come. Todd was on horseback. He saw him get off his horse. On alighting, Todd said "Come on, come on" and pushed two or three Indians on the road. Todd did not hand his overcoat to the native. Witness did not see Todd give anything to the native. Soorzai came outside his house

and stood there. He did not hear what Todd said to Soorzai. Witness did not see Soorzai raise his stick to Todd. He lifted up his stick. He lifted it up whenever he walked. He did not see Soorzai brandishing his stick. Soorzai always carried his stick. He saw Todd go away. He left there when Todd left. He saw the beginning of the incident between Todd and Soorzai. His eyes were not fixed on them all the time. He could only say, he saw Todd push Soorzai. Soorzai fell down. He saw him falling down. He only saw Soorzai pushed down once. Todd was for a short time in the barracks and then rode away. The native followed him. Todd did not fire a revolver. If Todd had fired a revolver, he would have heard it. Indians had told him that Todd had fired a revolver. He did not believe them, because he did not see the revolver in Todd's hand, neither did he hear the shot fired. At the time of the trouble between Todd and Soorzai, there were many Indians there—some were going away; Todd was pushing them. Witness could not say how many there were. He could not say who was there and who was not. He was only there about two or three minutes. He did not see Soorzai get up and rush at Mr. Todd.

J. J. Van Biljon, sworn, stated he was a Corporal in the S.A.M.R. and was at present stationed at Phoenix. On the 28th November, he was instructed by the Sergeant to proceed to the INDIAN OPINION Settlement and see that all the indentured Indians on the property went back to their respective barracks. An Indian named Soorzai told him, through an interpreter, that he had been thrashed with a sjambok by Todd, his master, and was unable to walk. Witness examined him and found two wales on his back which might have been caused by a sjambok. He left him on the Settlement.

By Mr. Britter: An Indian named Sundersingh was the interpreter. He was in the Natal Police. He saw the marks in witness's presence. Soorzai was wearing European clothes—witness did not know exactly what. He thought Soorzai had a dark coloured shirt on. He wanted to take the man away and wanted him to return to his barracks. Soorzai said he was unable to walk. Witness told him that he had been able to walk there and could walk back. Soorzai said he had been sjambokked by his master. Witness left him there and asked Mr. West to look after him until he had seen the sergeant in charge. Witness left the Settlement and went to Phoenix. He was not quite satisfied about Soorzai's inability to walk. He had seen sjambok wales before. The marks on Soorzai's back looked as though they had been caused by a sjambok, but he could not swear to it. The marks could not have been caused by a fall. They were long ridges but no skin was broken.

By Mr. Dickinson: He found two wales on the back—one on the left shoulder across the back and one just about six inches below. He thought they could have been caused by a stick easily. Owing to the dark skin, it was almost impossible to tell whether the marks were discoloured or not.

By the Court: Soorzai appeared to be a little frightened when he spoke to witness.

Umhlasani, the native stable-boy, sworn, stated: He worked for Todd at Phoenix. He worked at the saw-mill. He remembered one day during the Indian strike accompanying his master to the barracks. His master requested him to accompany him to the Indian barracks. His master was on horse-back. He had a sjambok in his hand. Witness went with him. Todd alighted from the horse and gave him the horse to hold and his sjambok. He remembered seeing the man who walked with a stick. His work was to hold the horses at the Office. This man was preventing the Indians who were ready to go to work, from going. They were all standing about their doors. Todd requested the man to go to his work and pushed him. The ground was wet and slippery and he slipped, saved himself with his stick and then raised his stick to strike Todd and turned

on him. When he regained his footing, he raised his stick in a striking attitude. Todd then remonstrated with him and told him to go to his work. He declined to go and Todd then pushed him along and he fell. The man's wife lifted him up and helped him into the house. Todd then went on to the different barrack rooms and turned the Indians out. Witness had the sjambok.

By Mr. Dickinson: Near the barracks witness saw Todd raise his hand and discharge his revolver into the air—one shot only. Witness was standing in the road with the horse and sjambok.

By Mr. Britter: Witness handed the sjambok to Todd when he had mounted his horse. Witness had the sjambok in his hand all the time that he was following Todd about with the horse. Todd always gave him the sjambok to hold when he was with him. He did not always do that work. He was called in on that special occasion because the man attending to that duty was ill on that day. It was not his regular duty. Todd was in the habit of always handing his sjambok over to the man who held his horse. Todd used the sjambok for his horse. Witness saw Soorzai when he fell down. He had no marks on him. Soorzai slipped down and his shirt turned up and witness saw his back. He had no marks on his back. When Soorzai fell witness was quite close to him—almost within reach. He saw everything. Soorzai had no marks—not even a sore or anything on his back. Witness had no particular object in seeing the man's back. He was simply there and saw what happened and did not see the marks. He heard the cripple use bad language to Todd in the Indian language. He did not understand the Indian language. Todd pushed the man twice. On the first occasion he did not fall down. He did not notice the revolver until he saw Todd fire the shot. The horse was frightened. The shot could have been heard at a distance. All the Indians must have heard it. Witness saw Egambaram go with the first lot of Indians that left the barracks. It was after that that the revolver was fired.

On the 6th February the hearing was resumed.

Dr. Copley, sworn, stated that he was present at the post mortem. He read over Dr. Hill's report in Court.

Examined by Mr. Britter: He agreed with the report. His opinion was that such a man as the deceased should lead a peaceful, quiet life, and any undue excitement might provoke a repetition of the attack of paralysis. Assuming that the deceased had been shoved down and fell on his back, that would be undue excitement. Assuming that he was sjambokked, that would make the excitement greater still. Coupled with that, being sent to gaol would mentally excite him. He saw nothing about the condition of the brain to show any abnormal congestion during life. But there was a fullness of the blood-vessels at the base of the brain which is a common condition after death. He had no experience of sjambok marks at a post mortem.

J. P. Farrel, attendant at the Verulam Indian Hospital, sworn, stated that Amhalaram (Soorzai) was sent to hospital from the gaol on the 8th December last. He was carried by four prisoners. He remembered the same man being in the hospital about three years ago, suffering from Hemiplegia.

By the Magistrate: Deceased was unconscious and in a dying condition when he arrived. As in the case of every patient, he examined him but saw no marks.

A. W. Lean, Acting Gaoler, Verulam, sworn, stated that he was a warder during December. Soorzai was admitted on the 3rd December and was under his charge. On the 7th he saw that the man was ill—in a sort of fit. Dr. Fisher came and he reported the matter to him. The Doctor told witness to let deceased lie quietly in a shed, which he did. The next day Soorzai was taken to the hospital. When the Doctor examined him, he saw that he was limping and used a stick. He did not examine him on admission, owing to the crowded state of the gaol at that time. The deceased made no complaint about feeling ill.

A copy of the record of the Court proceedings on the 3rd December, when deceased was charged with absence from roll-call, was put in. In his evidence Soorzai stated that the marks on his back were caused by Todd for delay in arriving at roll-call. He had been arrested since making his deposition. The accused was cautioned and discharged.

Immediately afterwards, a second charge—that of breach of the peace—was brought against him, and the case was remanded for a week. On the 10th December, when the case was called, the Prosecutor explained that the accused was reported to be dying and withdrew the charge. The accused was therefore discharged.

The inquiry was then closed.

Mr. Pearson's Impressions

Mr. Pearson writes as follows to the Press:—

Before I leave Natal for India I wish, through your columns, to express my gratitude to the many Europeans, both officials and non-officials, who have given me facilities for studying so thoroughly the condition of indentured Indians in this country. In my evidence before the Commission, I strongly criticised the system of indentured labour, for, after a careful study of the laws relating to this aspect of the Indian question and of their actual working, I feel bound to come to the conclusion that they do not afford adequate protection to the workers. For this, however, the blame must rest chiefly on the Government of India. When allowing this system to come into existence or to remain in force, it should have seen that adequate protection was given by the laws of this country to those for whom it stood, as it were, in the position of guardian. I believe that, if the Europeans of this country realised the possible abuses of the indenture system as I have seen them during a close and persistent study of nearly two months, they would agree that a system of free labour in which the good master gets and keeps the willing service of his workers would be more in accordance with British ideals.

I intend, on my return to India, to publish a report of my investigations, giving specific details in support of the conclusions I have arrived at, and, though this report will probably be too bulky for you to publish in your columns, a copy of it will be available for you to make what use of you think fit.

With regard to the general Indian situation in South Africa, I feel that, on both sides, patience and endeavour to understand the point of view of the other side are needed, if the difficulties with which both Indians and Europeans are faced are to be met and overcome.

A short time after my arrival in Durban, I was walking behind the hearse of an old Indian labourer who died in gaol as a passive resister, at the age of 70. As we passed through the streets of Durban during the luncheon hour, I was struck with the way in which hundreds of Europeans showed their respect for the dead body by removing their hats as the hearse passed. It seemed to me strange that this old man who, as a labourer, had for 40 years served this country, had to wait for death to claim his body before he could win the respect of the Christian public. He had willingly gone to gaol when he was weak and near death, for the sake of a principle which he felt was vital to the self-respect of his community. In death he was honoured, in life he was of no account. Does this incident mean that we fail to appreciate the nobler motive of a community which is struggling for its own honour and self-respect, and making a great sacrifice in that struggle?

The House of Lords Debate

(Continued)

LORD CURZON continued:—

The noble Marquess seemed to me to deal rather cavalierly, in his reply, with the grounds upon which the South African Indians base their hopes. I gathered from the speech of Lord Amphill that they attach very great importance to certain phrases in the particular Despatch of the noble Marquess himself when he was Secretary of State for the Colonies, in October, 1910. The noble Marquess made some attempt to explain away his own Despatch, and he told us that he was rather carried away when he wrote it. I must confess, ordinarily speaking, that I have never met a noble Lord who is a more effective custodian of his own emotions and powers of utterance than the noble Marquess, and it would be very unfortunate, indeed, if this single aberration on his part took place at the expense of these unhappy persons of whom he is at the present moment the official protector. But I do not think the explanation of the noble Marquess is an adequate one, because the failure of his attempt to secure the elimination of provincial boundaries in South Africa has nothing whatever to do with the particular conditions which he laid down. These are the words, which have nothing to do with provincial boundaries, that the Indians lay stress upon—

"I ought to add that any solution which prejudiced or weakened the present position of Indians in Cape Colony or Natal would not be acceptable to His Majesty's Government."

That is a quite clear statement unattended by any qualification, and I do not think the noble Marquess can ride away from it in the somewhat easy manner he attempted to do just now.

THE MARQUESS OF CREWE: I might explain that the special complaint made by the noble Lord opposite as regards the Indians in the Cape and Natal is that they have not free access to the other provinces of the Union. That is why I brought in the question of provincial boundaries.

EARL CURZON OF KEDLESTON: I quite follow, and I am coming to the point of the Cape and Natal in a moment. The second point upon which the Indians rest their case is the terms of the settlement; the temporary settlement—I think somebody used the word "armistice"—concluded by Mr. Gandhi with General Smuts in 1911. The noble Marquess, in referring to that, omitted to mention that there, again, Mr. Gandhi, speaking for his clients, stipulated—and, as far as I know, the stipulation was accepted by the other party—for the maintenance of existing rights; again raising the point which I named just now as being the gravamen of the present case of the Indians in South Africa. Their case, I understand, is that the settlement in this Bill is not in thorough accord with the impressions they were allowed to derive from the emphatic language of the Secretary of State (the noble Marquess) in the Despatch I have alluded to, and is not in accord with the terms of the settlement which was provisionally concluded between Mr. Gandhi and General Smuts. I can only, of course, deal very briefly with the three or four points on which they allege that this departure has taken place, but I will deal with them as the matter is left after the remarks of the noble Marquess.

First, as to the question of the right of the South African-born Indian to enter the Cape, a right which has been taken away by this Bill, the noble Marquess said that this would only affect a very few persons, and I think he gave the numbers of those who in recent years have entered the Cape in this way. But the number of those whom it might affect of the South African-born Indians is very large indeed—the figures have been given to me as from 30,000 to 40,000. The objection of the Indians to the Bill in this respect is not one that is affected in the smallest degree by the

question of numbers; it is, of course, an objection of principle. They think that the Act in this respect stamps an inferior *status* upon them, and that it takes away a right, as it obviously does—

THE MARQUESS OF CREWE: That 30,000 or 40,000 I think, must include a number of people under indenture.

EARL CURZON OF KEDLESTON: I cannot be certain of that, but it may well be so. I perhaps need not argue this particular point about the right to enter the Cape any further, because the noble Marquess himself admitted that it did create a differentiation and that it was a blot upon the Bill, and, as I shall come presently to the manner in which he proposes to deal with the blots on the Bill, I will say no more at the present moment than that we are grateful for that frank admission on his part.

(To be continued)

Rev. Father Maingot Honoured

On the 22nd ulto., the Indian Catholic community combined to make a striking testimony of gratitude for the Rev. Father R. Maingot's faithful and devoted ministry amongst them, the occasion being the 25th anniversary of his elevation to the priesthood. Father Maingot has ministered in St. Anthony's Church, Victoria Street, for ten years past. The afternoon's proceedings, which were made enjoyable by a musical programme culminated in the presentation of a purse of 200 guineas to the Rev. Father Maingot, the gift being accompanied by a beautifully illuminated address.

Father Meyer spoke feelingly in making the presentation, and stated that 25 years was a long time in a man's life, especially when that life was that of a priest. For the life of a priest was in a sense a martyrdom. The speaker then proceeded to outline the features of Father Maingot's life—how he had intended to become an officer in the army, but there was a hitch, and eventually he did become a soldier, though he changed the banner. In other words he became a priest. Then he taught in a school in Rome, but at length he prayed his superiors to give him room for his activity, and he was sent to Ceylon. The speaker related the story of the Father's work in a cholera-stricken district, administering last sacraments and burying the dead. Then he came to South Africa, and had built that church, and the girls' orphanage, and now he had another plan—to build an orphanage for boys. He had said that on his jubilee he would have £1,000 ready for that scheme. The bulk of that money had come from Paris, but he had been helped by his dear Indians too, and the speaker believed that he would carry that scheme through as he had every other scheme to which he had set his hands. (Applause)

The purse was then handed to Father Maingot, and, after an address of congratulation had been sung in Tamil by five little children, little Margaret Davis placed a garland of flowers around the Rev. Father's neck, in Oriental fashion.

In replying to the presentation, Father Maingot thanked them for the encouragement, the loyalty, the gratitude, esteem, and love summed up in the presentation, and he accepted them because he knew that they were really addressed to God, through him. In Ceylon he had always found the Indian community ready to do everything they could for their Church, and they were never slow in the attachment they gave to their priest; and he found the same qualities in South Africa. Here they were not rich, but they liked to do all they could for their Church, to show their love towards God. As regarded the material progress of the Church, he had been helped greatly by the Catholic Indian Young Men's Society, and no one knew what the self-denial of that Society had been. "Give me men of self-denial, who are anxious not to work for

their own selves, but only for God," declared the speaker, "and I say without fear that I or any other priest could do wonders. Give me members of a congregation who are united and bound by that charity which ought to be the characteristic of the children of God, and that congregation would always be well. Happy is the priest in charge of such a congregation. Happy am I because I see in my congregation such a etc." (Applause.) Proceeding to pay a tribute to the Committee for their strenuous effort to collect so large a sum of money, the reverend father stated that he would have refused any money given for him alone, but he wanted it for the Orphanage. (Applause.) He had said he would have £1,000 for that proposed orphanage by his jubilee but he had not anticipated such munificent assistance from his dear Indians, and now he had nearly £1,200. (Applause.) The speaker concluded by expressing his thanks to all who had assisted, and to the Committee for their able efforts, and mentioned how happy he would be when he could look upon the boys in his orphanage as his children, while they would also have a grandmother in his own beloved mother. (Applause.)

Capetown Notes.

[BY OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT]

Mr. Andrews has not, ever since his arrival in Capetown, allowed the grass to grow under his feet. He has been meeting Lord Gladstone, the Prime Minister, General Smuts, the Rt. Hon'ble J. X. Merriman, the Hon'ble W. P. Schreiner, the Archbishop, the Bishop and every notability who could be seen. He has been preaching in the Cathedral and preaching love for India.

On the 12th ultimo, the rev. gentleman held his select and distinguished audience spellbound, for over forty-five minutes, on his favourite subject, the Poet-Saint of India. The Archbishop of Capetown had kindly organised the meeting. The Mayor, Mr. Parker, was in the Chair and was supported, among others, by Lord and Lady Gladstone. The Minor City Hall, where the meeting took place, was packed to overflowing, over fifty visitors having to stand in the several entrances.

Among those present were the notable members of the Clergy, the Senators, the Members of the Assembly and other prominent citizens, including several leading Indians. The recitation that Mr. Andrews gave of some of the best poems of the Poet were heartily applauded by the audience.

The lecture is being published in pamphlet form.

Johannesburg Notes

[BY OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT]

About thirty leading members of the Tamil and Gujarati communities went as far as Germiston to meet the returning passive resisters. They were, of course, very much disappointed when they found that the party had been detained at the Border. This news they gathered from Mrs. and Miss Moonsamy who were allowed to proceed right through. About a hundred ladies had assembled at Johannesburg station to receive those who had fought and suffered for the cause, but they, too, were disappointed. A tea-party had also been arranged in their honour by the Tamil Benefit Society. On hearing the news, Mr. Kallenbach went over to Pretoria and interviewed Mr. Chamney regarding the detention of the passive resisters, and it was only after he had given his personal assurance, coupled with that of Mr. Polak, that all were residents of the Transvaal, that Mr. Chamney wired to the Immigration Officer at Volksrust to admit them. Eventually they reached Johannesburg on Sunday, the 22nd ultimo.

That very day the sad news went round that Miss Valliamah Moonsamy Moodaliar, who had arrived on

the Friday with her mother, had died early in the morning. A gloom was cast over the community, and the idea of giving a tea-party was dropped. At two o'clock in the afternoon the funeral took place. About sixty carriages and a large concourse on foot followed the body to its last resting place. Wreaths were sent and placed on the grave from the British Indian Association, the Tamil Benefit Societies of Johannesburg and Pretoria, the Hindu community, the Patidar Association, the Indian Women's Association and the Natal Indian Association.

About 400 Indians were present at the grave-side. Mr. Kallenbach also attended. Mr. Moonsamy Moodaliar, father of the deceased, had been in hospital for some time and he had been allowed out on the previous day to see his wife and daughter, the latter for the last time in life. This has been a sad blow to the parents.

Mr. Thambi Naidoo and a party of returning passive resisters reached Johannesburg on Wednesday last, and were warmly received by many friends at the station. The party proceeded directly to Mr. Moonsamy's house to express their sorrow in the recent bereavement.

In the afternoon Mrs. V. S. Pillay proceeded to Pretoria where, soon after her arrival, Mr. Mangalbhai Patel held a reception in her honour.

A Segregation Policy

Mr. F. C. Stallard, K.C., a member of the Transvaal Provincial Council, had an interview with a representative of *South Africa* shortly after his arrival in England. "I can't help feeling," he said, "that we in South Africa are going to enter upon a great Imperial problem in the separation of the spheres of work of the different races of the Empire. Territorial segregation of the white and black is the only solution which offers a good hope of permanence and satisfactory results at the same time. A policy of segregation will have to be considered from the Imperial point of view, and must have the very careful consideration of Imperial statesmen. As far as I can see, it will affect not only South Africa, but the western States of Canada, Australia, and India; and I should not be surprised if, to some degree, it affected England too. The pinch has only to be felt to bring that about—as, for instance, if you had any labour trouble at your ports between Lascars and Englishmen. Whites and blacks cannot be mixed up higgledy-piggledy without great injury being done. They have such different standards of living, different ideas, different conceptions of what is a fair wage. I hope Imperial statesmen will not reject this territorial segregation idea—as I am afraid they are inclined to—without mature consideration. We are feeling our way to it in South Africa very slowly, but I think that, at the bottom of this Indian question, is the innate conviction that white and black may not live together."

An "Appalling Fact"

The Superintendent of Education, Mr. C. J. Mudde, in the course of a speech at the annual prize distribution of the Maritzburg Technical Institute, said: "Do we, for example, realise sufficiently the appalling fact that the native population in this Province alone outnumber the white in the ratio of 10 to 1? Are we aware there are 30,000 pupils in our native schools, that the number increases in greater proportion yearly, and that they are apt to learn and keen on education? Do we know that, within the last year or two, different religious denominations in the Province have established five great schools for the training of native teachers? Truly this is a subject worthy of our deepest thought. The educated black man is already treading on our heels and it behoves us to fit ourselves to maintain our place in the van, to rule and not to serve."

Ceylon Sympathy

A monster meeting of the people of Jaffna was held on the 5th December, says the *Ceylonese*, to express sympathy with the ill-treated Indians in South Africa and to render them whatever aid lay in their power. Mr. J. M. Hensman presided. There was a large and representative gathering. The Chairman gave a history of the Indians in South Africa.

Rev. Mr. Trimmer, supporting, said he was glad to give public expression to his sympathy. The sympathy was not racial. The best minds of England sympathised with the Indians. The Immigration Act was harsh and oppressive. The elementary principles of justice were forgotten. The resolution should be amended to include "Mining places should not be made prisons and mining officials jailors."

The following resolutions were passed:—

"The people of Jaffna in public meeting assembled to-day record their strong condemnation of the Indian Immigration Regulation Act of this year imposing the most degrading conditions on the Indian settlers in South Africa and their abhorrence of the inhuman treatment accorded to our fellow-subjects under that Act. They also wish to convey to those unfortunate people their warmest sympathy with them in their heroic struggles and their sufferings."

"This meeting resolves to raise subscriptions for a fund to help the Indians in South Africa in their passive resistance movement."

"That a cablegram be sent to the Private Secretary to the Viceroy and Governor-General of India, praying that His Excellency will be graciously pleased to use his utmost endeavours to end the present distressing situation of the Indian sufferers in South Africa."

"That a telegram be sent to Mr. G. A. Natesan of Madras, informing him of the sympathy of the people of Jaffna in public meeting assembled with the Indians in South Africa in their momentous struggle with their rulers for the most elementary rights of citizenship."

"That the money collected in Jaffna be remitted through Mr. Natesan."

"That a committee be formed for the purpose of giving effect to the foregoing resolutions."

News in Brief

We present with the current issue a photographic supplement of the late Miss Valliamah Moonsamy Moodaliar.

Readers should compare Reuter's summary of Mr. Andrews' letter which has appeared in the press with the full text which we give in another column. There is a substantial difference, especially regarding the repeal of the £3 tax.

Two passive resisters, named C. Naidoo and Valoo respectively, sentenced at Volksrust to three months' imprisonment, were released on telegraphic instructions approved by the Governor-General, on Monday last.

At the National Indian School, South Coast Junction, on the 17th ultimo, an "At Home" was given by the Indian community in honour of the passive resisters who were recently discharged from gaol. The guests received a hearty welcome and an enjoyable afternoon was spent, refreshments being served.

The Natal Indian Women's Association held their seventh Anniversary on Saturday last, at the Victoria Bio, when a good company gathered.

The Tamil Mahajana Sabha held an "At Home" at the Victoria Bio Hall, on the 15th ultimo, in honour of the "Ex-convicts."

Our readers will be glad to know that Mr. Solomon Royeppen, who was recently operated upon at the Addington Hospital, is progressing rapidly.

Mr. and Mrs. P. K. Naidoo and their daughter, Marimuthu, left for the Transvaal on Wednesday, and were seen off by many friends.

Rev. Leyton Richards, brother-in-law of Mr. Pearson, paid a short visit to Phoenix. He left for the Transvaal on Thursday last.

Mr. Jamnadas. K. Gandhi, who was imprisoned at Christiana and Port Elizabeth, has returned to Phoenix, after spending a few days at Capetown. Mr. Manilal Gandhi, who accompanied Rev. C. F. Andrews to Capetown, is now in Johannesburg.

Mr. and Mrs. R. Moonsamy Moodaliar, of Johannesburg wish to thank, through our columns, all those who so kindly sent messages of sympathy in their bereavement.

A Reuter cablegram from Ottawa to the Indian Press, dated the 17th January last, states that the Government has amended the regulations restricting oriental immigration so as to remove the technical deficiencies under which Justice Hunter of Victoria recently released several Hindus held for deportation. The new regulations provide that Asiatics must come to Canada by a continuous journey from the country of their birth and by a through ticket. They must also possess two hundred dollars in their own right.

A Colombo telegram to the *Statesman* reports the appointment as Assistant Medical Officer, Colombo, of Dr. Aserappa, the Tamil gentleman who has been brought into prominence by the agitation in Australia against his employment on an Orient liner.

A Reuter telegram from New York says that President Wilson will veto the Immigration Bill if it is presented to him for signature containing a literary test for immigrants.

At a public meeting held under the auspices of the Natal Indian Association, on the 24th ultimo, the following resolution was unanimously passed:—

"This meeting of the Natal Indian Association places on record its deep sorrow at the death of Miss Valliamah Moonsamy so soon after her release from the prison that she had sought as a protest against an unjust law that dishonours Indian womanhood by invalidating Indian marriages celebrated according to religious custom; the meeting is of opinion that in her life she shed lustre upon a noble cause by sacrificing her liberty for its furtherance, and that by her premature death she has sanctified it and added one more name to the heroic roll of Passive Resisters who have given their lives for the honour and good name of the Indian Motherland; the meeting desires to express its heartfelt sympathy with the late Miss Moonsamy's family."

We have received a statement of receipts and expenditure in connection with a concert given in aid of the Passive Resistance Fund by Joshua's Bioscope Company, assisted by the Kimberley Minstrel and Variety Company, in the City Hall, Kimberley, on Thursday, the 18th December last. After paying expenses, there remained a balance of £6 14s. 6d., which has been handed over to the Chairman of the Indian Political Association.

Reuter's correspondent at Delhi telegraphs that, at a sitting of the Legislative Council, Mr. W. H. Clark, Minister for Commerce and Industry of the Viceroy's Council, declined to publish further papers regarding the emigration of Indians to South Africa, declaring that the Government hoped that the efforts of Sir Benjamin Robertson, who is now in South Africa, would contribute towards a peaceful settlement of the difficulty.

"How dare you, a native and a black man, lift your hand against your employer, a white man," said Mr. Cauvin in the Durban Court recently. "Natives must realise that at least so long as I am on the Bench of this Court I shall insist on their showing respect to the white man," he added in passing sentence of two months' hard labour.