

Indian Opinion

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MR. ANDREWS' IMPRESSIONS

IN the course of the first of a series of letters to the *Modern Review*, the Rev. C. F. Andrews writes:—

One thing that preyed upon my mind more than I can express in a letter was the condition of the Indian stokers and others on board. There were a considerable number of such Indians who had never been to sea before, and had been inveigled on to the ship by 'land-sharks' who made capital out of them. Two days outside Colombo one of these Indians jumped overboard, committing suicide, and 3 days later another disappeared. The officer in command (who was really kind-hearted), expressed himself in the following words: "the damned *suars*, the kinder you are to them the more trouble they give." He had been through a hard experience himself, when a boy, in a sailing ship before the mast under a flogging captain, and he was therefore on the whole kindly to the crew. But for an Indian stoker there was little or no intelligent sympathy. The officer seemed unable to picture the poor man's utter homesickness and blank despair. He could only think of him as a mere tool or, if human at all, then of a different order from himself. And so he was ready to call him, even in that hour of horrible death, a damned *suar*. It gave me a shock, as you may imagine, to hear it. But I don't want merely to speak of this one officer's lack of intelligent sympathy or to blame him specially. I want to speak rather of our own shortcomings. Here have we been letting this kind of Indian kidnapping go on, year in year out, without any protest or united effort to prevent it. And remember, if in a really good ship (such as this was) these things were happening, what must be the case of recruitment for the common coaling vessels and 'tramps' where the officers are sometimes nothing less than fiends incarnate. At the very least, officers of proved brutality should not be allowed (in conjunction with the 'land-sharks') to inveigle poor ignorant Bengali peasants away from Calcutta without things first being explained to them and without the severest penalties being exacted in return for any cruelties inflicted. As it is, they always get off scot-free and there is next to no enquiry. Even in money matters these poor Bengalis get hopelessly robbed. "The poor devils," the captain said to me, "at the end of this few months' trip after working night and day in the stoke-hold through the heat and through the stormy weather most of them will hardly bring back a penny." He told me also that they hated the life so much that they sometimes deserted in a body at the first port. His own stokers had deserted at Calcutta.

On the relationship of Hindus and Mahomedans in South Africa Mr. Andrews remarks:—

I saw, even from their first gathering of welcome at the wharf, how representative of all classes of Indian life were those engaged in the struggle as its leaders. I was happily surprised to find how strong was the Mahomedan representation. The Mahomedans have taken a full and active part in the struggle and they

have been splendidly loyal to Mr. Gandhi. Mr. Gandhi has been equally loyal to them. All I have now seen here with my own eyes has convinced me more than ever (if I needed further conviction) that, as *Indians*, Hindus and Musalmans can work together wholeheartedly in a common Indian cause, without losing their religious distinctness. I do not think there is any necessity to put this fact in the form of "Indians first and Hindus and Musalmans afterwards."—No deeply religious Musalman can be expected to make such a statement without a qualm of conscience. But what we all learn by experience is that the things that unite are far more than the things that divide. There are first of all the thousand and one Indian traditions and convictions that cannot be called definitely religious even though they may have (as almost everything in India has) a religious colouring. Further still there are the traditions and convictions that *are* definitely religious in which Hindus and Musalmans are united. All these taken together cover, perhaps, five-sixths of our common Indian life and form a common ground of action. It is quite true that the elements which remain still unreconciled in each religion are of deep importance and cannot be overlooked. But they should form a ground for mutual charity and forbearance, not for mutual hostility and intolerance. This is the clear lesson which Indians have learnt in South Africa. Hindus are no less strongly Hindus, Mahomedans are no less strongly Mahomedans, than in India itself. But the points of agreement are seen in their true perspective, in this foreign environment; and as such they loom much larger than the points of difference. To take one point alone, I have been present already at vegetarian meals in Mahomedan houses at which Hindus were gladly present as welcome guests, and freely partook of Mahomedan hospitality. I have been present also where Hindus were the hosts and Mahomedans were the guests. What was even more noticeable still was the extreme friendliness of the mutual relations. When people begin to chaff one another with the greatest ease and freedom on their points of difference, it is quite clear that a high degree of tolerance has been reached; and what I have specially noticed among Hindus and Mahomedans here in South Africa is their unfailing good-humour one with another. They never complain or lay the blame of any failure on one another but sympathise with one another in the truest sense of the word. When I quoted a Sanskrit sloka in the presence of Musalmans they were most deeply interested and told me afterwards that they had no idea that Hindus had such a lofty idea of the Unity of God. And when I spoke to Hindus about the difficulties of the Indian Mahomedans and all the troubles they had been through last year, the Hindus present were deeply moved and wished to do something to help in whatever way they could. The striking fact that I see here more clearly every day is that many of the most com-

plicated problems that confront us in India are being actually solved by South African Indians.

Describing the railway journey with Mr. Gandhi to Pretoria, Mr. Andrews gives the following graphic account:—

We had everything arranged to travel together by what is called the "Kaffir Mail" as we wished to travel third class; but when we reached Phoenix station we found that the Railway Strike was just beginning and it was only possible to get through on the earlier European mail. So we travelled in a reserved carriage. I do not think we could have done otherwise on this train. As it was, we were the gazing stock of most of the Europeans at the stations on the way. Sometimes there were as many as twenty or thirty round the carriage gazing at us as though we were two caged animals. The language some of them used made me ashamed of my own countrymen. I cannot describe in words the race contempt that appeared in the faces and voices of that crowd: it was a bitter experience for me as an Englishman. It was, by itself, sufficient evidence to me of what Indians have to suffer in this country; and after what I have seen and heard I could imagine almost any cruelty happening when Indians, literally by thousands, are put completely at the mercy of persons nourishing such contempt for them in their hearts.

Indentured Slaves Wanted in East Africa

A representative of the *Transvaal Leader* recently visited Uganda and British East Africa, spending about six weeks looking around and interviewing settlers from the Transvaal and other parts of the Union.

It is only fair to point out (says the writer) the difficulties which beset the coffee planter. First and foremost is the labour question. To-day there is no serious shortage of native labour in the Protectorates for ordinary farming purposes, but the question of supplying the vastly increased demand to meet the requirements when an extensive area is covered with coffee in bearing is something of a poser. In connection with this question, a Commission was recently appointed, and a voluminous record of evidence given by 272 witnesses has been published. The principal recommendation is on the subject of indentured labour. The majority of witnesses are of opinion that indentured labour is unnecessary, as there are sufficient natives in the country to meet the demands. This, of course, is provided pressure is brought to bear on the tribes, which at present are not supplying a fair amount of labour; but she does not need to be a resident of British East Africa to realise the difficulties likely to be raised by Downing Street in the case of a Crown Colony adopting any policy in dealing with the question of tribal labour supply which might in any way be construed as savouring of coercion.

The Commission states:—

"The first endeavour of the Government should be so to administer local tribes that the necessity of importing indentured labour may be obviated."

A most excellent axiom, but I cannot help feeling that the minority report displays a deeper grasp of the situation when it states that

"We consider ample evidence has been given to the effect that the local market is unable for the present to supply the needs of the large planting enterprises on the coast, which needs may be expected to increase annually as further development proceeds, etc."

A majority of the Commission recommends that while indentured labour is objected to, if the necessity for it is proved, Asiatics be imported, but only on the two following conditions:—

1. That repatriation is insisted on; and

2. That legislation is introduced for each separate project.

The minority report recommends waiving the first condition if it is found that Asiatics cannot be secured except in the event of the repatriation clause being left out of the indentures, and in regard to the second condition, it is also recommended that the special legislation in each case be not adopted. I must confess that, while I may have failed to detect the full significance of the second recommendation, the machinery necessary for the employment of indentured labour would be cumbersome, if not unworkable—and probably costly—except in cases of exceptionally large enterprises. Consequently, this clause would prove an effective deterrent in the case of many planters whose employment of a medium number of indentured labourers could only be a source of benefit to the community and of revenue to the Government.

With reference to the importation of Asiatics, it may seem presumption on my part, as a visitor to the country, to express an opinion on a matter of such vital importance, but sometimes the stranger is in a better position than the long-standing resident to detect the flaws in the methods of dealing with questions of this nature. It appears to me that the inhabitants throughout the Protectorate have become so obsessed with a fear of further encroachment by the Eastern races on the rights and privileges rightly belonging to the ruling people that they cannot give this question the benefit of their unbiased and mature consideration, and the effect of these jaundiced views is likely to result in pressure being brought to bear on the Administration, and the adoption of a policy which will effectively retard the progress of the country—until such time as it is reversed.

To put it briefly, I think there is very little prospect of the Colonial Office permitting pressure being brought to bear on the various native tribes in connection with the supply of labour. This effectually closes the one and only avenue which might for a time at least delay the necessity for the importation of indentured labour. The next point is the insertion in the indentures of Asiatics of the repatriation clause. We are now aware that the Indian Government has made a very definite pronouncement on this subject, and will not permit any further indentured labour to leave its shores so long as the repatriation clause is embodied in the indentures. While the Indian Government adheres to this point the position is a somewhat serious one, but can it maintain such an attitude in view of the need for an outlet for its teeming millions of labourers?

Supposing, however, it remains adamant, what is the position of British East Africa? The country can only progress by a policy of production; there is at present no other means by which its revenues can be increased. Its very existence, therefore, hinges on production. Planting of such crops as coffee, cocoa, and sisal means an enormous increase in the demand for labour. I venture to say that the country cannot be held back by any such retrograde policy as the exclusion of outside coloured labour, which would soon bring it to a condition of bankruptcy. The wealth of British East Africa is its soil, and the world is its market. Indentured labour will come, and when that time does arrive, let the Government of the country make due provision by legislation to safeguard the interests of the generations of our children to come. The whole subject, of course, strikes a deeper note than the superficial question of indentured labour, with or without a repatriation clause. It is the large issue of the future of coloured races which threatens to strike at the very root of the supremacy of the whites as the ruling peoples. The only reason for even mentioning in these columns a subject of vast importance is that the climatic conditions of Equatorial Africa are such that the Asiatic must be largely used, and this vast problem will be upon them clamouring for a solution long before we hear the sinister sound of its knock on the portals. It is not likely, however, that these questions will present them-

selves during the lives of any persons at present living. All I can say to the man in the street is: Do not lightly condemn the country because of its coloured population. - It is to be deplored that certain fields of labour, clerical and railway work, have been—perhaps thoughtlessly—relegated by the powers that be to the Indian and Goanese, which might well have been filled by some of our own deserving surplus population either from here or across the seas. On the other hand, however, Indian labour, properly directed and capably controlled, can only prove a boon to the country.

From the Editor's Chair

BEWARE!

It is difficult to write with restraint of the attitude of the Government in pressing for the payment of arrears of the £3 tax at the present time. As we pointed out in regard to the deductions from the wages of railway employees, the least we could expect of the Government was that they should cease from actively collecting the tax during this period of suspense, pending the passing of legislation in regard to the repeal of the tax. The recent understanding—one might almost call it armistice—was based on mutual trust and goodwill. The essence of that agreement was faith and trust. By starting a campaign against those in arrears and throwing men into prison, the Government are certainly drawing near a danger-point, and we feel it our duty to sound a note of warning. As a party to an honourable compact, the Government are bound in honour to see that their officers do not violate the agreement, and nothing short of issuing definite instructions not to harass the people will meet the case. The Indian community have put their trust in the Government and the indentured Indians are working peaceably on the estates, being led to understand that the tax will shortly be repealed. Now, when they hear that the authorities are actually dragging men to prison for the sake of collecting a few paltry sovereigns, the effect will be disastrous. If it were merely a question of the mistaken zeal of the Magistrate of Verulam, the position might not be considered serious. We wish that we could persuade ourselves that it was so. What we should like an assurance of is that the orders to make this raid have not come from Pretoria and that the Government never intended that anyone should be persecuted in this manner—and nothing less than this will satisfy the Indian community.

The Indian Market

From the Durban Town Treasurer's Report for the year ended 31st July, 1913, we find that the gross receipts from the Indian Market were £3,324, the expenditure £1,868 and the surplus £1,456, being a slight decrease on the previous year's surplus. There has been a steady increase of revenue from the Market since its inauguration, the first year's revenue being £2,195, the second £3,218 and last year's £3,324. The Market fees collected from baskets amounted to £902 19s. 11d., Squatters and Stands £2,108 6s. 6d., Carts £312 11s. The European Market continues to be run at a loss, the last year's deficit being £268.

An Indian's Right to Work Gold

An application came before Mr. Justice Ward in the Witwatersrand Local Division recently, testing a power claimed by a public authority of discriminating against coloured persons. Judgment was reserved on the question whether the Receiver of Revenue has the right to refuse to issue a jeweller's permit to an Indian.

The applicant, who asked for an order directing the Receiver of Revenue to grant him a permit, was a Hindu named Hussen, and he stated in his petition that he was by trade a working jeweller, and for the purposes of this trade required to make up and smelt gold and material containing gold, and to change the form of gold and material containing gold; that he had been engaged in his occupation of working jeweller in the Transvaal since the year 1903, having served an apprenticeship and learnt the trade from his father, who was also a working jeweller; that the trade of working jeweller had been followed by his ancestors from time immemorial, and that it was the only trade that he had any knowledge of, and by which he was enabled to earn a living; that he had at no time been convicted of or charged with any criminal offence or the contravention of any law, and had at all times conducted himself in a proper manner.

In terms of Sections 3 and 4 of the regulations annexed to Proclamation 18 of 1914, the petition continued, it was provided that:

No person shall make up, smelt, or change the form of material containing gold, whether such material is wrought or unwrought, unless he is the holder of a jeweller's permit; and further, no such person shall at any one time make up, smelt, or change the form of material containing more than two ounces of gold (troy weight), whether such material is wrought or unwrought, without the authority in writing of the police officer in charge of a district or post.

And that—

The Receiver of Revenue in any district may issue to any white person a jeweller's permit for such district. No jeweller's permit or renewal thereof shall be issued unless the Commissioner of Police certifies that the applicant is a fit and proper person to hold such permit. The fee for such permit shall be 5s. per quarter or £1 per annum.

In view of these regulations, said the applicant further, he had applied for a permit, and had been referred by the Receiver of Revenue to Mr. Brink, the Chief of the Gold and Diamond Detective Department, who stated that he knew nothing against his character, but could not consent to his being granted a permit, on the ground that he was not a white man.

Police Approval Not Obtained

The Receiver of Revenue, Mr. Bigger, in his replying affidavit, admitted the material allegations of the applicant, and said that he refused to grant the applicant a permit on the ground that the Commissioner of Police had not certified that applicant was a fit and proper person to have such a permit. He had received a letter, dated March 11th, 1914, from the Chief Detective Inspector of the Gold and Diamond Detective Department of the South African Police, District 45, stating that he did not consider the applicant a fit person to hold such a permit. Mr. Bigger accordingly denied that the applicant was entitled to get issued to him the jeweller's permit for which he had made application, as he was not a white person; and, furthermore, as he had not complied with the provisions of Clause 65, Sub-section (4), of the regulations annexed to Proclamation No. 18 of 1914 by producing a certificate from the Commissioner of Police that he was a fit and proper person to hold such a permit. The applicant, he said, had not at any time produced to him the required certificate by the Commissioner of Police.

Class Legislation by Regulation

Mr. H. H. Morris instructed by (Mr. Philip Morris), for the applicant, contended that, unless expressly authorised by some statute to do so, the Governor-General had no power to promulgate regulations in the nature of class legislation. *Prima facie*, he said, every person was entitled to follow any lawful occupation, and, if the Legislature had wished to single out a class as not being entitled to follow the calling of a working jeweller, it would have said so in express terms. He admitted that the law did not allow a coloured person to buy or sell unwrought gold, but that did not prevent a coloured person from exercising his trade of working upon unwrought gold. The Act of 1908 expressly provided that a coloured person might handle unwrought gold in fulfilment of a contract of service.

His Lordship: I take it that he would not require a permit for that.

Mr. Morris: The regulation says that before I do the physical act of smelting gold I must have a permit.

Mr. S. S. Taylor (instructed by Messrs. Van Hulsteyn, Feltham and Ford) for the respondent, submitted that, quite apart from these regulations, the whole principle of the Gold Laws was that no person other than a white person should be in possession of unwrought gold or carry on any business in connection with it. It was provided by Act of Parliament that regulations might be framed for the licensing of persons authorised to deal in unwrought gold, and the only persons so authorised were white persons, so that the Governor-General had not gone beyond the provisions of the law in promulgating this regulation. The Governor-General was given power to say under what conditions licences should be granted, but the law was perfectly clear on the point that they could be granted only to white persons. There was no new enactment of class legislation by the Governor-General, but merely a repetition by him of a piece of class legislation in the Statute-book. Obviously, the business which the applicant desired to carry on necessitated dealing with unwrought gold.

Mr. Morris, heard in reply, again submitted that the Legislature had never intended to confine the business of a jeweller to white persons.

His Lordship: A coloured person may be a jeweller without being a manufacturing jeweller, and the law would not then apply to him.

Judgment was reserved.—*Transvaal Leader*.

A Farewell Function

On Monday afternoon, the 30th March, the Durban Indian Women's Association held a farewell meeting in honour of Mr. and Mrs. Polak. The meeting was well attended, a large number of ladies being present. The Chair was occupied by Mrs. Nayanah, who opened the proceedings. In the course of her speech, she regretted the departure of Mr. and Mrs. Polak and spoke of the deep debt of gratitude the Indian community owed to them for their untiring devotion to and work for the Indian people. Several other ladies spoke, including Mrs. V. R. R. Moodley and Miss Moodley, the Secretary of the Association.

A beautiful silver manicure set suitably inscribed was presented. Owing to Mr. Polak's previous departure, Mrs. Polak thanked those present, for them both. In a few words, she emphasised the need for unity in the community, and hoped that the Indian women, who stood for love and devotion, would never swerve from their path.

The hall was very prettily decorated, and musical items were contributed by the Misses Paul.

Colour Prejudice in Central Africa

Mr. Ratansha Koyaji, Solicitor, Blantyre, Nyasaland Protectorate, writes to the *Express*, (Calcutta):—

No Asiatic or Native shall acquire property either leasehold or freehold or settle or carry on trade on his own account either directly or indirectly or jointly or in partnership with a European in the Township except in the Asiatic Ward.

The Townships Ordinance of the Nyasaland Protectorate confers the power on every Town Council of making bye-laws for, among other purposes, dividing the Townships into areas and wards and controlling the settlement and movement of Asiatics and Natives therein. In the exercise of this power the Town Council of Blantyre, the commercial capital of this Protectorate, sometime ago passed the above bye-law, which received the sanction of the Governor-in-Council. Can anything more drastic be imagined? It takes away some of the common law rights of human beings. It forbids a man not only to acquire property but prevents any European from being a partner with an Indian, even if the Indian is not in the Protectorate at all, and trading jointly with him anywhere outside the area marked the Asiatic Ward. When this bye-law was passed, the Indian community of the country did not agitate against it, because they had concluded that it was passed merely to scare away the Indian trader from obtaining a vested right in the European part of the township and that it would not and could not be rigidly enforced. In spite of the law, Indian clerks of European companies, who are bound to provide their employees with lodging, continued living in the European quarter and the law was not put in motion against them. One Indian trader continued trading there, occupying the trade premises under a verbal lease from a European landlord, and a prosecution was started by the Town Council under this bye-law. The judge dismissed the prosecution and bowled out the bye-law as *ultra vires*, partial, creating unjust and unreasonable preferences and restraints on trade which were not general. It would have been far better if the judge had remained content with dismissing the summons. He tacked some remarks to his judgment in these words:

I have a few general observations to add. Experience has taught that in settlements where there are both Europeans and Asiatics, the two are better apart. The differences in their conditions and habits of life render this in the highest degree desirable. Therefore while I have found myself unable to give effect to the bye-law which has come before me and which aimed presumably at effecting this desirable condition, I am entirely in sympathy with the end desired and I would urge upon the Town Council the necessity for taking prompt means to effect the purpose and for making such arrangements as will conduce to the well-being and the amenities of life of the Township as a whole and which at the same time will impose no undue or unreasonable differences or restraints or prohibitions.

As a result of this admonition, the civic fathers are now devising means of dividing the Township of Blantyre into two water-tight compartments, European and Asiatic. Be it noted that, although the second compartment will be labelled Asiatic, the natives of the country will have a right to settle and trade in it. The question, however, is not so easy as it seems, and the Blantyre Town Council will be hard put to it to see that the regulations promulgated by them are not *ultra vires* of the powers granted to them by the Townships Ordinance. In the event of their aim not being achieved by a bye-law, they will request the Government to bring it about by an Ordinance. One thing is certain, and that is that Indians here will have a rough time of it in opposing any legislation which will seek to create undue preferences or restraints.

Education Report

We have received the report of the U. der-Secretary for Education for the year ended the 31st December, 1913. There are no remarks on Indian education. From the Report of the Natal Superintendent of Education for 1912, reprinted in the Report, we take the following statistics:—

"During 1912, there were 645 schools under Government inspection—354 European schools, 231 Native schools, 39 Indian schools and 21 schools for Coloured children—with an average enrolment of 39,596 (20,252 boys and 19,344 girls), consisting of 16,297 Europeans (8,542 boys and 7,755 girls), 17,852 Natives (7,471 boys and 10,381 girls), 4,096 Indians (3,551 boys and 545 girls), and 1,351 Coloured children (688 boys and 663 girls).

In comparison with the previous year, increases all round, with one exception, have to be noted; and it is worthy of observation that, while the ratio of boys to girls in native schools is as seven to ten, in Indian schools there are seven boys to each girl.

Eighty-seven more schools with 3,375 pupils have been under Government inspection, namely, 51 European with an increase of 329 pupils, 33 Native with an increase of 2,566 pupils, and 3 Indian with an increase of 438 pupils.

The average daily attendance is, in European schools, 86 per cent. of the average number enrolled, in Native schools 88 per cent., in Indian schools 80 per cent., and in schools for Coloured children 84 per cent.

Coloured Men's Petition

The following is the text of a petition recently presented to Parliament by the coloured people:—

To the Honourable the Speaker and Members of the Legislative Assembly of the Union of South Africa in Parliament assembled. The petition of the undersigned residents of the Transvaal Province respectfully sheweth:—

1. Under the Mines, Works and Machinery Regulations of the Transvaal, coloured persons are placed under serious disability solely on the ground of colour and without reference to competence or ability.

2. The Mining Regulations are framed in a manner which prevents your petitioners from earning their livelihood by following their trades, such as carpenters, engine-drivers and similar occupations. In this respect your petitioners would humbly venture to refer to the Regulation in question, Section 285 whereof reads: "Certificates shall not be granted to any coloured person in the Transvaal and the Orange Free State, and certificates granted to any coloured person in any other Province shall not be available outside such Province."

Your petitioners would further respectfully invite your earnest attention to the definition given to the terms "banksman," "ganger" and "onsetter" appearing in the said Regulations.

3. Your petitioners are denied blasting certificates, even though they may have held such certificates in the Cape Province.

Wherefore your petitioners earnestly pray and respectfully offer the suggestion that wherever the term "white" appears in the said Regulations, the term "competent" might be substituted, and that whatever the distinction is made against the coloured worker to his detriment the differentiation might be removed. And for this act of justice your petitioners shall for ever pray, etc.

Further Congratulations to Tagore

The following is the text of an illuminated address to be given to the great Indian poet by the Oriental circle of the Lyceum Club. The address is the work of a member of the Club, Miss Janet Foord, who is widely known for her beautiful craftsmanship:—

"Blessings be with them and eternal praise
Who gave us noble loves, and nobler cares,
The Poets, who on earth have made us heirs
Of truth and pure delight by heavenly lays."

WORDSWORTH.

TO KABIBARA RABINDRA NATH TAGORE.

We, the members of the Oriental Circle, at the Lyceum Club, London, have heard with great satisfaction of the award to you of the Nobel Prize for Literature, which sets the seal of universal fame on your achievement.

We believe there to be none so fitted to receive it as yourself.

You have dedicated your genius, the gift of God, to the purest ends, you have brought joy to the heart, serenity to the mind, music to the ears, images of beauty to the eyes, and to the soul the remembrance of its divine origin.

We wish that you may long remain a living bond between East and West, and we offer you our heartfelt congratulations.

Signed on behalf of the Council and members of the Oriental Circle.

EVELYN MARTINENGO CESARESCO, President
ALATHEA APPLEBY MOLLER, Vice-President.
ROSANNA POWELL, Secretary,

The Naturalisation Bill

In the House of Lords on the 18th March, Lord Emmott moved the second reading of the British Nationality and Status of Aliens Bill. He said it provided, for the first time, for a system of Imperial Naturalisation on a uniform and definite basis throughout the whole Empire. At present, an alien naturalised in the United Kingdom carried with him, either by right or by courtesy, over the whole world practically the same privileges as a natural-born British subject, subject, of course, to any claims that might be made on him by the country of his original citizenship when they conflicted with his newly acquired nationality. That did not apply, however, to aliens naturalised in other parts of the Empire. It had been difficult to find a right remedy. The chief difficulties arose, first, from the fact that the conditions of naturalisation in the United Kingdom differed from those in the Dominions, and the conditions in every Dominion differed from those in other Dominions. In the second place, the tests with regard to residence in this country were more stringent than those in most of the Dominions, and we could not possibly relax the tests in this country, because we could not afford to contemplate a very large immigration from the Continent of Europe on account of such relaxation. In the third place, there was a good deal of fear on the part of the Dominions that a system of Imperial naturalisation might give privileges inconsistent with the discrimination already exercised in some of the Dominions between different classes of British subjects. In the fourth place, there was some fear that an undesirable might receive Imperial naturalisation in one portion of the Empire and use that naturalisation for entering another portion of the Empire where he would not have been able to obtain naturalisation. Those were the difficulties that had to be met.

The general effect of the Bill was to put a naturalised alien in the same position as a natural-born British subject, save in the case where two nations laid claim to him as a national. The Dominion Governments were given the same power to grant certificates of naturalisation as was given to the Secretary of State in this country. In the case of other Colonies, the Governor was given a like power, subject to the approval of the Secretary of State.

The Bill gave power to grant Imperial naturalisation throughout the Empire on the same terms as it was granted in the United Kingdom. The Bill was read a second time.

£3 Tax Persecution

Since the report of the Indian Commission of Inquiry was issued, it has been generally understood that it was the Government's intention to pass legislation, at the earliest opportunity, repealing the tax. Our readers will, therefore, be surprised and shocked to hear that payment of arrears is being vigorously enforced, as the following cases show. All the cases came before the Magistrate of Verulam from the 7th to the 16th instant, and it is a significant fact that these are the first prosecutions since the end of October last at which time passive resistance was in full swing.

Subrayan, No. 129309, owed £2 15s. The money being paid into Court, the man was discharged.

Dhankhoo, No. 65230, balance due £1 10s. Sentenced to thirty days' imprisonment with hard labour unless the amount be paid. We understand that the man's wife paid the amount and he was discharged.

Bhola, No. 66146, owed arrears of £4 5s. He was sentenced to thirty days' imprisonment, with hard labour. He went to gaol.

Iswahir, No. 78765, amount due £15 10s. Defendant paid £3 10s. into Court. He was then sentenced to thirty days' imprisonment unless the balance of £12 be paid. The man went to gaol and was afterwards released on payment of £12 to the Gaoler.

B. Vivasami, No. 77264, balance owing £1 15s. Defendant paid the amount and the charge was withdrawn.

Badarath, No. 137569, owed £2 15s. The amount was paid and the charge withdrawn.

One of these six men, namely Bhola, is at present in gaol at Verulam. Our representative, having gained special permission from the Magistrate to interview the man with a solicitor, was able to gather a few particulars of his case. Bhola was working at the Saccharine Estate (Natal Estates), Mount Edgcombe, as a "free" man. His wages were £1 per month and he has a wife and one child. His wife does not earn anything. He himself was often unwell, but, at the time of his arrest, he was working. The police came to his hut and took him away to prison. That was the first time he had been in gaol. Asked what would become of his wife and child whilst he was in gaol, the poor man wept and said he didn't know. He had paid the tax for five years, when he was able to pay, but lately he could not pay. An order was made by the Magistrate on one occasion and he paid £1 10s. On another occasion he was ordered to pay ten shillings per month and he paid £1 and again 10s. This time he could not pay.

This, in brief, is the man's story, but it is not easy to describe the poor man's distress at finding himself in gaol, not as a criminal, but among criminals—a most pitiable example of the way a prosperous country treats the people who have done so much to make it a "garden colony."

[NOTE: We refer to the above in our leading columns.—Ed. I.O.]

Indians in Crown Colonies

Replying to a question by Sir Fazul Currimbhoy in connection with the deputation of Mr. MacNeil and Mr. Chimanlal to the Colonies, the Hon. Mr. Clark, in the Imperial Council, Delhi, communicated the following instructions which were given for the guidance of the officers deputed to the Crown Colonies importing Indian labour.

The general object of the enquiry is to report upon the conditions of life of the Indian immigrants in the colonies. The officers should also submit recommendations as to any arrangements which may be considered desirable to promote their welfare.

This general object will involve an enquiry into the following matters *inter alia*.

- (1) The housing of the labourers and the sanitary conditions in which they live.
- (2) The adequacy of medical arrangements. In this connection the birth and death rates should be examined.
- (3) Whether tasks are moderate, hours of work suitable and wages adequate. A comparison should be made between the earnings of indentured labourers and those of free labourers, taking into account the advantages derived by the former in the matter of free quarters, medical attendance, etc.
- (4) Whether the administration of justice is fairly conducted, and whether labourers meet with any difficulties in prosecuting employers or defending themselves. Whether the penalties imposed by the labour laws are in any case excessive or unsuitable.
- (5) Whether the labourers are subjected to undue restrictions outside working hours in visiting their friends or places outside their estates; and whether they enjoy sufficient facilities for proceeding to the Protector of Immigrants or to the Magistrate to lodge complaints.
- (6) The relation generally between employers and labourers.
- (7) Whether facilities are afforded to Indian labourers in the performance of marriage or other ceremonies and in the observance of their religious rites and festivals.
- (8) Whether repatriations are promptly made, and whether immigrants experience any difficulty in obtaining repatriation.

News in Brief

The Rev. Cecil Mayhew Bone has been appointed priest-in-charge of St. Aidan's Indian Mission Church, Durban, and also itinerant missionary among the Indian missions on the Coast. Mr. Bone has been in India since 1907.

Writing to Mr. Rustomjee from Beira, on his way to India, Mr. W. W. Pearson says: "I have been staying on shore with kind and hospitable Indian friends, and have seen quite a lot of Beira. It seems strange to me to find that the treatment of British Indians is far better in Portuguese territory than in British Colonies."

A deputation of distinguished Indians, says *India*, has been elected by the Committee of the Indian National Congress to proceed to England in order to represent Indian views regarding the position of Indians in South Africa, the Press Act and other important matters on which the Congress passed resolutions.