

Indian Opinion

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Indians of the Union to object to that clause in the Union-legislation, owing to the peculiar circumstances connected with that legislation, it is not only open to the Indians of Rhodesia, but it is their duty, to protest against the economic clause in the Rhodesian Bill. The circumstances in Rhodesia are totally different. There, the Imperial Government has an effective voice. There is no great Indian population in that territory. There is no great influx of Indians there. The economic clause is purely and simply designed to prohibit Indian immigration, and such prohibition can certainly not be allowed in a place where the Imperial Government has not divested itself of effective control. It would be a suicidal step for the Imperial Government to take, if it were to make the policy of indirect total prohibition one of general application throughout the British dominions outside India. It would be tantamount to a notice to British Indians never to move out of India and a denial to them of the barest practical privileges of British citizenship. We, therefore, trust that the few Indians in Rhodesia will strongly resist the Bill and lodge effective protest. We trust also that whether they do so or not, the Rhodesian Legislature will show sufficient statesmanship and patriotism to reject the total prohibition clause; and, lastly, if it fails, we sincerely hope that the Imperial Government will not fail to discharge its Imperial responsibility by vetoing the measure when it comes before it for sanction.

Immigration Appeal Boards

Mr. Mahomed Ebrahim writes to the *Natal Mercury* asking whether the Immigration Restriction Act, as amended by the Administrator to be an undesirable inhabitant of or visitor to the Territory;

Whenever the Administrator exercises any power conferred on him by this section, he shall transmit written notice of that fact to the immigration officer concerned.

4. (1) Whenever leave to enter the Territory is withheld by any immigration officer, or whenever any person is detained, restricted or arrested as a prohibited immigrant, notice of that fact and the grounds of refusal, detention, restriction, or arrest shall be given by such officer in writing to the said person.

(2) Every person to whom such notice has been given may appeal to the nearest Magistrate's Court, and such appeal shall be heard by the Magistrate or Acting Magistrate presiding at such Court, and not by an Assistant Magistrate, unless the Magistrate or Acting Magistrate be absent, and the person appealing consent to hearing of the appeal by an Assistant Magistrate.

6. No appeal shall lie from a decision of the Administrator in regard to any of the persons mentioned in section two, sub-sections (1) and (4) of this Ordinance, unless such appeal be directed to identify only of the person affected by the decision.

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IMMIGRATION ORDINANCE

7. The following persons or classes of persons shall not be prohibited immigrants for the purposes of this Ordinance, namely:—

- (4) any person domiciled in this Territory, Northern Rhodesia, or in the Bechuanaland Protectorate, and the wife and children of such person; provided that if the person so domiciled has, in accordance with any religious rite or custom prevailing outside this Territory, contracted marriage with more than one wife, the expression "wife" shall include only the first wife with whom he has contracted marriage, and the expression "children" shall include only the children procreated with such first wife;
- (5) persons of European descent who are agricultural or domestic servants, skilled artisans, mechanics, workmen or miners, and whom the Administrator shall have decided to admit to this Territory under approved conditions; provided that every such person shall produce, if required, a certificate of the person authorised in any country outside this Territory to issue such certificate, to the effect that the intending immigrant has been engaged to serve immediately on his arrival in this Territory an employer of repute, at an adequate wage, and for a period of time to be fixed in the said conditions, and not being less than one year.

8. Any person deemed to be a prohibited immigrant may be detained by an immigration officer for such reasonable period, not exceeding fourteen days, as shall be required for the purpose of making enquiries as to such person's identity and antecedents, and during such enquiry he may, unless he can provide reasonable security or bail for his appearance within the said period of fourteen days, be detained in the nearest convenient gaol.

10. (1) Every person who is suspected on reasonable grounds of being a prohibited immigrant may, if there is reason to believe that the delay occasioned by obtaining a warrant would enable such person to evade the provisions of this Ordinance, be arrested without warrant by an immigration officer or police officer, and shall be dealt with in accordance with this Ordinance.

(2) Any Magistrate may, if information on oath be laid before him that there is upon any premises a named or described person reasonably suspected of being a prohibited immigrant, issue a warrant empowering a police officer of or above the rank of sergeant to enter those premises and search for the person named or described in that warrant and arrest him.

11. No prohibited immigrant shall be exempt from the provisions of this Ordinance or be allowed to remain in the Territory, or be deemed to have acquired a domicile therein, by reason only that he had not been informed that he could not enter or remain in the Territory, or that he had been allowed to enter or remain through oversight, misrepresentation, or owing

to the fact having been undiscovered that he was such a prohibited immigrant.

12. (1) Every person arriving in the Territory, or whenever otherwise found within the Territory, shall, if required, appear before an immigration officer and satisfy such officer that he is not a prohibited immigrant. The immigration officer may require every such person—

- (a) to make and sign a declaration in the prescribed form; and
- (b) to produce documentary or other evidence relative to his claim to enter or be in the Territory; and
- (c) to submit to any examination or test to which he may be lawfully subjected under this Ordinance.

(2) The immigration officer shall permit every person who he is satisfied is not, or who obviously is not, a prohibited immigrant, forthwith to remain in the Territory, but if any person fail to comply with the requirements of *sub-section (1)*, or, having complied with such requirements, fail to satisfy the immigration officer that he is not a prohibited immigrant, he shall be declared by the said officer to be a prohibited immigrant, and shall not be permitted to remain in the Territory. The immigration officer shall thereupon inform the said person in writing that he may appeal to the Magistrate's Court, and that the appeal must be noted within three days after the said person has been declared by the immigration officer to be a prohibited immigrant.

17. (1) Anything to the contrary notwithstanding in this Ordinance contained, the Administrator may, in his discretion, exempt any person from the provisions of *sub-sections (1), (2), (3) or (4) of section two*, or may authorise the issue of a temporary permit to any prohibited immigrant to enter and reside in the Territory upon such conditions as may be lawfully imposed by regulation.

(2) The Administrator may also in his discretion authorise the issue of a certificate of identity to any person who is lawfully resident in the Territory, and who, desiring to proceed thereout with the intention of returning thereto, is for any reason apprehensive that he will be unable to prove on his return that he is not a prohibited immigrant.

(3) The Administrator may authorise persons outside the Territory to issue to any intending immigrant a certificate that he is exempt from the provisions of *sub-section (1) of section two*, but no such certificate shall be recognised in the Territory unless the holder thereof furnish to the immigration officer such proof as is prescribed by regulation of his identity with the immigrant to whom the certificate was originally issued.

18. (1) The Administrator may make regulations, not inconsistent with this Ordinance, prescribing—

- (a) the powers and duties of immigration officers;
- (b) the steps to be taken to prevent the entrance of prohibited immigrants into the Territory;
- (c) the times, places, and conduct of the enquiry or examination, medical or otherwise, of persons entering or desiring to enter the Territory who, being found in the Territory, are suspected of being prohibited immigrants or unlawfully resident therein;
- (d) the procedure for, and the manner of, the detention of prohibited immigrants and unlawful residents, pending their removal from the Territory, and the procedure necessary for and the manner of such removal;
- (e) the means to be taken for the identification of any person believed to be a prohibited immigrant, including the taking of photographs and finger-print impressions, etc., etc.

20. In this Ordinance, and in the regulations thereunder, unless inconsistent with the context—

"Domicile" shall mean the place in which a person has his present home, or in which he resides, or to which he returns as his place of present permanent

abode, and not for a mere special or temporary purpose; and a person shall not be deemed to have a domicile within the Territory for the purposes of this Ordinance unless he has resided therein for at least two years otherwise than under terms of conditional or temporary residence permitted by this Ordinance or any other law or as a person under detention in a prison, gaol, reformatory or lunatic asylum; and a person shall be deemed for the purposes of this Ordinance to have lost his domicile within the Territory if he voluntarily go and reside outside the Territory (except for a special or temporary purpose) with the intention of making his home outside the Territory.

amended Municipal Ordinance of the provisions securing registration and medical inspection of domestic servants and children's nurses, with a view to preventing the spread of contagious or loathsome disease, the Mayor (Mr. Oppenheimer) said he was quite sure that the Council would not support the thing as it stood. The Council's object was not only to prevent the disease from spreading to European children, but to prevent its spreading to coloured and native children. As so, if anything was to be done, he wanted to make it clear that it was his and the Council's wish that it should be done to protect everyone, and not one section of the community merely. They should do anything they could to deal with this, so long as it was not class legislation and it applied to every section of the community.

The workers are beginning to take sides (says the *International News Letter*) against coloured labour, which often includes Southern Italians, Turks, Spaniards and Greeks, all of whom can manage to exist upon the half of the usual local wages and to save upon same. They live all huddled up together, dress and eat in a most primitive manner and know nothing of the more modern conditions of civilisation. Not only the difference in the language but especially the positively insurmountable difference in customs renders it impossible to raise these workers to the level of the indigenous workers. So long as this is impossible, not only is the further progress of the indigenous worker retarded, but his very existence is threatened. It is, therefore, not surprising that the rift between the races should become wider and wider, much to the advantage of the employers. But it is obviously impossible to permanently exclude the other races (having regard to the modern means of communication, commercial demands, etc.) merely because they are also workers. All the more is necessary that the workers of all the modern countries extend their organisation work directly or indirectly to their less fortunate fellow-workers in the backward

The Colour Bar in Cabs

The *Evening Chronicle* relates how a well-dressed man, apparently an Englishman, accompanied by two well-dressed Indians, went up to a taxi-driver in Commissioner Street, opposite the Imperial Bar, and asked to be driven to another part of the city. The driver refused to take the fares on account of their colour. The white man went away and returned with Constable A26, who ordered the driver to allow the three to get into his car and drive them to wherever they wanted to go.

This is the second case of this sort (says the *Chronicle*) which has been reported of late. In the other case, a cab-driver was ordered by a constable to accept a coloured fare. He interviewed the Inspector of Vehicles, and was told that he could get no redress. We were informed at the time that it was the intention of the Cab-drivers' Union to test the validity of the policeman's order, but so far have heard nothing of it. Unless the cab- and taxi-drivers' unions take steps in the matter without delay, the colour bar will be effectively raised so far as licensed cabs and motor-cars are concerned.

From the Editor's Chair

THE RHODESIAN BILL

WE reprint the most important sections of the Rhodesian Immigration Bill which was published in the *Rhodesian Gazette* dated 24th April, 1914. It is almost a copy of the Union Immigration Act. The most objectionable part of the Bill is the economic clause. Whilst it might not have been open to the Indians of the Union to object to that clause in the Union-legislation, owing to the peculiar circumstances connected with that legislation, it is not only open to the Indians of Rhodesia, but it is their duty, to protest against the economic clause in the Rhodesian Bill. The circumstances in Rhodesia are totally different. There, the Imperial Government has an effective voice. There is no great Indian population in that territory. There is no great influx of Indians there. The economic clause is purely and simply designed to prohibit Indian immigration, and such prohibition can certainly not be allowed in a place where the Imperial Government has not divested itself of effective control. It would be a suicidal step for the Imperial Government to take, if it were to make the policy of indirect total prohibition one of general application throughout the British dominions outside India. It would be tantamount to a notice to British Indians never to move out of India and a denial to them of the barest practical privileges of British citizenship. We, therefore, trust that the few Indians in Rhodesia will strongly resent the Bill and lodge effective protest. We trust also that, whether they do so or not, the Rhodesian Legislature will show sufficient statesmanship and patriotism to reject the total prohibition clause; and, lastly, if it fails, we sincerely hope that the Imperial Government will not fail to discharge its Imperial responsibility by vetoing the measure when it comes before it for sanction.

Immigration Appeal Boards

Mr. Mahomed Ebrahim writes to the *Natal Mercury* asking whether the Immigration Restriction Appeal Board is entitled to prevent the access of the public to the hearing of cases on appeal. As Mr. Mahomed Ebrahim was interested in a certain appeal, he attended at the Court to follow the proceedings, but, to his dismay, an Officer of the Immigration Department refused to allow him to enter, saying that the proceedings were private.

In connection with the above matter, we have made enquiries among pressmen in Durban, and we find that, since the Appeal Boards held their sittings at the Law Courts, nothing has been heard of their proceedings. It appears that the Board now sits in the Immigration Office, and the press has not been informed of the change. Consequently no reports have appeared in the Durban papers.

Our representative made it his business to call upon the Immigration Officer, when he was informed that the proceedings were open to the press and the public, but he added that it was desirable, if they wished to gain admittance to the Board-room, to be there before the Board commenced work; otherwise, after the door was closed, no one could be allowed to enter. We have made special arrangements to secure a full report of the proceedings held yesterday morning.

Education Report

From the Report of the Superintendent of Education for the Province of Natal for the year 1913, we take the following:—

During 1913, there were 655 schools under Government inspection, 328 European Schools, 267 Native Schools, 41 Indian Schools and 19 Schools for Coloured Children, with an average enrolment of 43,241 (22,047 boys and 21,194 girls), consisting of 17,093 Europeans (8,980 boys and 8,113 girls), 20,098 Natives (8,350 boys and 11,748 girls), 4,693 Indians (4,058 boys and 635 girls), and 1,357 Coloured Children (659 boys and 698 girls). In addition, there are two Technical Institutes—Pietermaritzburg and Durban—with an attendance of 1,267 students. Attention is drawn to the following facts:—While there were 10 more schools in the aggregate than in the previous year, the European Schools numbered 26 less, the Native 36 more, the Indian 2 more, and the Coloured 2 less. In the Native Schools, the girls exceed the boys in number by 3,398, while in the Indian Schools the reverse holds good, there being 3,423 more boys than girls. Perhaps the main reason for the former disparity is the fact that the Native boy is required to go to work, while the girl is not; and, in regard to the Indian, it is a question of caste and custom. The average enrolment showed an increase on the previous year of 3,645 pupils, and of that number 796 were Europeans, 2,246 Natives, 597 Indians, and 6 Coloured children. The Technical Institutes had one pupil more than in 1912.

The following table, which is based on the expenditure of the Department, exclusive of administration, buildings, furniture, rent charges, and the cost of stationery supplied by the Department of the Interior, shows the average cost to the Government for educating each child calculated on the average attendance:—

	£	s.	d.
All Schools	3	9	8½
All European Schools	6	16	3½
All Indian Schools	2	0	3
All Schools for Coloured Children	4	7	5½
Native Schools	0	19	6
Govt. Secondary and Preparatory Schools	6	3	5
" Primary Schools	8	6	9½
" Indian Schools	4	4	1
" Schools for Coloured Children	6	2	0½
" Aided European Fixed Schools	3	14	10
" Aided European Farm Schools	5	3	6½
" Aided Indian Schools	1	11	10½
" Aided Schools for Coloured Children	3	7	2½

Inspector Mr. Lawlor writes:—S. Anthony's R.C. Indian School, Maritzburg, was transferred from the old inadequate chapel in Loop Street to more commodious premises in Pietermaritz Street. With its various classrooms, in which suggested modifications were promptly carried out, it must now be considered the most satisfactory Indian School Building in the district. S. Paul's Anglican Indian School has reverted to the practice of separating the boys from the girls.

It is pleasant to notice that the practice of employing older Indian girls as pupil teachers under adequate supervision has improved the Infant Work in Indian Schools. Previous to this innovation, the excessive size of the baby classes nullified the value of much initial work.

In regard to Indian Schools in the Coast District, Inspector Mr. Ballance says:—

The Indian Schools in the Coast District number 27, 3 of which are Government Schools. With few exceptions these schools continue to improve. During the year two new schools have been opened—Mount Edgcombe, and St. Thomas', Rooi Kopjes. St. Philomena's has been closed, and others have been either renovated or enlarged, as Cato Manor, Springfield, Stanger, Malvern, Fairbreeze, Redhill, Verulam, and one school has been entirely rebuilt—Sydenham Indian Girls. Their general condition is better and

the teachers are better paid in many cases, and those certificated form a larger percentage. Manual work now occupies a larger part of the curriculum, but, until the regulations for the Indian Certificates produce a properly qualified set of teachers, this branch of instruction will necessarily be lacking in thoroughness in most of the schools. In the Sydenham Girl's School, which is an entirely new building, admirably adapted for its purpose, manual and domestic work is well and successfully taught, and these girls are receiving a training which will prove of great value to them in after life. It must be admitted that in many of the Indian Schools the tendency is to advance academic studies at the expense of anything in the shape of manual and domestic training, and it appears to be increasingly evident that a permanent change would be hard to obtain unless a new syllabus is adopted, embodying the above aims, and the acceptance of the Government grant is made contingent upon a full and complete adoption of such syllabus. An improvement is discernible in the teaching of geography and history, though the old indifference is sometimes met with. The academic year for Indian Schools now ends in June."

Commerce and Industries Commission

Two members of the Durban branch of the Typographical Union gave evidence on the Printing Industry before the above Commission.

On the question of a minimum wage and the employment of coloured labour, the following questions were put and answered:—

In this country, we have the coloured people indigenous to the country. Do you think it is fair that a coloured man who is skilled, but not sufficiently skilled to earn the minimum wage, should be debarred from earning a living in the industries? Yes; I think the Government and everybody should employ white labour.

I understand you to mean that the skilled coloured man who is a printer, but not sufficiently skilled to earn the minimum wage based on the cost of living of the white man, should not get work. You tell me that he has no business to be employed in a trade, but that he should go back and be a "hewer of wood and a drawer of water"?

The idea is to send them back to the land.

You say that the coloured man has no right to work at a trade? That is so.

Do you think that any Government would sanction that?—It is the feeling of the people. They do it in Australia.

We have had a suggestion made to us that a bounty be given to the firm or manufacturer employing white men, on the basis of the wages bill, that is, if, for instance, the man is paying to white employees £120 a year, the Government should give him £20 a year bounty?

I would give him a bounty on the number of employees.

You would give a bounty on the wages bill?—On the white wages bill.

Where would you get the money?—From the same source as for rinderpest and tick fever.

The Sugar Industry

From a statement put in by the Natal Sugar Association, we find that the approximate number of employees and rate per month of wages, salaries and allowances were stated to be:—European—Male, skilled 636, £25; Asiatic—Free, Male unskilled 1,250, £2; Asiatic—Indentured, Male unskilled 11,515, £2; Females and Children unskilled 5,505, £1; Native—Male, unskilled 2,380, £2.

The Association submitted that Customs duty on

sugar should be regulated by polariscope test, and that, in view of the stoppage of indentured labour, there should be an increase in the rate of duty, being at the rate of £8 per ton on sugar polarizing 99.4, with a reduction of 3s. per degree with a minimum rate of £6 per ton, and that the duty on golden syrup should be the highest duty levied on sugar.

Mr. Saunders, in his written statement, said:—

The raw material can be very largely increased, provided fiscal arrangements are reasonable and some source of regular labour can be found to replace Indians coming out under indenture. A regular and reliable supply of unskilled labour is an absolute necessity.

There is practically no waste in manufacture.

In answer to the question—Could the percentage of white labour be increased, and, if so, by what means?—the witness said:—

"Yes—by encouraging manufacturers through Customs and at the same time levying an excise. As an example, say, for argument's sake, an assessment of white labour be made which the industry can stand, which would be arrived at by people specially appointed in each case, suppose they assess sugar at 20 per cent. white labour, my proposition would then be: levy an excise of £3 per ton and simultaneously increase existing duty by the same amount, the man who employs 20 per cent. white labour to have a rebate of the whole amount of excise, the man who does not to have no rebate."

"An increase of duty owing to stoppage of Indian labour to £7 per ton."

In reply to the question—in what other way can local production and manufacture be stimulated and encouraged?—the witness said:—

"Given reasonable protection and a supply of reliable labour, no encouragement is required, as the industry is sufficiently established to expand, but without a reliable supply of unskilled labour the industry must of necessity languish."

Mr. Hawksworth stated that the percentage of white labour was being gradually increased by the use of labour-saving mechanical devices, but that an adequate supply of cheap black labour is absolutely necessary for the rough work. No suitable white labour could be got to replace the black for unskilled work, nor would it be advisable, as only those of an undesirable class could be employed at the wage the industry could afford to pay.

The representative of the Natal Sugar Association said:—The industry was almost entirely dependent on the supply of indentured labourers from India; they also employed about 1,200 free Indians, and Natives to a considerable extent. The total number of unskilled labourers employed is 21,286. The total had increased slightly on the original figures handed in, owing to development, but not considerably, except as regards European labour. Their trouble is that, for reasons they did not understand, there has been a stoppage of the supply of labour from India.

The conditions of indenture prior to the stoppage are given as being:—

When the Indian leaves India, he is distinctly told that he will not be allowed to have in Natal all the rights of a British subject, unless he pays a licence of £3 per annum for himself and his wife and his children over 14 years of age. He is given the option of returning to India or of paying the licence.

But the cost of paying those licences was great and hardly any Indians availed themselves of that option. The bulk re-indenture.

After their first five years' indentures are over, they have the opportunity to look round for a month and choose a new master, if they wish. They then make a civil contract with their new master. At the end of two years, they have the same opportunity again. If they do not avail themselves of that opportunity or pay £3 a year licence, they have the right, with their families, to a free passage to India.

About 60 per cent. are going back to India, but large numbers were re-indenturing owing to the conditions imposed.

The Association had no solution of the labour difficulty to offer at present.

Native Evictions in the Transvaal

We (the *Christian Express*) desire to call attention to the oppressive conditions from which many Natives in the Transvaal are suffering, conditions which in their present acute form have been accentuated since the introduction of the Native Land Act. Under the Kruger regime much land occupied by Natives was "given" or sold by the Republican Government to European farmers, often absentee, in entire disregard of the rights of the Native occupants. These latter were as little taken into account as the buck which might be on the farms. The new owners sooner or later asserted their rights, and the Natives became mere tenants-at-will. At any time they might be ordered to quit, and to leave their houses, and, where such existed, their church and school buildings. In this respect the Land Act theoretically has introduced no change, except that heretofore Native tenants when required to leave one farm were free to hire land elsewhere, which under the Act they can no longer do. Practically, however, the precarious tenure, the capricious removal, the loss of buildings, and the reduction to a state of vagabondage, which have long been the occasional experience of the Natives, have, since the passing of the Act, become their frequent experience. Farmers have taken the occasion of the introduction of the Land Act to enforce their rights. They have terminated the rent-paying agreements with their former Native tenants, and, knowing that these are precluded from making new agreements for the hire of land, have either ejected them or, as the condition of their being allowed to remain, have demanded from them three months' unpaid service per annum. The Act has thus been the indirect occasion of the reduction of a free people to a condition of service not far removed from serfdom.

But it is to the harsh conditions under which these changes are being made that we direct special attention: In one instance that has recently come to our notice, a chief and his people have been living on land on which they and their fathers have dwelt for eight generations. This "farm" recently was purchased by a farmer resident in another Province who decided to terminate rent-paying conditions previously in existence between the former owner and the Natives, and to substitute labour conditions under which even the chief, an old man, has been required to give service. The people were called on to quit their houses, which are square buildings of bricks and timber and thatched. Most of the people are Christians and had erected a good building which they used for church and school purposes. In connection with this, the new owner gave less than one month's notice in the following terms: "This is to notify you that I can let you have the school building no longer. I bought the farm and wish to receive same at the end of your school quarter."

In another instance, from the Northern Transvaal, the Natives have been given only three months to leave the place occupied by them and their fathers for generations. They have to abandon their houses with their beams, doors and thatch, and their school-room.

These are typical instances exemplifying the hardship and the callous enforcement of "rights" which is going on. The Native Affairs Department, when appealed to, indicated that, in such cases, Natives may have to abandon a claim which it might be advisable for them to seek legal assistance to enforce. Few Natives in such circumstances would go to law, knowing full well that the expenses of such suits would consume most, or all, of any compensation that might be awarded to them.

The £3 Tax

In the House of Assembly, on the 5th instant, the Minister of Justice, in replying to Mr. Nathan (Von Brandis), said the right of prosecution for the recovery of the £3 from Indians in Natal was vested in the Attorney-General. He had requested the Attorney-General to consider the advisability of suspending prosecution for the recovery of this tax, pending the matter being taken up by Parliament. Only one Indian was in custody for non-payment of the tax, and this man had been released.

Mr. De Wet, as Minister of Justice, disclaimed having given any orders to stop prosecutions for the non-payment of the £3 Indian tax, says the Parliamentary correspondent of the *Natal Mercury*, but he has given advice in that direction, which the Attorney-General of Natal has, perhaps not indiscreetly, regarded in the light of a command. The prosecutions are to be discontinued pending the settlement of the Asiatic question by Parliament. It is understood that there will be legislation during this session on the lines of the report presented by the Solomon-Esselen Commission.

Ordered Off the Footpath

The Town Clerk of East London has inserted a Corporation Notice in the local papers, to the effect that: in terms of amended Regulation No. 7 of the Miscellaneous Regulations of the Municipality of East London, approved and allowed by His Excellency the Governor on the 30th December, 1903, and promulgated in Government Gazette No. 8613 of the 12th January, 1904, the Municipal Council of East London has, by resolution, declared certain streets, thoroughfares or squares to be principal streets, thoroughfares or squares, in addition to those already so declared, and that Natives and Asiatics shall not be allowed or authorised to congregate, stand or walk upon any side-walk or pavement in any such street, thoroughfare or square, and that this resolution shall come into force on the 23rd day of May, 1914.

In his book "The Indians of South Africa", Mr. Polak gives the following paragraph regarding the position of Indians in East London:—"The only Municipality in the Cape Colony where there are specific anti-Indian by-laws is East London. In this unique town, municipal regulations were promulgated under Act No. 11 of 1895, by virtue whereof British Indians, even though considerable merchants, registered voters and large rate-payers, have been reduced to the status of the African aboriginal Native. These Regulations prohibit their using the side-walks in the public street; being out in the streets after 8 p.m. without a pass; residing and carrying on their business, within certain limits of the municipal area, except upon securing a municipal certificate—literally a police pass—both which first-mentioned disabilities have been considered by the best legal opinion in the Colony to be *ultra vires*. Whilst the East London Indians are thus legally and practically deprived of their full individual liberty, and placed below the level of their own Kaffir servants, they have, as masters and employers, to grant permits allowing freedom of movement in the town to these very servants, who are also otherwise protected and whose interests are safeguarded by special legislation. Many other petty insults are put upon them, such as not being allowed the use of the benches in the public parks, which benches are marked "for Europeans only"; the ferry boats on the Buffalo River are barred to them, except with considerable trouble and inconvenience; in the public markets British Indians are relegated with the Kaffirs, whilst the white people are granted separate stands; and in the public tram-cars, Indians are not allowed inside. As these are municipal regulations, the Cape Government, though sympathetic, can do nothing to procure relief.

Returning Immigrants

A member of our staff was present at the Depôt on Monday morning, when the Protector was preparing the list of those Indians who were to return to India by the *Umkusi* to-day. There was a large number of sick and infirm persons being sent back, on the doctor's orders, before their indentures had expired. They included a man who was shot at Esperanza during the strike, men and women suffering from phthisis and other diseases, and also very old people. The Protector allotted to those who claimed to be destitute £1 or £2 from the fund accumulated from intestate estates of indentured Indians. These ailing people would, it was understood, be sent, on arrival at Madras or Calcutta, direct to their homes and, if necessary, an attendant would accompany them.

The free Indians, of whom there was a large number, would be sent only to the port, they having to pay their own railway fare inland, unless, as in rare instances, they claimed to be without funds. All these men had paid their own railway fares to Durban, which they are accustomed to do, although it is an undoubted hardship where men have been allotted to far—distant places. There is, however, no provision in the law for paying the fares of these people to the coast.

Many of the people had just returned from having their clothing fumigated—this being a requirement of the Government of India. Although there have not been for years any cases of infection by "jigger-flea," it appears that there is still the fear of this insect.

The free Indians appeared to be quite reconciled to going away never to return, and seemed to be glad to go back to their native villages. Some had complaints, and one man had lost all his savings by gambling, but they evidently thought the best thing they could do, under the circumstances, was to shake the dust of Natal from their heels. One man with a family said that, if he could be quite sure that the £3 tax would be repealed, he would like to stay, but, as there was no absolute certainty about it, he could not afford to lose the chance now offered of returning to India free of cost.

News in Brief

The Krugersdorp Municipality has issued a summons against Mr. Mahomed Hassan in the Supreme Court for ejection from Burghershoop and interdict from living or trading in the location.

The Minister of the Interior has his projected Indian legislation ready for introduction into the Assembly, but there seems some doubt as to the chances the measure will have during the present session (says the Parliamentary Correspondent of the *Star*, Johannesburg.)

A Johannesburg suburban Association, styled the "Jeppe Extension and Belgravia Ratepayers' Vigilance Association", has commenced an active agitation for the removal of an Indian laundryman and some coloured shopkeepers. The Managing Director of the Corporation controlling the Township has expressed "sympathy" in the matter, but has pointed out certain legal difficulties.

We understand that several hundred Indians have been recruited at Durban for work at Beira under agreements. Those contemplating such a step should be warned against entering into any arrangements whereby they will lose their domicile rights in Natal. We have a vivid recollection of what happened to those who were fortunate enough to return from Lobito Bay with their lives. Those who could not satisfy the authorities that they had a legal right to return were not allowed to land but were sent away to India, in spite of their own and their friends' protests.

The following was set down by Mr. Meyler in the House for yesterday:—To ask the Minister of the Interior: (1) Whether the attention of the Government has been called to a case recently heard before a Magistrate in Natal, in which an Indian named Muruga Goundam was sentenced to pay a fine of 20s. or to suffer imprisonment for ten days with hard labour, on a charge of trespass, when it was admitted that this Indian had only visited his wife, who was an indentured Indian on a sugar estate; (2) has the Government received any report on this case from the Protector of Indians, and, if so, will such report be laid on the Table of the House; and (3) if no such report has been furnished by the Protector of Indians, will the Government call for one and lay the same on the Table of the House?

In the course of the debate in the House of Assembly on a fair-wage clause in the Rand Water Bill, Mr. Henwood supported the amendment, and said the fair-wage clause worked satisfactorily in Durban. Mr. Merriman, in reply to Mr. Henwood's remarks, said that once upon a time they wanted to paint the standards in Durban carrying the electric cables, and the Municipality, going to the cheapest market, got excellent Zulus at 1s. 6d. per day. The Trades Unions stepped in, and said that it was a white man's work. Then followed a compromise, and the Zulus were allowed to paint the top of the poles, which was dangerous, because it was near the live wire, while the Trades Unionists boldly painted the bottom of the standards at "twelve bob a day." (Laughter.)

Amongst the new Customs charges is an increase of one penny per pound on ghee—making it 3½d. There is no duty on butter. The *Natal Advertiser* remarks:—Some of the new charges are likely to act very harshly upon certain sections of the community. In this respect mention is made of ghee, which is brought under the clause of butter substitutes. It is felt that this was not the intention of the Minister, nor of the Commissioner of Customs, upon whose advice the new tariff has been, quite evidently, formulated. The real intention was to keep out the imports of such substitutes which could be palmed off as butter, and ghee does not come under this category. If it be contended that the Union Government has refrained (which is unlikely) from increasing the Customs charge on rice for fear of creating a bad impression with the Indian, it may equally be said that the same fear should operate in respect to ghee, which cannot be regarded as a substitute for butter.

An ethical point of no little importance was brought out by Mr. Ramsay MacDonald in a speech made at the opening last week of a missionary exhibition in Leicester. The influence of Western thought and education was greatly changing the nature of the task confronting the European missionary in India, and, said Mr. MacDonald, there was one problem which could not fail to weigh upon the mind of the observer. Many Indians were coming from their own country to England, and we were sending them back worse in character than when they came.

"The greatest missionary enterprise," Mr. MacDonald added, "is our own social life at home. Missionaries go to Bombay, Madras, and Calcutta, and tell of the spiritual glories of the faith professed in the Motherland. Some of their hearers come over here, walk your streets, perambulate your Piccadillys, and go back with a sneer on their lips and condemnation of you and your faith together. That is the greatest tragedy going on in India to-day, and because of it missionaries are hampered at every turn."—*India*.