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IMMIGRATION APPEAL BOARD

THE Natal Immigration Board sat in the Immigration Offices at the Point on the 12th instant, says the *Natal Mercury*, for the purpose of hearing further appeals under the Immigration Restriction Act of last year, and in one case came to a decision directly in conflict with a recent decision of the Supreme Court of the Province, on a question of the rights of Indians who were domiciled but left the country prior to the passing of the Act referred to. The case was that in which Mahomed Ebrahim Seedat, formerly a storekeeper at Verulam, appealed against the decision of the Principal Immigration Officer, who had declared the appellant to be a prohibited immigrant on the ground that he had abandoned his domicile. The members of the Board present were Messrs. J. L. Knight (Chairman), T. McGibbon, and G. A. Champion.

Prior to hearing the appeal, Mr. H. R. Teague, Acting Principal Immigration Officer, said he would like to draw attention to a certain letter in that day's *Mercury* signed by an Indian, and saying that the Department had refused permission to the public to be present at the meetings of the Board. The action of the Board had been misrepresented in the letter. There was no refusal to the man in question or anybody else to be present at the meeting of the Board referred to. The position was simply this: the accommodation in the room was not very great, and, if a good many people were to attend, the matter should first be submitted to the chairman, so that he could see whether the accommodation would be sufficient and that there would be no overcrowding. People had never been refused admission, and if they wished to be present it was only a matter of courtesy to the Board that they should first communicate with the chairman, in order that the deliberations of the Board should not be interfered with. He only wished to mention the matter because, apparently, it had been made a grievance by certain parties.

The Chairman said he saw the letter, and was rather surprised to read it. When the Board was established, it was decided that the public should be admitted, as to any other court. They had not much accommodation in that room, which was not like an ordinary Court-room, with seating accommodation for the plaintiff. It certainly was a mistake to say that the work of the Board was carried out in a hole-and-corner manner.

The appeal of Mahomed Ebrahim Seedat was then proceeded with.

The Acting Principal Immigration Officer said that the appellant arrived from India by the S.S. *Surat* on April 7 last. According to a statement made by him to the Immigration Officer, the appellant came to Natal in 1903, and obtained a certificate of domicile prior to his return to India in 1905 or early in 1906. He took his wife and family with him, and had lived in India ever since. He had left no property of any description in South Africa, and had left his wife and family in India. The Department contended that the appellant

had abandoned any domicile which he might have acquired.

Mr. A. Cummings, immigration officer, put in the necessary affidavits.

The appellant was called and examined by Mr. Leon Renaud, who appeared in support of the appeal. He said that when the appellant left for India it was his intention to return after an absence of 12 months. His daughter, however, met with an accident, and had been suffering for six years. He wanted to bring his family back with him to Natal, but the shipping company would not allow the daughter to travel by the ship. He had left £110 with his brother, living in Verulam, in order that on his return he (appellant) would be able to start in business. During his sojourn in India he and his family had been kept by his father and mother. He had four brothers now resident in various parts of Natal.

Mr. L. Renaud held that the case was on all fours with that of Daya Ratanjee, decided in the Natal Supreme Court on October 20th, 1913, and reported in vol. 34, "Natal Law Reports." In the present case, the Immigration Restriction Officer admitted that the applicant arrived in Natal in 1893 or 1894, and that he stayed there till 1906, when he left for India, after acquiring a domicile certificate. In the case of Ratanjee, it was held that he had acquired a domicile in Natal by common law, and by nature of consecutive residence under Section 32 of Act 30 of 1903, he having arrived in 1896, and lived in Natal till 1906. In Ratanjee's case the Supreme Court held that he, having previously acquired a domicile in Natal by common law and residence, Act 30 of 1903 conferred upon him the right of living in Natal, and to return to Natal at any subsequent period, irrespective of whether, in the meantime, he lost his domicile in Natal and acquired another or not. Such a right, the Supreme Court held, had not been abrogated by the Immigration Regulation Act No. 22 of 1913, and therefore Ratanjee was entitled to enter the Province. The Judges held that Act 22 of 1913 did not deprive a person who had acquired a domicile in the Province under the Act of 1903 of his rights, but the Act applied in futurity, and would affect only persons who might have left the country subsequent to the passing of the Act of 1913. The decision in the case was made for the future guidance of the Board, who were bound by it.

After hearing Mr. Teague,

The Chairman said the Board, being the creation of Act 22 of 1913, was bound by its enactments, and, further, that an applicant for admission to the Union must establish his rights as defined by the Act. In the present case the Board considered that the Appellant had clearly lost his domicile as defined by Section 30 of the Act, when he left the country, with the whole of his family, leaving no property whatever in South Africa, and remained away for eight years. His return now could only be considered as temporary, inasmuch as he had

not brought back his wife and family. The Board was not satisfied with his subsequent statement that he left £110 in Natal, and, even if this were true, that would not confer any rights upon him. The appeal, therefore, would be dismissed. In view, however, of his previous long residence, and of his four children having been born in Natal, and of the fact that his four brothers were residing in the Province, the Board considered that his case was one which might be remitted to the Minister for consideration.

Another Similar Case

The Immigration Appeal Board, sitting in the Immigration Offices on the 15th instant, says the *Natal Mercury*, heard the appeal of Mahomed Ismail Cassoo, who had been declared a prohibited immigrant under the Immigration Regulation Act of 1913. The members of the Board present were: Mr. J. L. Knight (Chairman), Mr. T. McCubbin, C.M.G., and Mr. G. A. Champion.

Mr. H. Stuart said, that, with a view to shortening the proceedings, he had agreed with the Acting Immigration Officer as to certain admitted facts. On these facts he (Mr. Stuart) wished to have reserved certain points of law, in terms of Schedule 3 of Act 22 of 1913. He then read the following admitted facts: Appellant is an Indian whose father in 1901 was legally resident in Natal. Appellant came to Natal in 1901, being then under 16 years of age. He resided there non-interruptedly till 1906, when, desiring to proceed to India, he was given a domicile certificate, which he still held. He returned to Natal during the present year, and was prohibited entry into the Province, on the ground that he had abandoned his domicile, under Section 30 of Act 22 of 1913. He (Mr. Stuart) wished, on behalf of the appellant, to have the following points of law reserved: (1) Does Section 30 of Act 22 of 1913 take away or affect the domiciliary rights already acquired by appellant under the repealed Acts 30 of 1913 and 3 of 1906; in other words, does not the section only refer to persons leaving the Province after the passing of that Act? (2) Under Section 5 (f) of Act 22 of 1913 does not the possession of a domicile certificate legally acquired estop the Immigration Officer from declaring appellant a prohibited immigrant?

Mr. Souter, immigration officer, then put in certain affidavits, including one by the appellant. In this the appellant said he was a free Indian, 25 years of age, and was married in India eight years ago. He had a wife and two children, who were now in India, and had never been in South Africa. He first came to South Africa in 1901 with his father, and lived in Durban for a few months, proceeding afterwards to Dundee, where he worked as an assistant in a store for four years. He left Natal for India in 1906, having previously acquired a certificate of domicile. He worked as a market-gardener in India, where he now had a house and 10 acres of land. He had no property in South Africa, but his father, before returning to India, left for the use of the appellant £20 with the firm of Ibrahim Ismail & Co., by whom he was employed. Appellant had no receipt for the money, but he was sure he could get it. He could not read or write in any European language.

In a supporting affidavit, Ibrahim Ismail stated that a sum of £20 was left with his firm on behalf of appellant, but there was no record of the money in the firm's books.

Mr. Teague, Acting Principal Immigration Officer, contended that by reason of his long absence in India and his having left no property in South Africa, but having his whole interests in India, the appellant had abandoned whatever rights he had in the Province.

Mr. Stuart stated that the Supreme Court had held that the Act of 1913 was not retrospective, and the Board was bound to abide by it. Under Section 3 of the Act the Board might, of its own motion, or at the

request of the appellant, reserve any point of law for the decision of the Supreme Court. In a "question of law" was included the question of domicile.

The Chairman, in giving the decision of the Board, said: The Board, in considering the question of domicile, is concerned only with the definition of domicile in Section 30 of Act 22 of 1913, and, if a domicile certificate under a former statute is produced, it may be received as affording evidence of domicile, but the question of any rights claimed to have been conferred by such certificate is a matter outside the scope of the Board's consideration, and the Board therefore refuses to consider the matter or to receive it as a question of law arising upon the appeal, because, in the opinion of the Board, the fact that the appellant left no property or interests whatever in South Africa, and lived outside of it during the past eight years, and owns property, a house and 10 acres of land, in India, and his wife and family reside there and have never been in South Africa, he has lost any domicile he may ever have had, and the appeal is dismissed.

In answer to Mr. Stuart, the Chairman said that the appellant would be allowed to remain in the country until the questions of law raised in the case had been settled.

Indian Strikers Charged

At Verulam Court, on the 12th instant, before Mr. Maynard Matthews, twenty-two indentured Indians employed by the Natal Estates, Ltd., were charged with public violence in that they took part in the riot at or near Blackburn Estate on the 27th November last.

Sergt. Hatterill prosecuted for the Crown and Mr. Langston appeared for the defence.

The accused, on the advice of their solicitor, pleaded guilty to the charge.

Mr. Langston then addressed the Court. He said that there were circumstances which made it expedient for these men to plead guilty. He did not think that it would be a desirable thing for all the unpleasant details to be gone over again. The affray happened at a time when all concerned had lost their heads and they were not altogether to blame for what happened. He did not think that the method of approaching these people was a good one. Instead of Lieut. Clark of the S.A.M.R. being accompanied by a qualified Indian interpreter, he had to ask Mr. Colin Campbell to interpret for him. He was their master and the Indians would consider that he had come to compel them to work. Then there was the arrest of Selvan who was subsequently killed. This man was not under indenture at that time. He was a free man. When he was asked whether he would go to work, he replied that he would wait until the trouble was over before entering into a contract of re-indenture. This man's arrest was considered to be the commencement of an attack upon them. It was an unfortunate mistake that this particular man should have been arrested. Mr. Langston pointed out that, up to the time of Selvan's arrest, there had been no riot or disturbance. If the intention of the Indians had been to create trouble, they could have easily burnt the sugar cane and destroyed the mill; but nothing of the sort happened. In regard to any punishment which his Worship might decide to inflict, he would ask him to take into consideration the fact that these men had already received very severe punishment. They had been in gaol for nearly six months awaiting trial; during that period they had lost in wages about £8 each, and many of them had been more or less seriously injured by the sticks and revolvers of the police. Some had been dangerously wounded and had been confined to hospital for a considerable time. He thought that all this was in itself a very severe punishment for anything they might have done. He had, therefore, no hesitation in asking the Court to take a lenient view of the matter and impose only a small fine.

Sergt Hatterill, whilst not opposing the request for leniency, said that the attack on the police was deliberate, and that many of the men were badly knocked about by the missiles thrown by the Indians. He considered, too, that they were the aggressors and that they had no excuse whatever in acting as they did. He pointed out seven of the accused as being ring-leaders and asked that they should receive more severe sentences than the others.

In passing sentence, Mr. Matthews, addressing the accused Indians, said that the offence with which they were charged was a serious one and they had acted wrongly in resorting to violent methods. He was prepared, however, to take into consideration the facts as stated by their solicitor, and, in view, too, of their plea of guilty, he would, instead of sentencing the ring-leaders to a fine of £20 or six months' imprisonment and the remainder to a fine of £10 or three months' imprisonment, impose a fine of only £5 or five weeks' imprisonment on the ring-leaders and a fine of £3 or three weeks' imprisonment on the others.

Mr. Langston asked the Magistrate to allow time for payment of the fines. After some discussion, Mr. Matthews agreed to allow them fourteen days in which to pay.

From the Editor's Chair

MISCARRIAGE OF JUSTICE

Two remarkable appeals decided by the Immigration Appeal Board and published in another column show what the Indian community will have to suffer unless the leaders carefully watch and circumvent the movements of these Appeal Boards. When the Boards were inaugurated, there was some flavour of justice about their decisions, but we now find the Natal Board, at any rate, as stringent as it possibly can be and even defying the dicta of the Supreme Court. The Board had two cases in both of which the main facts were admitted. The re-entrants had established their complete identity with the certificates they held. The only crime they had committed was that they had been long away from Natal and that they had for that reason forfeited their former right of domicile. The law will take care of itself—lawyers, we doubt not, will look to it; but there is another way of looking at these cases. Why are they brought before the Appeal Board at all? Why could not the Government clearly instruct the officers concerned to recognise, where identity is not questioned, the complete validity of previous domicile, no matter how long persons domiciled may have been absent from their respective Provinces? This is the question to which both the Government and the Indian community have to address themselves, and, if the former will not, the latter must make them do so.

The late Mrs. Mayo

We regret to announce the death of Mrs. Mayo, which took place last week. The news was cabled to Mr. Kallenbach, and it soon became common property amongst the many who had come to look upon Mrs. Mayo with regard and veneration. Hers was a truly noble soul. It was a most strenuous life that she led up to the very end. She was one of the few true interpreters of Tolstoy's teachings, and she will be best known to the world as such. To the Indians of South Africa her memory will be a cherished treasure for her very warm and loving sympathy during their troubles.

Returning Indians

The *Umkuzi*, which sailed for Bombay, Colombo and Calcutta on the 13th instant, took her full complement of passengers, all of whom were Indians (says the *Natal Mercury*). Only nine, however, were "free," the remainder being Indians who were returning at the end of their indenture period. There were 282 men, 112 women, 168 children between two and ten years of age, 46 children under two years; a total of 658.

It would seem as though there has been an increase in the number of those who exercise their right under their indentures of being repatriated at the end of same. When the *Umfuli* left for India recently, she had some 50 returning indentured Indians, and there are now at the Indian Depôt some 120 who could not be accommodated on board the *Umkuzi*. These men will be sent back most likely by the *Umhloti*, the next boat of the King & Sons Line to sail for India. It is expected before she leaves that the number of those wishing to leave will have been increased.

A gentleman with a close knowledge of the matter stated there was a greater tendency than used to be the case on the part of indentured Indians to return to India when their time of service was completed; and he added that there was no doubt a certain amount of dissatisfaction existed among them, which would account for the increased number of those going back. He could give no reason for such dissatisfaction, but merely said that such was the case, judging by the way the Indians were leaving the country as soon as they had earned the right to their return passage.

The Perjury Cases

Eight Indians of Blackburn and Hillhead (Natal Estates, Ltd.), were charged at Verulam on the 12th instant with the crime of perjury in that they had given false evidence at the death inquiry in connection with the strike disturbances, held at Verulam in December and January last. Mr. Maynard Matthews occupied the Bench, Sergt. Hatterill prosecuted and Mr. Langston defended.

The first to be called was Antonimuthu, the son of the deceased Selvan, of Hillhead. He was charged with stating that a native constable stabbed his father whereas the evidence proved that he was shot by the police.

At this point, Mr. Langston took exception to the plaint on the ground that "it did not aver that the perjury alleged was material to the issue in any *judicial* proceeding nor that anyone was prejudiced thereby; that the enquiry referred to in the plaint, held before the Acting Magistrate, was an *administrative* proceeding and was not the preparatory examination contemplated by Section 32 of Ordinance 18 of 1845, neither was it a judicial proceeding, and there was no matter for trial before the said Acting Magistrate when he held the said enquiry, and the said Acting Magistrate was not induced to render credit to the alleged statement of the accused."

Mr. Langston pointed out that Section 32 of Ordinance 18 of 1845 did not refer to an enquiry. No one was arrested and charged. He wished to distinguish between a judicial and an administrative act. In a charge of perjury it must be proved that the evidence was material to the issue. Even "lying upon oath," as Justice Dove-Wilson had said in a certain judgment, was not perjury. Someone must be in jeopardy. The evidence must be with reference to something material to the issue of the *case*. In a preparatory examination there is an accused person and any statement made on such occasion, if untrue and material to the issue, would undoubtedly be perjury; but not so in the case of a death enquiry where the proceedings were purely administrative and not judicial. The enquiry was for

the purpose of finding out *how* the Indians died. No one was being tried. No warrant had been issued for the arrest of the native constable. As a matter of fact, the Acting Magistrate did not believe the accused.

Sergt. Hatterill quoted various authorities in support of his contention—that the proceedings of the death enquiry were judicial. He also claimed that the native constable was in jeopardy although he had not been arrested.

The Magistrate said that in order to convict a person for perjury, the proceedings must be judicial. The question was, what was a judicial enquiry? There were, he said, three kinds of enquiry which were similar. They were (1) a death enquiry, (2) an inquiry into the cause of a fire, and (3) an inquiry regarding the lighting of a grass fire by a railway engine. Were they judicial? They had always been looked upon as departmental. His view was that an inquiry into the causes of fire or death were not judicial. He also noticed that the plaint had no reference to judicial proceedings. The charge of perjury could not, therefore, hold good.

As the case of Antonimuthu was on all fours with the others, Sergt. Hatterill withdrew the whole of the cases and the accused were discharged.

The Rhodesia Immigration Bill

Salisbury, May 12th (Reuter).—In the Legislative Council to-day, Mr. Tredgold (the Attorney-General), in moving the second reading of the Immigrants' Regulation Ordinance, said it was proposed to restrict domicile to the Chartered Company's territories. This was intended in no spirit of retaliation towards the Union, but because under the present definition of South African domicile they found they were unable to enforce their own laws, and constantly received remonstrances from the Union authorities about Asiatics slipping through from Rhodesia into the Union, and claiming to have been previously domiciled in South Africa. Regarding Asiatics generally, it was desirable to prevent any further immigration, although there would be no interference with those now in the territory, who would be allowed to bring in one wife and family. They also desired to prevent the immigration of persons who for economic reasons were undesirable. There was a class of indigents who had been entering Rhodesia from the South. Whether these persons were English or Dutch, Rhodesia did not want them. (Applause.) When that Bill was being drafted he was informed of two cases. There were two whole families who trekked across the border with the minimum amount of means to support them. They trekked across in the wet season, and lost everything they had—and that was not much—and they were stranded at Victoria, where they were being maintained at the public expense. What was to become of them he did not know. There was a considerable amount of immigration of that class, especially during the dry season. It was a matter requiring the serious attention of the House.

In detailing the provisions of the Ordinance, which include a test of literacy in any European language, the speaker explained that tuberculosis was excepted. To prohibit all tuberculous persons would be a great hardship, but inquiries would be made and diseased persons in an advanced stage would not be admitted.

Col. Heyman said the Ordinance had been badly wanted for years past, but the most stringent provisions would be of little use, unless the Government had a police force sufficiently large to give effect to them.

After further discussion, the second reading was unanimously agreed to.

Salisbury, May 13 (Reuter)—The Legislative Council considered the Immigrants Regulation Ordinance in committee to-day.

With regard to domicile, which is established after two years' residence, the Attorney-General said that anyone having a domicile could leave this country for the purpose of visiting another country, and would receive a permit to return. If a man left the country for good, he would forfeit domicile in Rhodesia.

Following up a protest of the Indian community of Rhodesia, the following telegram has been sent to His Excellency the High Commissioner:—

"British Indian Association cordially associates itself with Rhodesian Indian community in strong protest against draft Immigration Ordinance Rhodesia. In opinion my Association, conditions Rhodesia differ actually and historically entirely from those Union and do not warrant such stringent measures as those apparently contemplated, which my Association is advised will render old residents liable deportation, deprive them other valued rights. Urgently respectfully trust His Excellency will not give assent measure. Cachalia, Chairman."

The Colour-Bar on Mines

Mr. Merriman, in moving, in the House of Assembly on the 12th instant, that one of several petitions praying for the removal of the colour-bar in the Transvaal Mining Regulations be referred to the Government "for consideration, with a view, as far as possible, to granting the prayer of petitioners," said:—A stranger entering the House that afternoon might be surprised to find them, descendants of two peoples who claimed to be the freest nations on earth engaged in discussing and debating an elementary principle of freedom—namely, the right of a man to dispose of his work and such talents as God had given him to the best possible advantage to himself. Now, we denied that right at present, not because of incapacity, but owing to some accident of colour inflicted by Providence.

He feared it was often from prejudice—an unworthy prejudice, a prejudice very hard indeed to conquer. They refused it from fear that the people who had not had their advantages in the past would compete with them and oust them from certain employments, because of a selfish desire to obtain a monopoly of certain classes of work, and to maintain them artificially at a selfishly high rate of wages. To refuse these people's petition was against all their traditions, and against all professions that they had made. It was against their morality—it was against the best interests of the country. They did wrong, knowing it to be wrong, so to act to an inferior race; yet they did it. How was it possible, he asked, for them to go against the teachings of Christianity, namely, to do to others as they would be done by? Take the Mohammedan religion as a comparison, where those holding the same faith were regarded as brothers. That was a striking instance of the way in which they were ready, for their own selfish ends, to tear up the religion they professed, and deny to others the very elementary grounds of freedom, using their position as guardians for the purpose of trampling out, as far as they could, the very sparks of any ambition in the coloured and inferior races. (Cheers.)

These men were driven out, and treated as brute animals, and as brute animals they would behave. What we ought to do was to raise the level of these people as far as possible, always keeping ourselves as far as possible above them.

The most curious thing of all was that, with all these rules, these men did the work. They went down the mines and did semi-skilled work, which they were capable of doing, and when inspectors were not looking they carried on blasting operations—probably with all safety. But they were not allowed to take the pay. The pay was taken by the privileged class which supervised them. Was that fair? Was that the way to keep this country in peace and order in future?

They actually had men drawing perhaps £100 or £150 a month, and the whole of the work was done by coloured men who got 3s. a day. The whole system was so faulty and so wrong that he wondered we did not see it was at the root of most of our industrial troubles, because the effect was to demoralise the white population. . . . In conclusion, Mr. Merriman said: "I appeal to this House, on the ground of our duty to inferiors, that, while we keep ourselves in advance, we should try and uplift, as far as possible, those whom Providence has entrusted to our care. A race that tries to keep itself up by artificial props, is doomed; and it is because I want to see this a great country, a prosperous country, the home of a strong white race—it is for these reasons I wish to see these artificial props kicked away, and to give a chance to people whose only fault is that they happen to be of a different colour from ourselves. I hope my poor words may have some effect of this kind. I fear not. But, at any rate, I have done my duty. By adopting the course we have followed in the past we have done incalculable harm to this country; and to attempt to pursue this fatal course is sure, sooner or later, to end in disaster.

Press Comment

Commenting editorially on the above speech, the *Transvaal Leader* says:—It was inevitable that the question, demanding, as it does, a definition of the future attitude of European civilisation towards the coloured races of the Union, could not be put off indefinitely. Not even those who are now most vigorously opposed to the slightest lowering of the colour bar pretend that the present position of affairs offers any permanent solution. Indeed, the justice of Mr. Merriman's plea, on the high grounds of morality, civilisation and Christian practice, is admitted all round. The point now arises—and it is round this point that future controversy will revolve—whether we are really acting in the best interests of our own race in maintaining a system which is manifestly based on injustice, which imposes an artificial restriction on the development of the inferior races of the Union, and which seeks to maintain the European workman in the position of overseer and superintendent. What hope have we that a legalised injustice will perpetually repress and stifle individual ideals of public morality? Or, have we any guarantee that the natural development of the coloured people of the Union will be successfully kept in check for ever by Act of Parliament or Government Regulation? Or, have we any assurance that even to-day the white worker in South Africa is benefiting by the exclusion of non-whites from the sphere of skilled labour?

Imperial Parliament

Mr. EDMUND HARVEY asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies if he could state the approximate present population of the British East Africa Protectorate, specifying the numbers of official and non-official white settlers respectively, as well as the number of Indian settlers and of the native population.

Mr. HARCOURT: The latest information I have dates from 1911. There were 3,175 European inhabitants, of whom 428 were described as settlers, planters, farmers, and gardeners. The number of officials on December 31 of that year was 619. The total number of Asiatics was 11,886, of whom 6,282 were adult males. The total population is estimated at about 2,765,000.

Mr. SHIRLEY BENN asked the Under-Secretary of State for India how many Indian subjects were in Dutch Guiana in 1893 under indenture.

Mr. CHARLES ROBERTS: The latest figures received from the Netherlands' authorities state the number as 4,669 on December 31, 1912.—*India.*

A Great Man in Siberia

The story of a Russian teacher, named Nicholay Ivanowitch Ilminsky, who became the Wyclif of the Tartar tribes and gave them the Bible in their own tongue, is told by Alexey Yakovlev in a recent number of *The East and the West*.

"Nicholay Ivanowitch Ilminsky (1822-1891) was one of the most remarkable men of Russia in the nineteenth century. The son of a priest, he was born in Penza, and educated in the ecclesiastical academy of Kazan; he studied Tartar, Arabic and other Eastern languages, and travelled for about twenty-two years in Arabia, Asia Minor, and Egypt. He was Professor of Eastern languages at the Kazan Ecclesiastical Academy and at Kazan University. As early as 1847 he started his life-work, the Christian Mission among the different tribes who inhabit the east of European Russia and Siberia; this work, begun on the most modest scale, proves to be from year to year one of the most creative and inspiring achievements of Russian life.

"Nicholay Ivanowitch was a rare specimen of the human race. Gifted with wonderful philological capacities, which allowed him with amazing quickness and facility to master foreign languages, he was a very fine scholar, standing on the very pinnacle of the European philological science. The Arabs in Arabia, where he lived in a tent and led with them a nomadic life, could not discern from his elocution and his management of the Arabian that he was a foreigner. The Tartars of Kazan would not believe he was a Russian, and not a born Tartar, who had renounced his origin. He would easily grasp any branch of the Tjook languages akin to the Tartar, was able to speak and write it, and to prepare or direct translations of the Bible into it.

"But his very best side was his extraordinary goodness, mildness, affability, and untiring zeal to serve his brother-man where and how he could. People who knew him when alive remember him with a tearful eye. His biographer, Professor Snamensky, speaks of him as the best man he ever met. To all these gifts was combined exceptionally good health, a natural and never-forsaking cheerfulness, and a vivid inclination to humour.

Almost in Wyclif's own words he stated the case for giving the people the Scriptures in their own tongue. "The spirit of a people," he said, "and its whole contemplation of the world is expressed in its own language. Who possesses the language of a people possesses, were it only instinctively, their contemplation of the world. Who speaks with a people its own language is easily understood by them; his reasons are easily accepted, because of his using with their own words their own elements of thought."

In the summer of 1864 Vassili Timofeev, a helper of Ilminsky, went to the villages of the baptised Tartars and preached to them the Gospel and read to them the newly-prepared translations of the Old Testament, and behold! people who ten years before avoided all religious conversations, and turned aside with the utmost mistrust at every attempt to approach them, now gathered in crowds to listen to the reading in their vernacular language, and were moved and wept while listening to and understanding the sublime truths of Christian lore.

"It is wonderful to observe these children," says one of the observers of the school, gathered from different lonely and remote villages, dressed like beggars with poor overcoats with holes in them, and miserable shoes of soaked last; how they praise the majesty of God in their dialect. In the village, the boy-pupil of the school is sitting upon a log and reading to the crowd the Holy Scriptures. The dancing ceases, the singers become silent—they are still. The slow reading goes on. Pressing themselves together, afraid to lose one word, with tears in their eyes and

heaving breasts, the Tartars listen to the Word of God in their own language.

"The women do not wish to go home, though torn away by their little children. The reading or narration continues for two, or even three, hours. After it is finished the deep silence is broken. Observations are heard: "How wonderful, how charming it is to listen to one's own language; and in the church we understand nothing." "How thankful we are that you have it written for us in our own dialect. . . ." "These boys will know everything concerning the faith; through them it will be known to others, because they read and speak our own dialect. Such learning is good."

News in Brief

London, May 13.—Reuter's correspondent at Wellington, New Zealand, telegraphs that General Sir Ian Hamilton, Inspector-General of the oversea forces, speaking at a civic reception, attributed the war precautions of Australasia and New Zealand to the shortening of distances, owing to the advent of electricity, aeroplanes and high explosives. The Pacific Ocean, he said, was the meeting-place of continents, where might be decided whether Asiatics or Europeans were to guide the destinies of the world. He pointed out that the fine people of the Malay States were going down before cheap coolie labour, and China showed signs of breaking up. These were illustrations of fundamental changes. Foreigners were invading British countries, where they lived on rice and monopolised business. This was a real danger.

Sir Ian Hamilton, says the special correspondent of the *Leader*, said: "In Ladysmith, when I first knew the town, the main street was full of prosperous businesses run by European shopkeepers. What a change had been wrought when I went there in 1912! Where the European shopkeepers prospered the monopoly of the business was then held by coolies who existed on a couple of meals of rice per day."

A Special Committee of the Transvaal General Council of the Unionist Party passed the following resolution at a meeting recently:—"That this meeting of the Special Committee views with the greatest alarm the proposal to remove the colour bar from the Transvaal Mines, Works and Machinery Regulations, and urges the members of the Party in the House to strive to the uttermost for the retention of these provisions as essential for the protection of the interests of the white population under the conditions now existing in the Transvaal."

From the report of the Orange Free State Police—At Harrismith, a soldier stole 13 magazine rifles from the regimental store and sold them to natives. The latter were convicted, but the soldier was discharged.

London, Friday.—The Provincial Authorities of British Columbia says the correspondent of the "*Star*" are endeavouring to prevent the landing of a shipload of six hundred Hindus. It is stated that, if the immigrants are deported, they will sue the Provincial Government and carry the matter to the highest Court in the Empire.

The number of Asiatic passengers, previously resident in South Africa, landed at Capetown during March was 37 and at Durban 31. Two male and six female Asiatic immigrants, not previously resident, landed at Durban. Seven male and two female Asiatics were deported. Seventeen Asiatics were landed on temporary permits.

Bishop Furse, of Pretoria, writes a letter to the *Transvaal Leader* of the 24th April, in which he draws attention to the very grave condition of Native education. "We desire," said the Bishop, "to see justice

done to the Native people of this country, let alone those who believe that the highest development of these races is a sacred trust committed to the white people of South Africa." "In the Transvaal," says the Bishop, "the Native pays at least £350,000 per annum in direct taxation, besides £500,000 in indirect taxation. The grant to Native education for last year was the miserable sum of £15,000, and to the education of white children over £800,000, exclusive of buildings. He appeals to members of the Union Parliament and the Provincial Council to do justice to the Natives in this matter, and increase the grant to Native education in the Transvaal."

Mrs. Sarojini Naidu has been elected a Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature. Mrs. Naidu is not the first Indian to be awarded this modest honour. At least two of her countrymen—the late N. N. Ghose of the "Indian Nation" and Mr. Abdul Ali, at one time Secretary of the Moslem Institute, Calcutta—have preceded her. But she is, of course, the first Indian woman to receive the distinction and, moreover, one of a very small group of women fellows of the Society—*India*.

Union Parliament

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY,

May 12.

Native Sleeping Coaches.

Mr. NATHAN asked the Minister of Railways whether he had received a certain resolution passed at the 1912 Conference of the Natal Agricultural Union in reference to the desirability of setting aside separate railway train compartments and bedding for the exclusive use of coloured persons.

The MINISTER replied to the first part of the question in the affirmative, and added that on March 17th he made a statement in the House in reply to the member for Ladybrand on the subject of segregation of European and coloured passengers by rail. Since then ten additional carriages, providing separate accommodation for coloured passengers had been placed in traffic; and an order had been given for 20 new coaches fitted so as to effectually separate European and coloured passengers. Arrangements had also been made that vehicles or portions thereof specially constructed or altered for the accommodation of coloured passengers were to be retained exclusively for their use, such coaches to be placed on services where the need of such accommodation was most apparent.

The Proposed Legislation

Mr. SCHREINER (Tembuland) asked whether the Government had considered a petition from the Islamic Society of Maritzburg, and 23 other Indians, presented to the House in February.

Mr. SMUTS in reply said the grievances of the Indian community had been inquired into by a Government Commission, and the Government proposed to introduce the necessary legislation dealing with their recommendations during the present session.

Indian Trespass Case

In reply to Mr. MEYLER, the MINISTER of the INTERIOR promised to make inquiries in reference to a case recently heard before a Magistrate in Natal, in which an Indian, named Muruga Goundan was fined 20s. or ten days' hard labour for alleged trespass, when it was admitted he had only visited his wife, who was an indentured Indian on a sugar estate.—Reuter.