

Indian Opinion

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ASIATIC QUESTION IN CANADA

MUCH has been written and is still being written on the question of Asiatic immigration into British Columbia, and the recent incident at Vancouver when the *Komagata Maru* was held up with a number of Indians on board, brought the position prominently before the eyes of the world. It is one of those questions which can only be solved by a full knowledge of the facts, and for the purpose of supplying our readers with information we reproduce the following interesting and valuable communication on the subject sent by the Canadian correspondent of *The Times* to that well-known journal:—

The immigration of Chinese into British Columbia began in the early sixties with the gold discoveries in Cariboo. Most of those who came to the country at that period engaged in placer mining in the district. There a few remain. But the active movement against admitting Asiatics arose out of the construction of the Canadian Pacific Railway. There are no traces of serious agitation on the subject while British Columbia was a Crown Colony.

Anti-Asiatic Sentiment

This is not surprising when it is remembered that at the time of union with Canada there were only 12,000 or 15,000 white people in the Pacific Province. As far back as 1872 the Hon. Edward Blake objected to the compact with British Columbia to build the Canadian Pacific Railway in 10 years on the ground that the road could not be constructed within that period except by Chinese labour. At the time Mr. Blake's statement was controverted, but thousands of Chinese were imported into British Columbia and employed in building the railway. From 1881 to 1884 many Chinese were brought into the country under contract to work on the Onderdonk section. It is stated that in 1884 there were 9,629 Chinese labourers in the province, of whom 3,510 were engaged on railway construction. Most of these remained in the country, or at least there was no subsequent decrease of the Chinese population. Mr. Blake argued that the Chinese "do not become real citizens of the country. They do not become Canadians. They do not intermingle with our people. They do not accept our civilization. They carry their earnings away to their own country as soon as they have secured the pittance adequate for livelihood there. Though they live amongst us they are not of us. They hold to their own special customs and to habits of life and a scale of subsistence far below ours, and involving the degradation of white labour."

It was not, however, until the railway was completed that the influx of Chinese became a practical grievance. During construction there was no serious competition with white labour. But when the road was finished thousands of Chinese had to be provided with employment. Permanent colonies were established at Victoria

and Vancouver and New Westminster. Asiatics now constitute one-tenth of the total population of British Columbia.

Distribution of Asiatics

It is estimated that down to 1912 42,754 Asiatics had entered the Pacific Province. Of these 22,240 were Chinese, 14,364 Japanese, and 5,174 Hindus. In the other Western Provinces the Asiatics have hardly secured a foot-hold. When the census of 1911 was taken there were 2,037 in Alberta, 1,014 in Saskatchewan, and 903 in Manitoba. Of these 3,629 were Chinese. In the older provinces Chinese laundries represent almost the total Asiatic population. For example, there are only 1,133 Chinese in Montreal and 1,036 in Toronto. In the whole Province of Ontario there are 2,766 Chinese, 35 Japanese, and 17 Hindus; while in Quebec there are 1,578 Chinese, 12 Japanese, and 14 Hindus. According to the census of 1901 the total immigrant Japanese population of Canada was 4,674, and of these 4,515 were in British Columbia. By 1902 the movement of Japanese into Canada had practically ceased owing to action by the Japanese authorities prohibiting the emigration of labourers to the United States and Canada. According to the report of the Hon. William Mackenzie King, who was appointed in 1907 to investigate the methods by which Oriental labourers were induced to come to Canada, between 1902 and 1904 not more than 250 per annum entered the country. In 1902 3 the chief contractor of Japanese labour furnished 600 labourers to the Canadian Pacific Railway; in 1903-4 about 400; in 1904-5 not more than 200; and in 1905-6 only 170. In all from 1901 to 1907 between 4,000 and 4,500 Japanese came to the Dominion.

A Sudden Influx

But in the next 10 months 8,125 Japanese, hundreds of Hindus, and many Chinese landed in British Columbia. Of the 8,048 Japanese who entered at Canadian ports 3,619, or 45 per cent, held passports for the United States and were admitted to that country. Thus 4,429 remained in Canada, and of these 2,799 came from the Hawaiian Islands, nine from Mexico, and 1,641 direct from Japan. Of those who came direct from Japan 900 were brought out by the Tokyo Emigration Company of Yokohama at the instance of the Canadian Nippon Supply Company of Vancouver. Very natural causes seem to explain the movement of Japanese from Hawaii to British Columbia. Failing in attempts to obtain better wages on the sugar plantations, and inspired by reports in the Japanese Press of Honolulu of better conditions in British Columbia, steamers were chartered by the Japanese boarding-housekeepers of Honolulu to carry Japanese to Victoria and Vancouver. In order to meet the requirement of the Canadian Department of Immigration that each immigrant must have \$25 on

landing, the amount necessary to secure admission was distributed among the passengers before they disembarked.

Indians and Chinese

In 1886 a tax of \$50 per head was imposed on Chinese immigrants. This in 1901 was increased to \$100 and in 1903 to \$500. Between June, 1900, and January, 1904, over 16,000 Chinese paid the tax of \$100, but from January, 1904, to April, 1908, only 1,603 were admitted. Nearly all of these, however, entered the country from June 30, 1907, to March 31, 1908. Down to 1905 there was practically no immigration from India to Canada. But from June 30, 1905, to March 31, 1908, over 5,000 immigrants from India entered British Columbia. Of this immigration Mr. King said in his report:—

The evidence of the Indians who testified before the Commission indicates pretty clearly that the immigration from India, which has been a matter of concern to the people of British Columbia, owes its origin to aims and methods which were anything but Imperial and patriotic, that in fact the influx of recent years has not been spontaneous, but owes its existence in the main to (1) the activity of certain steamship companies and agents desirous of selling transportation and profiting by the commissions; (2) the distribution throughout some of the rural districts of India of literature concerning Canada and the opportunities of fortune-making in the Province of British Columbia; and (3) the representations of a few individuals in the Province of British Columbia, among the number a Brahmin named Davichand and certain of his relatives, who induced a number of natives of India to come to Canada under actual or verbal agreements to work for hire, the purpose being that of assisting one or two industrial concerns to obtain a class of unskilled labour at a price below the current rate, and at the same time of exploiting their fellow-subjects to their own advantage. Some of the natives may have emigrated to Canada of their own accord or because of the advice or desire of relatives who had come to this country, but had the influences here mentioned not been exerted it is certain that their numbers would not have been appreciable.

Riots in Vancouver

As a result of this serious increase in Asiatic immigration and a general, but unsupported, suspicion that Japanese officials in Canada had organized the movement from Hawaii, an attack was made on the foreign quarter in Vancouver; the Asiatics were forced to take refuge in their houses and much property was destroyed. The actual riot occurred on September 7, 1907, but for some days afterwards there was grave fear that the disturbance would be renewed. The Asiatics made energetic preparations for defence, and intense public apprehension prevailed. Fortunately, however, the authorities prevented a second outbreak, which unquestionably would have had far more serious consequences. Subsequently there was a thorough investigation by Mr. King as the agent of the Dominion Government. On his report \$9,036, with \$1,600 as allowances for expenses incidental to the inquiry, was awarded to the Japanese on account of losses sustained, and to the Chinese \$25,990 for losses sustained and \$1,000 on account of legal expenses. Negotiations with the Japanese Government followed. Mr. Lemieux, a member of the Laurier Administration, visited Japan as the special agent of Canada, and, with the assistance of the British authorities, secured an agreement with the Japanese Government to issue only 400 passports per year to immigrants for Canada. This agreement Mr. H. H. Stevens, member of the Canadian Parliament for Vancouver and an advocate of Asiatic exclusion, admits "is working fairly satisfactorily." He agrees with the common opinion in British Columbia that more Japanese secure admission to the province than the agreement permits, but declares that "the ex-

cess is so small that it is not a matter of serious moment."

Mr. Stevens advocates a like agreement with China and suggests that British Columbia would readily forgo the head tax of \$500 if such an understanding could be effected. In order to check immigration from Hawaii and from India, Orders in Council were issued prohibiting the landing in Canada of immigrants who have come otherwise than by continuous journey from the country of which they are natives or naturalized citizens and upon through tickets purchased in that country or purchased or prepaid in Canada.

These regulations were effective until six or seven months ago, but only in checking immigration from India and Hawaii. Despite the head tax of \$500, 6,817 Chinese entered British Columbia in 1911, 7,146 in 1912, and over 6,000 in 1913. During last summer the validity of the regulations was challenged in the interest of 36 Hindus who arrived at Victoria and were refused admission. An appeal was heard before the Chief Justice of the Province, who decided that the regulations adopted by Order in Council were in conflict with the statute under which exclusion was attempted, and were therefore invalid. The judgment was strictly technical, affecting not the Act but the regulations. The regulations therefore were promptly amended in accordance with the decision of the Chief Justice. It was thought advisable to go even further. There was unemployment in the coast cities. The Government thought that this was an adequate reason for preventing increased competition in the labour market. An order was therefore issued prohibiting the admission of artisans and labourers to British Columbia by ocean ports or from the United States until March 31, 1914, and this order has just been renewed for a further six months.

(To be continued.)

Indians in the Dominions

An interview with Mr. Sachchidananda Sinha, who is one of the Congress delegates to England, appeared in the *Christian Commonwealth* of June 10. Asked what view he held on the question of Indian emigration to the Dominions, Mr. Sinha said that the Indian position was plain and simple. It was quite immaterial whether there was or was not sufficient land available for the present Indian population or for the growing population of the future. The Indian claimed by reason of his being a British subject the absolute right of free intercourse for purposes of travel and trade in every part of the British Empire, precisely in the same way as natives of every other part of the British Empire were allowed to go to any part of India they chose. The legal and constitutional arguments that were pressed against the Indian view, on the ground that the Colonies were self-governing and so forth, did not at all appeal to the Indian, who could never bring himself to believe that the Home Government, all-powerful in India, was so absolutely powerless in this matter as it attempted to make itself out to be. At any rate, if the argument was to be accepted, two things followed: first, that to the Indian the privileges of the great British Empire were a myth, and he had no particular reason to be proud that he belonged to it; and, secondly, the Indian was asked to unlearn the lesson taught to him for more than a century, that as a member of the Empire he had the absolute right of all British-born subjects in the matter of emigration and travel. That was to suggest a dangerous principle—for once he began to unlearn one lesson there was no knowing how far he might go in unlearning others, the consequences of which might be disastrous to England and India alike.

From the Editor's Chair

AN UNFORTUNATE TRIP

A FEW months ago a number of Indian labourers were recruited in Durban by Messrs. C. G. Smith and Sons on behalf of a sugar company at Beira. It was reported at the time that three hundred men had gone there under an agreement. We made enquiries at the time but was unable to get at the true facts. The premature return of most of these men to Durban, owing to their having contracted fever, enabled us to get correct information. Instead of three hundred there were between thirty and forty, and twenty-eight of these have returned. Twenty-two landed on the strength of their being domiciled here, five were prohibited from landing because they had only spent from six to nine months in the Province after completing their indentures and one man was not allowed to land as he was considered to be a prohibited immigrant, it being alleged by the Immigration Department that he had originally deserted from a ship and so had no right in the country even though he had lived here for more than ten years and had a wife and family in Durban.

These people were seen on the s.s. *Frontier*, which was lying in the harbour, by Mr. West accompanied by a representative of Messrs. Smith & Sons. The five persons agreed to return to India. They stated that they expected to be sent to India on completion of their agreements and they understood that they had no rights in Natal. They would, however, return to India penniless. The remaining person wished to have his case taken up and this, we understand, has been done.

Although this business turns out to be a comparatively small affair, we would point out once more the danger of men accepting agreements to work outside the Union if they wish to return and remain in Natal.

A STUPID BLUNDER

MR. K. T. GAJJAR of Somerset East, is unfortunate. It is not so long since he had extraordinary difficulty in landing his family in Durban and in obtaining permission to return to his home in the Cape Province. Now he sends us correspondence showing what happened when he asked for the issue of a temporary permit for his son, to enable the boy to study at the Phoenix Settlement School. The Acting Principal Immigration Officer, Natal, was under the impression that Indian children were invariably sent to Government schools here, and accordingly refused Mr. Gajjar's request on the ground that Natal Government Schools could not take Indian children from neighbouring Provinces! So Mr. Gajjar was denied the facility that he desired for his son's education. With the withdrawal to India of the bulk of the students, the Phoenix school is now closed to those from outside, but it would have been all the same if it had not been.

THE GREAT WAR

THE catastrophe that has befallen Europe is so appalling that it is difficult to realise what it means. The thought of millions of human beings hurling themselves in deadly battle against their fellows saddens one beyond words. We are lovers of peace. The weapons we adopt are not the weapons of modern warfare. We have no faith in force as a remedy and we know that those who use force must expect force to be used against them. The present war was inevitable. Sooner or later nations which have been feverishly arming against each other for years must come to blows. An incident of no international importance may be the torch that lights the fire, but the causes lie deeper. The fostering of hatred between man and man, nation and nation, lies at the root of the trouble. This is no time to criticise, however, and we must all realise that we are all members of an Empire which stands for freedom and right. So far as we can judge, England has gone to war only after the most strenuous efforts on her part to preserve peace. But she has obligations which she dare not ignore; promises have been made which must not be broken. We have to admit that, under the present order of things, no other course seemed open to England but to support her allies. There is, however, a gleam of light, appearing through the darkness which envelopes the nations of Europe. We hope and believe that the terrible struggle which is now going on will demonstrate as no arguments can the uselessness, the absurdity and the crime of arming against one's neighbour. The height of perfection to which weapons of warfare have reached and their enormous destructive power show that there must be a time to call a halt. Our prayer is that that time may be near. The awful suffering that will come out of the war will also have its lesson and effect. Nothing can be gained without suffering, and whether it comes through active or passive resistance the lesson is much the same. We live continually in the hope that men and nations will come to realise that it is only by self-suffering that real freedom can be gained. But at the present moment we know that we shall not be listened to. We can only hope that, through the fire, the nations will be purified.

Just a word to our readers in regard to the position as it affects us in South Africa. We do not know in what way we may be called upon to suffer, but it is quite certain that such a calamity cannot pass us by. The Indian community have shown in the past their readiness to help, and if that help again becomes necessary we have no doubt that it will be forthcoming. The question of the food supply is a serious one, and, as we have amongst us many merchants and traders, we feel it our duty to warn them against panic and to ask them on no account to take advantage of a state of war to raise prices beyond what is absolutely necessary. To do so would not only be unpatriotic but selfish and unfeeling. We hope that, so far as the Indian community is concerned, the Government will not find it necessary to step in and control prices. In this matter, as in all others, let our conscience be our guide. A worthy name is more valuable than great riches.

What to Forget

Kipling wrote of one of his characters :

"He had used his wealth and his power for what he knew both to be worth; he had taken honour when it came in his way; he had seen men and cities far and near, and men and cities had stood up and honoured him. Now he would let these things go, as a man drops the cloak he needs no longer."

These words (says the *Times of Natal*) contain the kernel of the secret of the strange peculiar influence exerted by M. K. Gandhi, the Hindu, who was banqueted by a number of Durban compatriots, and to whom farewell greetings were also extended by representative European colonists. "To know what to forget is the secret of learning well," said Thring of Uppingham, and Gandhi has made this pedagogue's dictum applicable to the broadened sphere of life. Since he landed on South African soil and first entered the lists on behalf of the people from India, he has known what to forget; indeed, the knowledge of forgetting was the heritage which his fathers bequeathed unto him, and which in the days of the making of his manhood he cultivated with care. A supreme illustration is furnished by this Durban banquet, at which white men and brown men broke bread and ate salt at the selfsame table in order to do a brown man honour. Gandhi has been denounced and tossed into the depths one day and carried on the crest of the wave of public approval the next; yet, whether buffeted or belauded, whether treated as a convict or a conqueror, he has known what to forget. With him luxury is a mere accident. Gandhi is no Christian—he has definitely stated that he is unable to accept a creed which limits itself to One Incarnation—but, as in the case of the Carpenter's Son, it is only the essentials which count. The essentials are the things of the spirit. One of the first principles of his faith is that no outward circumstances or happenings can alter or injure a man. To him all experiences are education, and whatever they may be he welcomes them with calmness and with confidence. According to Robert Louis Stevenson we all take a donkey about with us in some form or another, but Gandhi belongs to that rare assembly of men, limited to no one race or colour, who walk through life often burdened, as the beholders would imagine, but, inwardly, absolutely free. For twenty years Gandhi the man has perfected the resoluteness and unswerving purpose of Gandhi the youth—to lose himself so that he might find himself as the champion of his fellow-countrymen—and such moral and mental concentration has enabled this Indian to wield a power not only amongst the mass of his fellow-countrymen, but to exert a strange and peculiar influence amongst Europeans with whom he has been brought into contact. To those who dismiss, with smug complacency, all thought of people of another race or colour than their own, these words will be foolishness, but to those who though no apologists for the presence of the Indian in this already complicated land of South Africa, seek to be fair and honest, truthful tribute must be paid to the personality of M. K. Gandhi. The way in which this man is leaving South African shores is a supreme proof that even in this material age things of the spirit count: yet it is as clear as the noonday sun that, though Gandhi has been palpably gratified by this send-off by Europeans and Indians alike, his character is such that if he had thought that there was anything in that farewell which would mar the brightness of his principles, he, like the Kipling character, "would let these things go as a man drops the cloak he needs no longer." Gandhi is one of the most interesting character studies of the century, as far as South Africa is concerned, and though he is returning to India, he assuredly will not be swallowed up and disappear into the obscurity of its teeming millions. It is evident that he leaves South Africa carrying the confidence of the great majority of

his compatriots, and, as regards his share in the negotiations which led to the passing of the Indians' Relief Act, the gratitude of all.

More Farewell Addresses

The Pretoria Indian community presented the following address:—

TO MOHANDAS KARAMCHAND GANDHI, ESQ.

Sir,—It is with mixed feelings of sorrow and pleasure that we assemble here to-day to bid you farewell, sorrow in the knowledge that we are losing a trusted friend and one who has done so much for us, pleasure in knowing that you are going back to our native country to partake of the rest you so thoroughly deserve. It is nearly 21 years since you commenced your good work in this country, and since then we have followed your movements and trusted implicitly in your guidance, and in bidding you good-bye and Godspeed we can say that our confidence in you has not been misplaced.

It is not our intention to dwell upon any particular victory you have gained for the Indian community of South Africa—victories which you in your generosity to your opponents, term "honourable settlements"—though an instance of your good and noble work is seen by the settlement of the difficulties embodied in the Indian Relief Act. Doubtless your consistent advocacy of our cause has at times caused you bitterness and sorrow, but you can rest assured that you have fought our battle well and have earned the respect and esteem of every one of the Indian community.

You have proved your loyalty to the Empire and you will indeed be difficult to replace. In bidding you good-bye we all combine in expressing the hope that, if we have need of you again, you will hear our call in far-a-way India and again give us of the assistance which you have so generously and untiringly given us for so many years.

To Mrs. Gandhi we also extend a feeling farewell. A loving wife, she has doubtless been your guiding star in much of your good work, and has suffered imprisonment for the cause of the Indians.

Again, good-bye and Godspeed.

M. V. PATEL, Chairman.

M. L. DESAI, Secretary.

G. P. Vyas, P. M. Joshi, Cassim Adam, Hajee Habib, Ramlal Mooloo, V. S. Pillay, Jeeva Mahomed, Vital Perrotam, G. A. Vithaldas Multani, Boboolal Maharaj, N. S. Padiachy, H. C. Goosa, Alli Ismail, H. Tar Mahomed, N. M. Kassim, R. K. Padayachey, N. Gopal.

On behalf of the Indian community of Pretoria.
Pretoria, July 16th, 1914.

Mahomedan Community of Vereeniging

TO MOHANDAS KARAMCHAND GANDHI, ESQ.

Sir,—On behalf of the Mahomedan community of Vereeniging we pray your acceptance of this small souvenir of the occasion of your departure from amongst us.

Words fail us to express adequately our fervent admiration and heartfelt appreciation of your untiring energy and fearless integrity during the long period in which you have so conspicuously laboured, without thought of recompense on behalf of your countrymen in South Africa. We return thanks to the Almighty that your efforts on our behalf have been crowned with success, and we deeply feel the heavy loss we sustain in the removal of your unfailing influences and efforts. May God grant you as well as to Mrs. Gandhi long life and happiness in your new sphere.

E. M. ASVAT,
E. M. PATEL,
S. E. SOOJEE.

16th July, 1914.

Cape Province Indians

Greetings to our noble patriot and fellow-countryman.
To M. K. GANDHI, ESQ., Barrister-at-Law and Indian Leader.

Dear and Respected Sir,

The Madras Indian Association of the Province of the Cape of Good Hope in meeting assembled have resolved on the eve of your departure from South Africa to present you with this address. We have heard with much regret and concern that you have made up your mind to quit our shores, if not for good, for some years; and we avail ourselves of the opportunity to express to you our deep gratitude for all you have done for us and our countrymen in this land, and our assurance that your name will always be treated in our memory as a high-minded, noble-hearted gentleman who has secured our admiration, our respect and esteem as long as life lasts.

It is many years since you first came to South Africa, and we know that during all that period, conscious of the grievous troubles of our people here and mindful of our claims as British subjects you have done all you could for us. Your single-hearted devotion, and the strenuous manner in which you have espoused and pleaded our cause at all times have evoked praise and appreciation, not only in this country, but throughout our Motherland. It is true that in the settlement by Government vexatious questions that affect our welfare in this country remain still to be attended to; but we are pleased to know that, owing to your unabated efforts under the guidance of an all-wise Providence, a great deal has been achieved and our hearts beat high with hope that these first fruits of a long-outstanding claim to consideration will prove an earnest of greater and better things to come, such as would enable our countrymen in South Africa to take their rightful place here as loyal and staunch sons of our King's Empire.

Sir, in connection with the law that has just been passed by Parliament for the relief of our disabilities the greatest credit, we know, is due to the high-minded sympathy and unstinting endeavour of the great and noble soul who now guides the destinies of our dear Motherland, India, and our hearts are stricken with grief at this moment at the irreparable loss that our Viceroy has sustained in the demise of his dear consort; and we beg that you will take an early opportunity to make known to his Lordship our poignant sorrow and convey an expression of our respectful sympathy and condolence in this great bereavement.

We pray that our great God will go with you wherever you elect to stay and pursue your life's work, and that you and yours may receive His abundant blessing.

Wishing you and your family a pleasant voyage, and assuring you of our constant prayers for your welfare and happiness,

We are, dear sir, always your devoted servants,

K. M. Naidoo (president), V. Naidoo (vice-president), N. Samy (vice-president), P. G. Padayachy, R. Moodley (treasurers), A. M. Benjamin (secretary), P. A. Moodley (assistant secretary); and members of committee: S. S. Chetty, S. Pillay, M. J. Naik, G. Bhana, S. S. Vassen, J. G. Chetty, C. A. Carley, N. T. Chetty, N. S. Chetty, V. C. Moodley, and S. Naidoo.

To H. KALLENBACH, ESQ.

Dear and Respected Sir,

"It is a source of sincere regret to us that our beloved and respected leader, Mr. M. K. Gandhi, is leaving us for what appears to be a protracted season, and we feel that during this time your absence from South Africa will be an added blow to our countrymen in this land. We are not unmindful of the heroic manner

in which you have for many years stood by our people. We cannot ever forget the noble-hearted way in which you have voluntarily associated yourself with our great leader and co-operated in all the tireless efforts to ameliorate the distressful conditions of our existence as a community in this country.

"Our hearts are aglow with gratitude to you, sir, for we feel that the recent settlement by the Government is due in no small measure to gentlemen like yourself, whose chivalrous attitude and ungrudging action have meant so much to the Indian people in South Africa. We pray that God may bless you abundantly, ever keep you under His protecting care and bestow upon you the rich blessing of health, long life and every prosperity."

We are, dear sir, always your devoted servants,

K. M. Naidoo (president), V. Naidoo (vice-president), N. Samy (vice-president), P. G. Padayachy, R. Moodley (treasurers) A. M. Benjamin (secretary), P. A. Moodley (assistant secretary), and members of committee: S. S. Chetty, S. Pillay, M. J. Naik, G. Bhana, S. S. Vassen, J. G. Chetty, C. A. Carley, N. T. Chetty, N. S. Chetty, V. C. Moodley, and S. Naidoo.

Port Elizabeth Indians

Copies of the following telegraphed address from Port Elizabeth were presented by Dr. Gool to Messrs. Gandhi and Kallenbach:

To Mahatma Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi.

Dear and beloved sir,—We, the undersigned, representing the Veda Dharma Sabha and the Mauritian and Colonial-born Hindu Benefit Society of Port Elizabeth, beg unitedly to express our deep satisfaction with the result of your settlement of the Indian grievances, as embodied in the Indian Relief Bill, and the correspondence between the Government and yourself had our keen interest.

Undoubtedly the Bill is an honourable settlement of the problem that was effected by the weapon of passive resistance, adopted by yourself with the assistance of Messrs. Kallenbach and Polak and adopted by Shrimati Gandhi for uplifting the claims of Indian womanhood in South Africa. In view of your impending departure for India via London, we feel it our duty to show our deep feelings of sincere appreciation of the signal services, which are too numerous and varied to particularise, rendered by you during the last 21 years of your sojourn in this sub-continent; your life-long devotion to procure just rights and privileges for your countrymen without a single thought to the pleasures natural to man: the unparalleled patriotism and the heroic self-sacrifice you have displayed throughout the prolonged struggles of the passive resistance movement for the honour of India and the self-respect of her sons and daughters.

It is with regret that we viewed your approaching departure for India shortly without the opportunity of seeing you personally. We pray that the merciful Providence will guide you safely to your Motherland through your long and tedious voyage, and that He may spare you for many a year to continue the service to your countrymen which you have so patriotically made the work of your life.

Our sincere thanks are due to all the co-workers during the past struggle in South Africa, including the services rendered by the Hon. Mr. Gokhale, and to the members of the Union Government as well as to the Imperial and Indian Governments and also to the sons and daughters of India for their able assistance. Govindji C. Merchant and M. Pillay (chairmen), J. B. Desai and V. A. Pillay (secretaries), S. K. Merchant, R. G. Verma, A. G. Moodaly, N. M. Pillay.

Colour on Cars

The writer of the "Man in the Moon" column in the *Natal Mercury* who is, we believe, a responsible member of the permanent staff, referring to the question of Indians travelling on the Durban Municipal tram-cars, says:—The Town Council must take the matter up in dead earnest, and not shelter themselves behind antiquated regulations. New ages and new dangers demand new enactments and new laws, and the struggle is by no means finished when the Indian Relief Bill is passed. The Indians, going on Queen Victoria's conciliatory document, intend to demand equal rights with Europeans, and this feeling is being tentatively put forward in the tram-cars, and must be resisted. The natives, imitators as they are by nature, are following in the same line. They are British subjects, and as a matter of fact, being the true natives of the country, as compared with the alien race of Asiatics, have a greater right, and it is further to be imagined that the natives contribute more to the revenue both of borough and State, according to their means, than the Asiatic. At any rate, they do not send thousands a month to a distant country. The Town Council should take the nettle in hand strongly, and personal considerations and transcendental ideas about Imperialism must not stand in the way of hard facts. "East is East and West is West, and never the twain will meet," and that must be the rule adopted by the Town Council. If the Asiatics had cars allotted to them they would soon see that the coolie class were sanitarily dressed, more amenable to the needs of comfortable travelling, more fit to ride on the cars. Now the Town Councillors paternally protect the higher class Indian, who smiles and does nothing. Give him the polite control of a system and he will soon see that it is something different to a coolie den. Put the onus on him to keep the amenities pure, and he will soon do it, but naturally he will not stir himself while somebody else does it for him.

Portuguese Tax on Indians

Some time ago (says the *Bombay Chronicle*) the Portuguese Government sought to impose a tax of £3 on all Asiatics of non-European habits in Mozambique, and immediately the Indians there raised a protest against the tax. They made representations to the Foreign Minister in Lisbon, stating that the tax was unfair, and would press very hardly upon them and as a result of these representations the Act under which the tax was to have been imposed was suspended for four months. Meawhile the Indians in Mozambique and Delagoa Bay continued their efforts to get the tax repealed. They made further representations to Lisbon and also wrote to Indian leaders in Bombay and elsewhere asking them to approach the Government of India on the subject. They asked that the Indian Government should be requested to approach the Portuguese Government with a request that the tax might be repealed, and further requested that if the tax were persisted in, the Indian Government should be asked to tax all the Portuguese Indians at present in India. It may be mentioned in this connection that there are about 35,000 Goanese in Bombay alone. Senhor Alfredo Casanova, Consul General for Portugal in Bombay, was appealed to as a result of these requests, and he promptly represented matters to his Government, with the result that the tax is now, we are informed, in a fair way of being abolished. Senhor Casanova has now received from the Foreign Minister in Lisbon a communication informing him that the imposition of the tax has again been suspended, this time pending a report from General J. J. Machado, present Governor-General of Mozambique and former Governor-General of Goa.

News in Brief

On Monday, the 3rd instant, Mr. Parsee Rustomjee gave a largely attended dinner to Kajee Sayed Peer Saheb Saifulla Refai, of Rander, at his premises at 110 Field Street, which were tastefully decorated for the occasion. Amongst those present were Mr. Polak, the local Moulvis, the principal merchants and representatives of the Natal Indian Association. Over 150 guests were present.

A communication has been sent to the Durban Town Council from a number of hairdressers conducting businesses in West Street, protesting against certain premises in West Street being let to an Indian for the purpose of conducting therein a hairdressing business. The Committee directed a reply to be sent to the effect that the protest had been noted, but that as the Council has no jurisdiction in this matter it can take no action thereon.

London, July 22.—Reuter's correspondent in Vancouver (British Columbia) telegraphs that the problem with regard to the Indian immigrants on the *Komagata Maru* who were refused permission to enter Canada, has been solved. The Indians, through their leaders, have agreed to offer no further resistance to deportation, on the Canadian Government agreeing to pay the passage money for their return to Hong-Kong and fully provision the ship. The grounds for the order of deportation were that the Hindus had, (1) by coming indirectly from land to which they belonged, (2) by not having £40 in their possession, and (3) by being labourers, contravened the Orders in Council.—Reuter.

In the first Criminal Court, Durban, before Mr. Bernard Hodson, on the 1st instant, Munsamy Naidoo, an Indian, was charged (says the *Natal Advertiser*) with declining to return to his work at Sir Duncan Mackenzie's at Nottingham Road. This was about the thirtieth appearance of the accused on the same charge. Mr. Mallinson said that the Court had done all that could be done in the matter, and the fullest inquiries had been made by the Protector of Indians, with the result that it was found that there was no foundation for the allegations put forward by the accused. The accused again asserted his mortal terror of Sir Duncan Mackenzie, and said that the very name inspired him with fear of the most dreadful kind. His Worship adjourned the case until August 8th, and in the meantime undertook to examine into the whole affair.

The Indian question in German East Africa is growing, and the most recent complaint comes from the north of the Colony, along the Usambara Railways (says the *African World*). It would appear that recently, during the transport difficulties occasioned by a breakdown on the line, the Indian traders, immediately and of one accord, increased the price of all articles by about 50 per cent., whereas the German traders maintained their ordinary prices. Why there should, in the circumstances, be any complaint at all it is difficult to understand, considering that the German traders sold cheaper than their competitors, but, nevertheless, a case is made out against the Indian on the assumption that he has formed a "ring" which will eventually control the market. It is for the German trader to do likewise, and either to force the Indian down to his price or else to raise his with that of his competitor. There can be no doubt, however, that the Indian question, as we have frequently pointed out, is one of the racial problems of German East Africa in the near future.