

Indian Opinion

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MR. GANDHI ON SPORTS

AT the time of Mr. Gandhi's departure from South Africa we gave only a brief report of his speech at the Albert Park, Durban, on the occasion of the children's sports. We think, however, that the speech is of such importance that, for the sake of the children, the teachers and the young men, it is worth while giving a full report now.

Mr. Gandhi said that he was deeply grateful to the Farewell Committee for having organised those sports and for having set apart that day for the sake of the Indian children and gathered them together at that short notice, and he must confess that he was not at all equally grateful for the function that they had had in the Town Hall. For him that had been insipid, but that function that afternoon would carry with it or would send with him the pleasantest recollections of his stay in South Africa. He knew the community of South Africa, but he scarcely knew the community of India. He felt confident that, if he wanted to give a knowledge to anybody as to how the Indian mind in South Africa would run on a particular occasion, he should be able to state accurately the direction in which it would go, but he had no knowledge at all as to what the Indian mind in India itself could do or would do on a particular occasion. To that extent he knew his countrymen in South Africa, and it gave him very great pleasure that afternoon to see those around him when he was about to say good-bye to South Africa and to say good-bye to his dear countrymen and to all those boys and girls. He then addressed the children. He said they had come there that afternoon to indulge in sports, and sports were good, they were excellent, if they knew the meaning of those sports, but he would leave those alone that afternoon and would like to direct their attention to the real sport in life. They had raced for prizes and, as Mr. Baillie had just reminded him, that prize-giving might have a demoralising effect upon those who had the training of the children in their hands as well as upon the children themselves. He shared that fear, but, if they had raced that afternoon for the sake of racing in order to show that during the past few years they had been endeavouring to keep the physical portion of their being in a fit and proper state, it showed also the value of the industry, the courage and the time that they had put forth in a disciplined manner in order to gain that particular purpose in life. But in life there was a better race for them and for him to run—did they know what that race was? All the children who went to churches if they were Christians, or all the children who were Hindus if they had any Hindus to teach them what their own religion taught, or if they were Mahomedans and had priests to tell them, he felt sure that they would all tell them that there was that race in life where they had to make themselves good in future and behave themselves if they grew up as men and women. In his opinion, if he might address a few remarks to the teachers also, having played at teaching himself for

a number of years, it seemed to him that the real teaching consisted not in giving the children a knowledge of letters merely, but in developing their character, and that, in so far as the boys and girls developed their character whilst they were still tender and whilst they could still be moulded, and, if their teachers told them that character was the first, the middle and the last and that their knowledge of letters was purely and simply an aid to develop that character, then he thought that they were doing well in attending those schools and it was well for their parents also to do that; but, if their parents sent them, if they went to school, merely to have a knowledge of letters, so that they might earn a few pounds anyhow in future, then he was afraid that their education was not education and he felt that he should say that little word to them that afternoon.

Presently they were going to receive prizes, but they had been told that the Sporting Association of the Natal Province was about to receive a wandering trophy from Mr. Rustomjee, and he understood that it was not a trophy which was intrinsically valueless, but that it had actually cost a sum of over £30. He hoped that the Natal Sporting Association deserved that trophy, but he did not dwell upon the trophy because it was a valuable thing, but he did hope that the Natal Sporting Association would behave in a sportsmanlike spirit, and in that real sport in the world and in that race in life would set a noble example to the children, the boys and girls who had gathered together there that afternoon, by gaining trophies not from one Parsee Rustomjee but from everyone of their countrymen in South Africa by placing themselves at their disposal and by serving them in a sportsmanlike manner. And, even as these schools had run the races and put their whole spirit into the race, so he hoped that the Association would do so, and he thought that they had given him an earnest of what they were doing from the manner in which they had conducted those proceedings, because it was, he thought, on their shoulders that the brunt of the burden had fallen, led as they had been and still were by Mr. Rustomjee. And one word for Mr. Rustomjee. Friend though he was to him, client though he had been to him, trustee though he was of the Phoenix Settlement, he did wish to commend to them the services of Mr. Rustomjee. He knew that he had worked himself practically to death in connection with that farewell, but he did hope it had not been because a friend of his was going away from South Africa, but in order to show what they had got to do in South Africa, in order to show that South Africa had a reputation, or the Indians in South Africa had, in keeping up the reputation of the Motherland, and he showed also by his energy and by his supporting all such movements what they had got to do. He knew that Mr. Rustomjee was at times hard to please. But if they did please him, he (the speaker) knew also that they had no better, no more

constant, leader to work with in South Africa. Mr. Rustomjee knew no distinction of race or religion. He was a Parsee among Parsees, but also a Mahomedan among Mahomedans in that he would do for them, die for them, live for them. He was a Hindu amongst Hindus and would do for them likewise. There were many others whom he (the speaker) might point out in South Africa who could equal Mr. Rustomjee in many respects and surpass him, but none his equal in constancy and courage. And before he left the Port of Durban he would leave that parting word with them. If there was anything of public work to be done, let them trust Mr. Rustomjee, but let them also obey him. They should bear with Mr. Rustomjee, but also with his faults. There was no human being without faults. Even the sun and moon had spots. God alone was spotless; it was not given to any mortal being to be spotless. Let Mr. Rustomjee's faults take care of themselves, and let them see his merits, and they knew what he had been to them during the gigantic strike. In conclusion, he asked them to pray for him, to give their love to him, and send him nice messages, and in return he promised that in whatever part of the world he might be, he would not forget his countrymen with whom he had mixed in South Africa and how they had loved him, and he prayed that God might give him strength to love them in return. God alone knew him and could see his heart. It may be that he had loved them wisely, it might be that he had loved them ignorantly, and thereby performed a service or disservice to them; then God was also great enough to forgive him, but they should also forgive him if he had not loved them well enough, served them well enough, but he knew that all he had done and endeavoured to do had been done from the bottom of his heart. Mistakes he had committed, for which they should pardon him. But if they had seen traces of love in him, let them pray to the Almighty that that love might grow abundantly and come forth to them also as some poor return of the love and generosity and consideration they had shown to him and Mrs. Gandhi in their darkest hours.

Departure of Mr. Omar H. A. Jhaveri

On Monday, the 24th ult., quite a number of representative Indians met at the premises of Mr. Parsee Rustomjee, at the invitation of the Natal Indian Association, to bid farewell to Mr. Omar H. A. Jhaveri, one of the Secretaries of the Association, who was leaving for India on a health trip of a few months. Mr. M. S. Randaree presided and was supported by the officials of the Association. Messrs. Randaree, Lazarus Gabriel, Moulvi Fateh Mahomed, Dawad Mahomed, Abdul Hack Kazi, G. H. Miankhan, Abdul Kader, C. V. Pillay, P. V. Sanghavee, Parsee Rustomjee, R. Bughwan, V. Lawrence, M. S. M. Sydick, E. M. Paruk, S. Goolabsingh, and A. Christopher spoke in eulogistic terms of the guest of the evening and bore testimony to his catholicity of spirit in the communal life of the Indian in this country, making no distinction against any of his countrymen on the grounds of religion and working for the upliftment of them all. He had ever endeavoured to serve the community and occupied the responsible offices of chairman of the Hon. Mr. Gokhale's Reception Committee and also of Mr. Gandhi's Farewell Committee. During his joint Secretaryship with Mr. Lazarus Gabriel, of the Association, much important work had been done by that body, both during and after the strike demonstration, and the work in the interests of the community still continues. The Chairman garlanded the guest and Mr. Rustomjee asked his acceptance of a gold chain as a memento from him. Mr. Omar Jhaveri briefly returned thanks to the Community remarking that

little did he expect that his small efforts to do his duty would have been thought worthy of mention. He felt that he had not done much but he hoped on his return to show his appreciation of their kindness to him by greater efforts on his part. Mr. Omar Jhaveri left by the s.s. *Pentakota* and there was a number of co-officials and friends at the Point to bid him bon voyage and a speedy return.

Mr. Gokaldas Gandhi's Departure

Our Tongaat correspondent writes that a series of farewell receptions have been given in honour of Mr. Gokaldas P. Gandhi who is leaving for India by the s.s. *Kathawar* to-day. Mr. Gandhi has been eighteen years in Natal and of these fourteen were spent at Tongaat. He is a popular man at Durban, Verulam and Tongaat and always took an active part in all public functions. On the 16th ultimo a meeting was held at Mr. Nichhabhai's residence at which the leading Indians attended. Ramdat Pundit presided. Addresses were presented by the Temple Committee, the School Committee and the Tongaat Indian Library. Several presents were also given by friends and societies. A number of speakers dwelt upon the services rendered by Mr. Gokaldas. He had always attended and nursed the sick, acted as adviser and taken a lead in public matters, setting aside religious differences in the common cause of his countrymen. He went to gaol as a passive resister during the last campaign and several others from the district followed him.

Mr. Gandhi, in reply, said that he had only done his duty. He presented ros. each to the Temple, School and Library. Refreshments were served at the close.

The following day another similar gathering was held at the same place when Mr. Valjee Veljee presided. People of all sections were present also delegates from Verulam. Mr. Purshotam Desai read an address on behalf of the Hindus. Another address was presented by the Madras community and with that was included a leather hand-bag. Mr. Ismail Bhabha presented an address and a rug on behalf of the Mahomedan community. There were several speakers and Mr. Gokaldas replied suitably. He presented ros. each to the Mahomedan and Tamil Societies and also gave souvenirs to his gaol companions. Refreshments were served.

The Case of Joseph Louis

It will be remembered that, a few weeks ago, we alluded to the case of a Mauritius-born Indian named Joseph Louis who, along with five other Indians who had returned from Beira, was pronounced by the Immigration Officer a prohibited immigrant. The case of Louis differed from the other unfortunate people in that he had been in the country for some ten years and had married a Natal-born woman, by whom he was the father of several children. He was once before prosecuted as a prohibited immigrant after he had been here some years but the prosecution was subsequently withdrawn. He has since been in and out of the Port of Durban and on the last occasion of his return from his trip to Beira under contract was again prohibited. The Natal Indian Association took the matter up and Mr. Polak, who happened to be in Durban at the time of the second prohibition, had his attention drawn to the matter by the Association, and, upon the representations made, Louis was landed on a temporary permit. The Minister has now been pleased to exercise his discretion, in the extraordinary circumstances in this matter, in favour of Louis who is thus enabled to join his family once more.

From the Editor's Chair

INDIA'S CALL TO ARMS

THE news that Indian troops are being sent to the seat of war to co-operate with the allied armies has been greeted with enthusiasm both here and in India. Such recognition of Indian valour is pleasing in the highest degree. The knowledge that Indians and Europeans are fighting side by side, suffering in a common cause and laying down their lives for their King and country, is inspiring. We believe, with Ruskin, that a soldier's business is to be killed rather than to kill others, and so we regard this war as a huge sacrifice from which, let us hope, a saner idea of international relationship will arise. The tribute by Lord Crewe to the Indian army is unique. To describe soldiers as "high-souled men" is not usual. Let us hope that they will act up to the standard and emerge from the conflict free from any mean or unworthy action. To act as men and human beings under the hellish conditions of war needs character and soul-force. We would rather that every man be left stretched dead on the field than that Indian soldiers should belie the trust placed in them and escape unhurt. Our patriotism runs along these lines. As passive resisters, war is abhorrent to us; it is brutal and opposed to the spirit of all religions. We cannot gloat over victories caused by bloodshed and cruelty. We can only rejoice when brave men do their duty and, if needs be, lay down their lives for others.

FRIENDS DEPART

WE record this week the departure to India of Messrs. Omar Haji Amod Jhaveri and Gokaldas P. Gandhi. The former goes on a health trip to the Motherland. We trust that the rest and change will restore him and that we shall soon see him back again amongst us. Both as a public man and a friend we greatly esteem Mr. Omar. He is one of the quiet—we might say timid—members of the Indian community. Whenever he was called upon to act in a public capacity we always found him unwilling to be pushed forward as the first man. Recognising his true worth, the community have placed him in responsible positions and he has always proved himself to be a safe and reliable man, one who would exercise care and discretion. To others might be left those duties which called for bold and aggressive action. It was impossible for him. Such men are of the greatest value to a community. We know that there is not an Indian, be he Mahomedan, Hindu, Parsee or Christian, who does not honour in the highest degree Mr. Omar Hajee Amod Jhaveri.

Mr. Gokaldas Gandhi goes to India after a long sojourn in Natal. He is known as a kind-hearted, public-spirited man, and many will regret his departure. He does not expect to return to this country. His family are in India and he feels that it is there his duty lies. We shall be sorry to lose Mr. Gokaldas. At Phoenix he has always been a welcome guest and we have spent many pleasant times together. In public work he has done his duty faithfully and well. During the last stage of the struggle he went cheerfully to gaol, taking others with him. When he came out of gaol, shattered in health, a mere shadow of his former self, we realised what a sacrifice he had made and we shall ever remember with gratitude his work in the public cause.

PHOTOGRAPHS NOT NECESSARY

WE understand that instructions have been given to the Natal Principal Immigration Officer to the effect that the issue of identification certificates shall not be made to depend upon the giving of a photograph by applicants for these documents. Nobody is under any

obligation whatever to give a photograph, and if he is in future asked for one he is quite entitled to refuse to comply with the request. We shall be glad if our attention is drawn to any case in the future where the giving of a photograph in this connection is insisted upon. We congratulate the Natal Indian Association and the Anjuman Islam upon the result of their timely representations, and we tender on behalf of the community thanks to the Government for removing one more cause of friction in the administration of the Immigration law.

Indians and the War

On Wednesday last, Messrs. M. Rawat & Co., proprietors of the Union Bioscope, devoted the proceeds of the evening show to the Mayor's War Relief Fund. Over 500 persons attended, popular prices being charged. Mr. Parsee Rustomjee paid 25s. for his ticket and a few others paid more than the usual prices. The response was good. The proprietors will hand over the takings to the Mayor's War Relief Fund without making any deductions on account of expenses. The proprietors of the Victoria Bioscope, just opposite, at the suggestion of the Natal Indian Association, readily consented to close their show for the night and have expressed a willingness to devote a night's proceeds from one of their performances to the Mayor's Fund. Messrs. M. S. Randaree, Lazarus Gabriel and A. Christopher returned thanks on behalf of the Indian Association to all concerned for the amount realised. Messrs. V. Lawrence, Sorabjee Rustomjee, R. Bughwan, S. Goolabsingh, Sullappen and others assisted in the arrangements.

The Natal Indian Association has addressed an offer to the Government of the Indian community's services in connection with the present War. Colonial-born Indians particularly are, we understand, desirous of serving on the Defence Force, as they feel that, born and brought up here, they should bear their share of such work as may be necessary according to the conditions incidental to or of the War. Some are of a mind to serve in an ambulance corps. Quite a number, in anticipation, in addition to those who signed on at the meeting of which a report appeared in these columns, are signing on with the Secretaries of the Natal Indian Association, at 110 Field Street, Durban.

The following letter has been received by the Association from the Private Secretary to General Smuts:—

"I am asked by General Smuts to thank you for your letter in which you offer to assist the Government at the present critical juncture. Your offer is cordially appreciated, but, at the present time, I am unable to say more than that your communication is being recorded and, in the event of the Government deciding to take advantage of your offer, a further communication will be sent to you."

Mass Meeting of Indians

Under the auspices of the Natal Indian Association, the Indian community met on the Indian Recreation Ground on Sunday last to demonstrate their loyalty to the Crown. Amongst those present were: Messrs. Parsee Rustomjee, V. Lawrence, Abdool H. Kajee, V. R. R. Moodly, R. Bughwan, Goolab Singh, M. B. Maharaj, Lutchman Panday, G. D. Lalla, A. S. Singh, Lazarus Gabriel, and others.

Mr. Christopher, who presided, said that they had met on the same grounds on various occasions to protest against legislation affecting them, and to ask for the redress of their grievances. But that day they had forgotten their suffering of, as it were, yesterday, when they were out fighting by peaceful methods for the communal honour, and, as time moved, so would they ever endeavour to secure fuller recognition in the life of the State. But these considerations with them had

given way to the performance of their duty to the Empire. (Cheers.) Great Britain had taken the side of the weak in the great European war, and she expected every subject to do his duty; and they, as part of the Empire, would, when required, he hoped, not be found wanting. Most of them had already, at a meeting of the Natal Indian Association, signified their willingness to bear arms, or to assist in any humanitarian services the Government may require of them. Their services had been offered to the Government, and the reply had come giving them hope that when occasion arose their services would be availed of. They had with them on previous occasions, when there were internal wars, Mr. Gandhi to organise and to lead them in the service of the country. But that day he was not among them, but what he had done here in those times he was at that hour doing in Europe, and he was, as they must be, glad to observe that those who had served under Mr. Gandhi in the wars were present among them that day, and would be found at the post when required. In the meantime they had a class for the teaching of ambulance work to those who were desirous of such information, and it was a duty to do their best to fit themselves, as far as their resources permitted them, and quite a number had signed on. It was a matter of pride to them that their brethren from their homeland, India, were on the water on their way to the seat of war, and it appeared superfluous to remark that they would distinguish themselves in the present war as they had done in the past, and uphold the prestige of the Indian Army, and the honour of their Motherland. In India their countrymen, like themselves here, it would appear, had forgotten their troubles, and had come to the assistance of the King-Emperor. (Prolonged cheers.) They had no doubt that, in the end, right would conquer, and the allied nations, with Great Britain at the head, would be victorious, and the Indian nation would have taken a worthy part in the struggle for supremacy. (Cheers.)

The following resolutions were unanimously passed:

"That this mass meeting of Indians, assembled under the auspices of the Natal Indian Association, declares its loyalty to the King-Emperor, and its readiness to serve the Crown and to co-operate with the Government in the defence of the country."

"That this meeting desires that the authorities be respectfully requested to convey the following message to the native Indian regiments on their arrival in Europe: 'Indians, through Natal Indian Association, proud of you; confident you will uphold India's honour.'"

The meeting dispersed with cheers for the King-Emperor and for the success of the British arms.

Johannesburg's Offer

The following telegram has been addressed by Mr. A. M. Cachalia, the chairman of the Transvaal Indian Association, to the Government: "The Transvaal Indians respectfully and loyally offer their services to the Government in any useful capacity."

The following reply has been received from the private secretary to Mr. Smuts: "I am asked by Mr. Smuts to thank you for your telegram, in which you, on behalf of the Transvaal Indians, offer to assist the Government at the present critical juncture. Your offer is cordially appreciated, but at the present time I am unable to say more than that your communication is being recorded, and in the event of the Government deciding to take advantage of your offer a further communication will be sent you."

Governor-General's Fund

Pretoria, August 27.—The following, subject to the assent of his Excellency Lord Buxton, has been agreed on as the Central Committee of the Governor-General's Fund: Chairman, his Excellency Lord Buxton; vice-chairman, his Excellency the Acting Governor-General,

Lord De Villiers; committee, the Administrators of the four Provinces, and the Mayors of Capetown, Pretoria, Maritzburg, Bloemfontein, Johannesburg, Port Elizabeth, Durban, Grahamstown, and Kimberley.—Reuter.

A Handsome Donation

London, August 28 11.15 a.m.—The Maharajah of Mysore has offered to donate £330,000 for the Indian forces, and also offers his troops for active service.

The Viceroy of India has gratefully accepted the Maharajah's offers, and has promised that the Maharajah's troops will be used if required.

India's Troops to be Used

London, August 28th.—It is now announced that Native troops from India are coming to participate in the War.

London, August 28th.—In the House of Lords today Lord Crewe, in the course of a speech, made the following explanation regarding the employment of Indian troops. He said that it had been deeply impressed on the Government that the wonderful wave of enthusiasm and loyalty throughout India was largely due to a desire of the people of India that Indian soldiers should stand side by side with their comrades in the British Army.

Lord Crewe, continuing, said that India was aware of the employment of African troops by France, and added that it would have been a disappointment to India if Indians had been debarred from participating in the war. The army would by this means be reinforced by soldiers who were high-souled men and had undergone a first-rate training, and he (Lord Crewe) was certain, he said, that they would give the best possible account of themselves.

In concluding his speech, Lord Crewe said that, despite heavy drafts from the Indian Army, her frontier would be adequately secured. He also firmly believed that the enthusiasm pervading all classes and races in India would render internal trouble absolutely impossible.

London, August 28th.—The Government has decided to send a force of native Indian troops to France.

Enthusiasm in India

London, August 29th.—In India the spirit animating the people is illustrated by the attitude of the great agitator Tilak, who is exhorting every Indian to support the Government.—Reuter.

Coloured Men to Raise a Regiment

Capetown, August 19th (Reuter).—Dr. Abdurahman, M.P.C., has received a cablegram from Mr. Wm. Hosken, of Johannesburg, who is now in London on a visit, stating that he offers to bear the expense of organising a corps of Cape coloured men for active service.

On the outbreak of the trouble the Union Government were approached with offers to raise such a corps, and a reply was received that the offer was appreciated, and would be kept in mind in case of need. In view of Mr. Hosken's offer, however, all branches of the African Political Organisation are now being circularised with a view to ascertaining the number of men willing to join the corps in question, and it is hoped that in a week's time the organisation will be able to put some substantial proposition before the Government.

Dr. Abdurahman expresses confidence as to his ability to find 5,000 men at once, and claims that Cape coloured men demonstrated their efficiency in the field in Matabeleland.

Verulam Items

The *Natal Mercury's* Verulam correspondent writes: A party of Greenwood Park natives, male and female, were on Thursday sentenced by the Magistrate to £3 or three weeks for drinking native liquor. On Monday a similar batch got off with ros. or a week before the Assistant Magistrate. These delinquents will doubtless try to ward off trial by Mr. Matthews in future.

Mr. E. G. H. Rossler, Assistant Magistrate, has been promoted to the sub-magistracy of Babanango, and Mr. H. C. Ward, of the City Court, has succeeded him.

A craze for registering marriages has seized the Indian community, and the Indian interpreter's offices are daily besieged by couples of all ages with varying families to have their unions legalised.

The Demand for Photographs

The Hon. Secretaries of the Natal Indian Association addressed the following letter, dated the 10th ultimo, to the Minister of the Interior:—

"On behalf of the Natal Indian Association, we have the honour to draw the attention of the Government to the practice that has grown up of late in the local Immigration Office, of making the issue of Identification Certificates conditional upon the giving by applicants thereof of photographs, in addition to thumb-prints.

"Our Association is informed that the Principal Immigration Officer takes up the position that, as the issue of these documents is entirely within the discretion of the Honourable the Minister, he is justified in refusing to issue them unless all his demands as to identification are complied with.

"Our Association respectfully ventures to submit first, that, on evidence supplied on frequent occasions by Government experts, thumbprints alone suffice to identify—which, after all, is the object of the documents—and, further, that it surely never was the intention of Parliament either to force applicants to give unnecessary means of identification which, in the opinion of a considerable section of the Indian community is open to grave religious objection or to place administrative officers in a position to refuse to issue these certificates save in rare and exceptional cases.

"Our Association feels that, to make superfluous demands upon Indians returning to India and desirous of protecting themselves by these documents, is not calculated to encourage their popularity and that an undesirable occasion of friction is likely to be created in respect of the administration of a law whose operation, it is confident, the Honourable the Minister wishes to be as little harsh as possible against those and especially the humbler members of the Indian community, who are anxious to avail themselves of those of its provisions to which reference has been made.

"Our Association therefore respectfully requests that instructions may be given at an early date to discontinue the demands for photographs."

The Anjuman Islam, Durban also wrote as follows:

"The attention of my Anjuman has again been drawn to the practice of the Principal Immigration Officer, Natal, to demand photographs in addition to thumb-prints, from applicants for certificates of identity issued under the Immigration Law of 1913.

"Apart from what is in my Anjuman's humble opinion a wholly unnecessary demand, it views with alarm the requirement of a means of identification which for religious reasons is objectionable to many Moslems for whom my Anjuman is privileged to speak.

"My Anjuman is aware that ignorant persons in circumstances over which they deemed they had no control may have felt under the obligation—as some have done—to submit to these demands, but my Anju-

man respectfully urges that it is undesirable to enforce demands which it regards as unnecessary and provocative of irritation at a time when it is anxious, as it is sure the Government are, to remove all possible causes of friction."

"My Anjuman therefore trusts that the Minister will be pleased to give this matter his early consideration with a view to the stoppage of the practice above referred to."

H. H. the Aga Khan

His Highness Sir Sultan Mahomed Shah, G.C.S.I., G.C.I.E., comes of an illustrious and distinguished family. He is a Sayed, for he derives descent from the Great Prophet of Islam, through the latter's daughter, Fatima, and his cousin and son-in-law, Ali, who was his first follower, and the fourth Caliph of the Faithful. His ancestry for forty-eight generations is traced, through the Fatemite Caliphs of Egypt, his ancestors, to Ismail, the son of Jaffer Sedik, the sixth Imam. He is thus an hereditary Imam by long descent, and is the acknowledged head of the Shiah Ismaili sect of Mussulmans. He bears in his veins the blood of the ancient Sassanian monarchs of Persia, and, as such, and by reason of his enlightened interposition with the late Shah on behalf of the Persian Zoroastrians he is *persona grata* with the Parsi community of India. His grandfather, the first Aga Khan, married a daughter of the Persian monarch, Fateh Ali Shah, and was subsequently appointed Commander-in-Chief of the Imperial Persian forces, but in later years was obliged to flee to India, where he signally vindicated his devotion to the British throne.

The present bearer of the hereditary titles of "Aga Khan" and "His Highness" is the third son of the second Aga Khan, and was born at Karachi on the 2nd November, 1877, and is now therefore just under 37 years old. He received a broadly conceived and liberal education in both oriental and western studies, and he is known as a valued and responsible contributor to serious periodical literature. He is a highly cultured man, and a thorough sportsman, whilst his linguistic capacities are great. During the plague outbreak of 1897 he rendered useful services to the Khoja community most of whose members acknowledge him as their spiritual leader, and his services to Mussulman education, male and female, elementary and higher, are well-known. His recent activities on behalf of the Mussulman University that he hopes to see erected at Aligarh showed how keenly he appreciated the educational needs of the Indian Mahomedans, and he has thrown himself heart and soul into the task of bringing about more fraternal relations between Hindus and Mahomedans, as was testified to by his presiding over the famous Hindu-Mahomedan Conference at Allahabad, in 1912. He is, and has been since its inception, the President of the All-India Moslem League, and it is largely under his guidance that there has been the recent *rapprochement* between the League and the Indian National Congress. He is a most loyal servant of the throne and he exercises great political as well as spiritual influence. He has received honours from British Sovereigns, the German Emperor, and the Sultan of Turkey. His spiritual followers, who number some millions, are to be found in India—he is the head of the Ismaili Khojas of Bombay, Sind, Cutch, and Kathiawar—Persia, Arabia, Afghanistan, Turkestan, Khorasan, and in East, Central, and South Africa. From these he derives a large revenue, freely granted to him, much of which he devotes to charitable and educational purposes. It is said that he gives annually six lakhs of rupees in this way, and his manner of giving is liberal and catholic.

When the South African War broke out, he offered his services as a Volunteer, and besides contributing generously to the Passive Resistance Fund, in whose organisation he co-operated with the Hon. Mr. Gokhale,

he has frequently spoken and written strongly in condemnation of the treatment of Indians in this country, presiding over the famous Bombay Town Hall meeting, in January, 1908, when he urged retaliatory measures. He has expressed great gratification at the recent settlement and, in connection therewith, paid a bribe to General Botha, with whom, in 1911, he received the degree of Doctor of Laws of Oxford University. He trusts that, in the present crisis, the South African community will put their grievances aside, and loyally offer their services to the Crown.

The Rice Supply

Attention has been drawn (says the *Natal Advertiser*) to the increase in the rates of freight on Indian products, and also to the fact that the date of the sailing of the Indian African liner, *Naneric*, had been extended to the 5th September. The increase in the freight was expected, but the extension of the sailing date appears to be rather unfortunate, and will have the result of causing a shortage in the supplies towards the end of September. It is also unfortunate from another point of view. The higher freight, about 8d. per bag, will be applied only on new bookings, which means that a portion of the cargo on the *Naneric* will be paid for at the rate of 25 per cent. more than the other, and this will enable the more fortunate shippers to undercut his competitors.

News in Brief

Mr. Jogi Fakir sends us 5s. from Johannesburg for the Durban Mayor's War Relief Fund.

Mr. Jacobus Smuts, the father of Mr. Smuts, Minister of Defence, and formerly member for Malmesbury, died at Riebeeck West on Wednesday, says Reuter.

It is always a pleasure (says *South Africa*) to record the triumph of sane co-operation and compromise. If words mean anything, this is the position reached between the Indian immigrants and the South African Government and Parliament.

Those anxious for the preservation of a good understanding between the British Raj and our Indian fellow-subjects will be delighted to notice that a cordial agreement has at length been arrived at between the South African Union Government and the leaders of the Indians in that country, says the *East-Anglian Daily Times*.

The New Zealand Minister of Marine, Mr. Fisher, has introduced in the House a Bill designed to prevent the right of entry of Hindus and other Asiatics from countries within the Empire. The intending immigrant must write an application form in any European language selected by the Customs officer, and in the presence of the officer, not less than 50 words, the substance of which is to be dictated by the officer in a time allowance of 20 minutes.

London, August 26th, 11.10 a.m.—Indian Moslems offered congratulations to the Sultan of Turkey, on the occasion of the Feast of Bairam, and expressed gratification at Turkey's neutrality, and the British assurance of Turkey's integrity. They affirm that loyalty to the British Crown is their first and paramount duty, and they would greatly deplore any estrangement between Britain and Turkey.

Pretoria, August 26th, (Reuter).—All contributions to the Governor-General's Fund should be addressed to J. D. Dougall, Box 542, Pretoria, and all cheques made out to the Governor-General's Fund; and forwarded to the aforesaid address.

When a man is physically ill he is sent to a hospital. When he is mentally ill he is sent to an asylum. When he is morally ill he is sent to jail and plunged deeper into the depths, when, in most cases, what he needs is treatment.—Judge Henry McGinn, Portland, Or.

On his arrival in India from South Africa, the Akola municipality presented Sir Benjamin Robertson with an address. Replying to the reference made in the address regarding Sir Benjamin's work in connection with the South African settlement, he said:—"It is a source of great gratification to me that I should have contributed in some small measure to bringing about a settlement of this difficult subject. The settlement is due, gentlemen, to the reasonableness with which both sides to the controversy approached the discussion of the questions outstanding and to the practical and thoroughly fair-minded way in which the Commission of Enquiry investigated the various problems submitted to it. It is this spirit of reasonableness and fair-mindedness which brought about the happy result to which you have alluded and I hope and trust that it will continue to govern the relationship which subsists between the Indians in South Africa and the people of the Union."—*Punjabee*.

Mr. Wadia on Indian Education

In a review of Mr. Wadia's "Reflections on the Problems of India," the *Spectator* says:—

Mr. Wadia weighs the democratic fetishes of the day in the balance, and he finds them all wanting. He rivals Burke in his vigorous denunciation of the fallacy that all men are born equal. Any such idea, he says, is a "most palpable and most delirious absurdity." But it is the "modern fetish of knowledge," of which Mr. Gokhale is such an impassioned apostle, that more especially excites his wrath. Indeed, his treatment of this subject constitutes perhaps the most interesting portion of his work. Many leading natives of India are wholly opposed to a rapid extension of elementary education, and Mr. Wadia is able to quote with great effect the staid official testimony which has recorded that "it is not easy to see how India would benefit by a sudden diffusion of spurious literacy." It cannot, in fact, be doubted that the principle which Mr. Wadia advocates, if capable of being carried out in practice, is infinitely more adapted to the real requirements of the Indian population than that of which Mr. Gokhale is the chief exponent. Mr. Wadia holds that Indian children should, in the homely and familiar words of the English Church Catechism, be brought up to do their duty in that state of life unto which it shall please God to call them. One of the main reasons why he is warmly in favour of the maintenance of caste is that it greatly facilitates the execution of this programme. The children of farmers should, he thinks, receive practical instruction in agriculture, and throughout the country small training schools and workshops should be established where technical and industrial instruction should be afforded.

As for industrialism, in the sense in which that word is generally understood, Mr. Wadia thinks it has been a complete failure in England and threatens to become the bane of India. The factory system "has gradually dehumanized the operative into a mere animated tool." Such industrial progress as has been achieved in India, far from being a subject for congratulation, should be a cause of deep regret. When Sir John Hewett expresses a hope that India will eventually "be studded with factories after the manner of flourishing countries of modern Europe," he is aiming at an ideal which is altogether false. On the contrary, every possible effort should be made to maintain hand industries and to resist the introduction of machinery.