

Indian Opinion

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THE VICEROY ON EMIGRATION

IN the course of the opening speech in the Imperial Legislative Council at Simla last month his Excellency the Viceroy dealt with the problem of emigration to different parts of the Empire:—

I would now like to say a few words upon another question which has seriously occupied the attention of the Government of India during the past twelve months, a subject to which we attach the very highest importance. I allude to the question of emigration from one part of our Empire to another. Before dealing with this question, I would like to remind you that, in a speech which I addressed to you in the Council on the 24th March last, I informed you of an announcement made in the Union House of Assembly at Cape Town, that the Government of the Union would introduce, in the following session, legislation based on the report of the commission which had been sitting to enquire into the grievances of Indians in South Africa. As all of you are aware, the proposed Indian Relief Bill has since become Law, and I think that we may regard the passing of the Bill by both Houses of the Union Parliament with grateful satisfaction. If the new law does not satisfy every Indian aspiration, it certainly removes the principal grievances from which Indians for many years have been suffering. The solution of this very difficult problem is a matter upon which we may legitimately congratulate the Government of General Botha, and I would like to say, in particular, that the bold and generous statesmanship which inspired General Smuts and the skill with which he piloted the Bill through the South African Legislature have earned our warm admiration. I will now revert to the general question which is one of far-reaching importance. It cannot be dealt with satisfactorily from merely a local standpoint. It is a question for which, in my opinion, a practical solution may be found, but it is essential that such a solution should be based on a reasonable apprehension of the requirements of other parts of the Empire. At the outset of the discussion of the problem which has arisen, we are faced with this difficulty. It is being commonly asserted, whether on historical, legal, or constitutional grounds, that the full rights of citizenship of the British Empire include the right to settle in any part of that Empire irrespective of the existence of local legislation barring or limiting access to the dominion to which access is sought. But it must not be forgotten that to such a doctrine a political impediment exists of an almost insuperable character. Our Empire is largely composed of self-governing units. The dominions have been given their own legislatures by the Imperial Government, in order that they may regulate the management of their internal affairs as may seem best to them. It is beyond question that the control of immigration is primarily an internal question, for each self-governing unit must know best what materials it desires to provide its future citizens. Thus, indeed, it must clearly be seen that the right of free movement within the Empire

is conditional on the exercise by the local legislature of their undoubted powers just as it is restricted even more rigorously by the physical characteristics of certain parts of the Empire. The principle of free migration between all parts of the Empire may have attractions and many advantages. It is indeed the principle for which the Government of India have long and consistently contended, but I have shown that to reduce this principle to practice would involve the most serious difficulties, and the course of events has made it more and more clear that there is no hope of its adoption.

Drastic Legislation

On the other hand, when we review the whole situation and the policy that we have consistently followed for many years past, I fear that the obvious conclusion at which we must arrive is that the result of this attitude has been to force the Colonies to undertake more and more drastic legislation and thus to produce the present situation in Canada which has brought the problem to an acute stage. This being so, it seems to me that the time has come when we must change our course and we have to consider whether, if we cannot get all we wanted, the alternative is not feasible to relieve at least the present situation which already is unsatisfactory from the point of view both of India and Colonial interests, and may in the future lead to serious trouble. I think that such an alternative can be found and I shall indicate presently what it is. I desire first to try to correct any misapprehension that may exist in this country regarding the attitude of the Governments of the Dominions towards Indians as a whole, and towards the position of the Government of India in this difficult matter. It is often stated that the Colonial Governments in formulating their measures for exclusion, are actuated by feelings of animosity towards Indians and that they would not apply to residents of the United Kingdom any of the restrictions they freely impose on the residents of this country. I do not think that such a statement is quite fair. To be impartial, it must be admitted that the Colonies naturally place above all other considerations the interests of their own country as they understand them, just as we in India should put the good of India in the front of our motives for legislation, but time after time, the Colonial Governments have given evidence, whether during the discussions in their legislative assemblies or in their attempts to negotiate with the Government of India, that they are by no means unmindful of the possible effects of their action on the Government and people in this country and, I think I may say with justice, that they are quite willing to consider India's requirements, once they are satisfied that the interests of their own country have been adequately secured.

Some Examples

Then as to the right of residents of the United Kingdom to enter the Colonies without restriction. I can assure you that the Colonial Governments, both in theory and in practice, maintain their full right to reject such immigrants, and use this right with such restrictions they may think their local conditions require. So much is this the case that the freedom with which Canada excludes labourers of inferior physique while encouraging, by every possible means, the emigration of the fit, has been described as constituting a serious drain on the United Kingdom. I would also remind this Council how some years ago three English hatters were turned back from Australia on the ground that the local labour market for hatters was overstocked. At the present moment an ordinance is in force in Canada which forbids any labourer, whether from the United Kingdom or elsewhere, landing in that country. Recently the Government of South Africa actually removed by force from their territories, certain English labourers whose presence was felt to be undesirable. In the face of such incidents, it is out of place to assert that the policy of exclusion is directed against Indians alone, and that there is, therefore, an Indian grievance against the Colonies. I should like to add that I have seen a statement recently made by the Hon. Mr. Roche, Canadian Minister of the Interior, which I believe to be substantially correct, to the effect that during the past ten years previous to the arrival at Vancouver of the *Komagata Maru*, 917 English people had been rejected at the Canadian ports as compared with 376 Indians.

The "Komagata Maru"

I will now touch lightly on the incident of the *Komagata Maru*. The despatch of this vessel from Shanghai to Vancouver with 400 Indians on board was carried out without the cognisance or approval of the Government of India. The object of the promoters of the expedition was undoubtedly to challenge directly the legality of the Canadian Immigration Laws on the lines that the would-be immigrants were British subjects, and had, therefore, the right to enter Canada. Such a proceeding was in direct contravention of the existing embargo placed on all labourers of every nationality arriving in British Columbia, and in violation of the condition that the immigrants should arrive by continuous voyage from their place of origin. It is unfortunate and to be regretted that such restrictions should exist, but when they do exist, they cannot be ignored without causing suffering and distress. We must all regret the discomfort suffered by the 400 Indians on board the *Komagata Maru* for which the organisers of the expedition were, in my opinion, culpably responsible. They must have known perfectly well that entry would be refused, and the sending of the ship could only be regarded as most unwise. The promoters should have remembered that they who fail to consider the rights of the Colonies can, in return, claim little consideration for their own. The Canadian Immigration Act gives the Government of Canada very wide powers and anybody with knowledge of its contents would realise how futile it would be to contest them. The case was taken as a test case before the Canadian Law Courts, and was lost, as was inevitable, the result being that, with very few exceptions, all those on board the *Komagata Maru* were deported. There were unfortunately some breaches of the peace committed by some of the Indian passengers on board, but in the end, they left peaceably.

An Incident

In this connection, I would like to mention the fact that the Canadian Government very generously gave £800 worth of supplies to the Indians on board for the return journey. This point should not be forgotten. I may add that the developments of this incident were

watched by the Government of India with the closest attention, but as the question at issue was of a purely legal character, there was no cause for intervention. When, however, there was an apparent likelihood of the compulsion of the Indian passengers by armed force, I addressed a communication to the Secretary of State, deprecating the use of force on our fellow-countrymen, and, as you are aware, no force was used. Within the last few days I have learnt that these unfortunate people have been left stranded in Japan. I have, therefore, requested his Majesty's Consul General at Kobe to repatriate them to India, and, at the expense of Government, in the case of those without means.

The Solution

Having now cleared the ground of possible misunderstandings, I will revert to the alternative policy to which I referred a few minutes ago, as a possible solution. I think I have shown clearly that we have drifted into a position of isolation and it is evident that if we are to secure for our Indian fellow-subjects any of the advantages that are now denied, we must substitute for this a policy of co-operation. This can, in my opinion, be achieved only by negotiation with the Colonies on a basis of complete reciprocity. Taking Canada, for instance, we know that a certain number of Japanese are admitted annually on a passport system. Surely India may claim at least the most-favoured-nation treatment in any negotiations that are opened and secure equally favourable terms for Indians. It should not be difficult to limit, by agreement, the number of passports to be issued, which, while providing very fully for temporary residence as in the case of students-tourists and the like, would, at the same time, strictly limit the right to settle permanently in the country. Those attempting to secure admission without such permits or passports would be rejected at the port of entry after ample warning in the country of origin that such rejection would be inevitable. Clearly no reciprocal arrangement for controlling emigration at both ends can be outlined or considered in detail without full discussion with the Colonial Governments concerned, and it would obviously be undesirable to commence negotiations with the Colonies unless there was a reasonable prospect of some practical outcome of the discussions. If this alternative policy commends itself to the people of India it would be futile to consider any other line of action, until it has been tried and has failed, but with the knowledge in our possession, that the Colonies have, on various occasions, shown themselves alive to the necessity of giving such consideration as is possible to the wishes of the Government of India, I am full of confidence that they would be willing to go to some length in giving facilities to a moderate number of Indian immigrants, while obtaining through such a compromise, certain restrictions in India on free emigration to the Colonies. This is the policy which the Government of India would advocate at the present time, a policy based on a scheme of complete reciprocity, and it is for the consideration of the Hon. Members and of the Indian public that I have developed our views here to-day. If these views meet with general approval, the Government of India are ready to recommend them to the Secretary of State with a view to opening negotiations with the Colonies concerned. I appeal to the Indian public to view this question in no narrow light. India has her rights, but equally have the Colonies. Should it be decided to negotiate with the Colonial Governments, I am confident that they with their strong imperial instincts, will meet us in no mean or niggardly spirit, provided that we, on our side, show our readiness to meet them half-way. The fact that, in a few weeks time, our splendid Indian soldiers may be fighting side by side and shoulder to shoulder with our Colonial fellow-subjects against the common enemy, is a guarantee of fair and generous treatment on both sides in a controversy of this nature.

From the Editor's Chair

THE DRINK CURSE

We have been making some enquiries regarding the working of the drink traffic amongst Indians in this Province. There appears to be no difficulty in the way of their obtaining liquor at the numerous bars both in the towns and villages and throughout the country districts. But, whilst they may drink until they are almost intoxicated at the canteens they may not take away with them a bottle of the fiery fluid unless they have a written order from a European resident of the neighbourhood. This leads to numerous prosecutions for being in possession of liquor without an order. There is no doubt that a great deal of traffic of this kind goes on. Occasionally Indians are caught in the act of carrying away a bottle of liquor without being in possession of the necessary order. They are consequently brought before the nearest Magistrate and, on conviction, fined sometimes £3 or three months' imprisonment. These men may be quite ignorant of the law. But it makes no difference. Now, whilst the customer (who, by the way, is not always ignorant but is a trader in the liquor), gets punished severely, the hotel-keeper or his servant who are more to blame, do not. One hardly hears of an owner of a canteen being prosecuted for selling liquor to an Indian without an order. And yet he is liable to a penalty of ten pounds for so doing. There is something seriously wrong with the administration of the liquor laws when we find one section of the law being constantly put in force against the wretched victims of the drink traffic whilst those who grow fat upon the earnings of these wretched people go unmolested. We have been informed on excellent authority that forged orders are given by the barmen of the canteens and bottle stores to Indians who come to buy liquor. Although this is generally known, prosecutions are practically unheard of. An Indian storekeeper, remarking to us about these matters, pointed out that, if he were found selling goods after hours or on Sunday, he would be prosecuted and heavily fined, and not the person who bought the goods. And we know it has actually happened, where an assistant sold a pennyworth of soap on a Sunday without his employer's knowledge, that the storekeeper's licence was refused by the licensing officer the following year. Such is the position. A storekeeper who sells food and necessaries of life is watched at every turn in order that he may be found out in some small fault, and thus be deprived of his means of livelihood; on the other hand, a liquor-seller carries on his nefarious work of supplying poisons which ruin body and soul, without let or hindrance.

THE PRODUCTION OF FOOD

The present terrible war brings prominently before us the great importance of the food supply. Without an adequate supply of food products we should be unable to fight the enemy or feed those who are engaged in the various occupations other than that of farming. When one comes to think of the matter it is really a wonderful thing that so few people appear to be engaged in the work of food production. There are thousands upon thousands of people working in factories and shops and engaged in professions who are consumers of food whilst they produce nothing in the way of food. In war time an unusual amount of food is consumed and wasted whilst fewer men are available for the work on the farms. Crops of corn are destroyed, and ships

containing huge cargoes are ruthlessly sunk in mid ocean as a part of the cruel game of war. So this is a time when attention should be drawn to the question of cultivating the land and planting every available acre of ground with food for man and beast. The great majority of Indians in this country are agriculturists and many thousands are free men who work their small plots. This is the time to put all their energy into the work. Those who have studied agriculture know that, by intensive cultivation, the crops may be trebled and more according to the work and fertilising elements put into the soil. It is the duty of every farmer of intelligence to look to his methods of working and see whether it is not possible to win more from his plot of ground than he has hitherto done. We would also venture to suggest that such crops as tobacco should give place to more useful crops such as fruit, corn, and vegetables. There is any amount of land lying idle which could be turned into food-producing areas by hard-working people. Land belonging to the Government and town lands owned by the various municipalities could be turned into smiling fields of crops if only they could be let at reasonable rentals to small Indian farmers and gardeners. The Indians, with the exception of perhaps a few, will take no part directly in the war. It is not their fault but their fate. Let them, then, be encouraged in every possible way to take up available land for cultivation. We have no doubt that, in these times, there are many who find their occupations in the town gone or dwindling away. Let these also turn their attention to the land. Wealthy men of the Indian community could, if they would, buy land and divide it into suitable lots for small farmers, not with a view to making a fortune but with the humane and patriotic object of assisting poor men to take up the work of food production and thus also do a great service to the Empire to which they belong.

AN UNFAIR INSINUATION

We have much natural sympathy with the promoters of the *War on War Gazette*. As a journal that has always advocated the use of passive resistance in preference to methods of violence, we feel that those who declare that in no circumstances is the use of physical violence justified, are ethically correct. The Quakers long ago laid down that principle as one of the bases of practical Christianity. But whilst we are in sympathy with the objects of the *Gazette*, we frankly confess that there are times when, in our opinion, our contemporary does not rise in its language to the height of its ethical opportunity. In a recent number, whilst endeavouring to combat some of the many popular war-cries against the German, and in dealing especially with that of "German barbarities," our contemporary held up to opprobrium the reported action of a Turco who had brought into Camp the head of a German officer. The *Gazette*, however, then went on to say that it would be interested to hear of Indian deeds of derring-do after this. The insinuation is obvious, and whilst it is grotesquely false, it is malicious and unfair in the extreme. To begin with, disgusting as the action of the Turco is, he at least confined his blood-thirsty tastes to mutilating the body of a dead German soldier, who had presumably been killed in fair fight, and his action could in no way be compared with that of some Germans who, it is stated, on what appears to be unimpeachable authority, have struck off the hands of little children and even of non-combatant medical men. In the second place it is manifestly unethical to charge with crimes of revolting cruelty in advance those who are not in a position to defend themselves, against whose humanity no-one has yet said a word, and whose racial and ethical culture is vastly superior to that of the Turcos. We strongly recommend to our contemporary to confine itself to facts and to leave prophecy alone, and, in dealing with these facts, to do so in a manner appropriate to its ethical basis.

Indians and the War

The Indians of Durban held a most successful sports meeting on the Albert Park Oval on the 10th instant, the proceeds being devoted to the War Relief Fund. The gate takings and tickets sold amounted to the useful sum of £9 15s. 9d. and with entry fees and other amounts a sum of over £10 would be handed over.

The King's Thanks

The Private Secretary to the Governor-General writes as follows to the Natal Indian Association:—

"With further reference to your letter of the 30th August, communicating resolutions passed at a mass meeting of British Indians held at Durban on the 30th August, I am directed by the Governor-General to inform you that His Excellency has it in command to convey to the Indian community an expression of His Majesty's thanks for the loyal message.

The Mauritian and Colonial-born Hindu Benefit Society of Port Elizabeth has collected at their meeting £5 10s. 6d. for the Mayor's War Relief Fund and £2 2s. in aid of the Belgian Widows and Orphans fund.

Position of Indians in the Empire

Sir Valentine Chirol in his letter on "India and the War," which appeared in *The Times* of September 12 says:—

"The response of our Indian Empire may indeed well give cause, not only for immediate thankfulness and pride, but also for confidence and hope in the future. Comradeship in arms will bind Englishmen and Indians close together on the battlefield, and in India and in these islands the sense of a common danger met by a common effort will strengthen that community of interests and of sentiments which seemed of recent times threatened by an artificial growth of mutual suspicions. The whole question of the position of India and of Indians in the British Empire will be approached in a broader and more generous spirit when our Indian princes and our Indian Army have stood shoulder to shoulder through this war with British officers and British men drawn from our most distant Dominions as well as from these islands.

Hospitals for Indian Troops

London, October 13th (Reuter).—Up to the present a sum of £35,728 sterling has been subscribed towards a fund for the establishment of hospitals for the Indian soldiers in Alexandria and Marseilles.

London, October 14th.—Five Union-Castle liners have been fitted as hospital ships for the Indian troops with a magnificent equipment like that of the wards of the London Hospital.—Reuter.

The G.O.M. Speaks

The following letter, written by the Hon. Dadabhai Naoroji from his home at Versova, near Bombay, on August 10th, appeared in the *Times* and the *Manchester Guardian*:—

We have this year to mourn in profound sorrow for the sad bereavement of his Excellency the Viceroy by the death of her Excellency Lady Hardinge. The loss to the people of India, and especially to the women of India, is incalculable. She leaves in the heart and affection of the people of India an everlasting monument of herself as a benefactor.

What a calamity to the world is at present happening. The war in Europe. What is our Indian place in it? We are a people of the British Empire. Let us see what our duty and position is.

If ever India expects to attain her former glory, on the advanced character and scale of modern British civilisation, of liberty, humanity, justice, and all that is

good, great, and divine, it shall be at the hands of the British people and with the British people as self-governing members of the British Empire.

We are above all British citizens of the great British Empire, and that is at present our greatest pride. On the other hand, is Britain engaged in the present great struggle for some selfish purpose, for extension of her own dominion and power? No, it is simply for keeping her word of honour and for righteously discharging a solemn obligation for the peace and welfare of minor and weak Powers.

Fighting as the British people are at present in a righteous cause to the good and glory of human dignity and civilisation, and, moreover, being the beneficent instrument of our own progress and civilisation, our duty is clear—to do every one our best to support the British fight with our life and property.

I have been all my life more of a critic than a simple praiser of the British rule of India, and I have not hesitated to say some hard things at times. I can therefore speak with the most perfect candour and sincerity as to what the British character is, what the civilisation of the world owes to the British genius, and what we Indians owe to the British people for benefits past as well as benefits to come.

Yes; I have not the least doubt in my mind that every individual of the vast mass of humanity of India will have but one desire in his heart—viz., to support to the best of his ability and power the British people in their glorious struggle for justice, liberty, honour, and true human greatness and happiness.

The Princes and people of India have already made spontaneous offers, and until the victorious end of this great struggle no other thought than that of supporting wholeheartedly the British nation should ever enter the mind of India.

A Source of Pride

In the course of his speech in the Imperial Legislative Council, the Viceroy expressed his appreciation of the remarkable demonstration of loyalty and of unity with the Empire. He fully recognised that the views expressed represented those of the whole country. India had gladly given her sons to fight the common foe side by side with the sons of Great Britain, Canada, Australia, and New Zealand, and might with confidence and pride look forward to their achievements on the battlefield being worthy of the best and highest traditions of that country. That India had been in a position to send a military force of over 70,000 combatants to fight for the Empire was a legitimate source of pride and satisfaction to her. There was nothing like comradeship in arms and joint participation in the dangers and hardships of war to level distinctions, inspire mutual respect, and foster friendships. He could not help feeling that as a consequence better relations would be promoted amongst the component parts of the British Empire, many misunderstandings would be removed, and outstanding grievances would be settled in an amicable and generous manner. In this sense, out of evil good might come to India, and this was the desire of us all.

The King's Message to India

The King-Emperor has sent the following message to the Princes and Peoples of India:—

"To the Princes and Peoples of My Indian Empire:

"Among the many incidents that have marked the unanimous uprising of the populations of My Empire in defence of its unity and integrity, nothing has moved me more than the passionate devotion to My Throne expressed both by My Indian subjects, and by the Feudatory Princes and the Ruling Chiefs of India, and their prodigal offers of their lives and their resources in the cause of the Realm. Their one-voiced demand to be foremost in the conflict has touched My heart, and has inspired to the highest issues the love and devotion which, as I well know, have ever linked My

Indian subjects and Myself. I recall to mind India's gracious message to the British nation of goodwill and fellowship which greeted My return in February, 1912, after the solemn ceremony of My Coronation Durbar at Delhi, and I find in this hour of trial a full harvest and a noble fulfilment of the assurance given by you that the destinies of Great Britain and India are indissolubly linked."

India's Answer and its Meaning

Of all the momentous decisions of these four crowded weeks (writes Mr. William Archer in the *Daily News*), none is further-reaching than our decision to place Indian troops in the field. In my opinion (I speak, of course, only for myself) it is a wise decision, which may be fraught with infinite good for India and for our relation to that wonderful country.

Germany confidently expected that we should find India a source of weakness rather than of strength. Perhaps the candid Von Bernhardt might have been rather surprised to hear, as I did two years ago, an Indian Prince remark, in a quite off-hand way, as though it were the merest matter of course, "We've got to fight Germany some day, and the sooner the better." At that time I had been only a week in India, and it gave me an odd little thrill to hear the stately Maharajah use the word "we," as though his name had been Robinson and his birthplace Bloomsbury. In spite of this little experience, I confess I was not quite prepared for the enthusiastic outburst of loyalty which renders possible the summoning of Indian troops to the front. But there it is; and unless we prove ourselves hopelessly unwise and ungenerous, it should mark the beginning of a new era in Indian history.

What I wish to emphasise for the present is that we need not feel the slightest scruple on racial grounds in availing ourselves of the martial spirit of our Indian fellow-subjects. Some question may arise as to the importation of savage troops into civilised warfare. A month ago, before the Germans had proved that savagery does not in the least depend on complexion, one might have looked a little askance at the Senegalese in the French service; though Bernhardt, by the way, quite counts upon their being employed, and makes no sort of protest. In the case of our Indian troops, however, this question does not present itself. The races of India are potentially among the noblest in the world. In my opinion (for even a moment I am not going to flatter them) they have suffered from grave climatic, historic, and spiritual misfortunes. Their claim to age-old "civilisation" I hold to be only verbally justified. But their racial material is superb; and in placing them shoulder to shoulder with ourselves in the fight against world-tyranny, we implicitly admit their high qualities and their right to share in the great future of which the seeds, we confidently believe, are even now being sown in tribulation and anguish.

The rallying of the Indian Army to the flag is a practical admission that, whatever our stupidities here and our arrogances there, we have, for the past century at least, meant well and done well by India. This admission is, I think, mere justice; but it requires some generosity to make it; and it must now be our part to show that we appreciate that generosity. I am no India-worshipper; I think the European idealisers of India do her a more than doubtful service. She has much to learn and very much to unlearn before she is fit to take an equal place in the fellowship of the nations. This is no time, even if I had the space, for criticisms—for enlarging on social abuses and religious impediments to progress. The very fact of her eager participation in this War of World Ideals shows that she is already well out of the slough of millennial stagnation. It now rests with us to help her forward, honestly, diligently, and with deliberate, intelligent

purpose, on the path which shall lead her out of tutelage, and up to the eminent place to which her innate capacities entitle her in the economy of the Empire and of the world.

A Contrast

The Kaiser—

Abraham Lincoln—

The Emperor William at Berlin, March 29th, 1901:

"We shall be everywhere victorious even if we are surrounded by enemies on all sides and even if we have to fight superior numbers, for our most powerful ally is God, who, since the time of the Great Elector and Great King, has always been on our side."

At the seat of war, August, 1914:

"With God's gracious assistance, Duke Albrecht and his army have gained a glorious victory."

Abraham Lincoln during the darkest hours of the Civil War, in response to the question whether he was sure that God was on "our side":

"I do not know: I have not thought about that. But I am very anxious to know whether we are on God's side."

Gardeners and the War

"R.H.P." writes in the *Saturday Westminster Gazette* on the great importance of cultivating every yard of ground possible:—

Gardeners and farmers should not be slow to realise that they have increased responsibilities during the time this country is engaged in war. They share with the general community the disadvantages inseparable from the present military situation, and the opportunities of rendering service to the State that are provided in the present time of stress. But they have also a peculiar responsibility in regard to their stewardship of the land at present in their possession or occupancy. They should make efforts to obtain from every square yard of land a greater return than would have been looked for in ordinary circumstances. In average seasons there are innumerable instances of land being allowed to remain unsown and uncultivated, from the feeling that there appears no scarcity of crops, and "that little bit" is not worth consideration, or from the fact that it has never entered into our heads that the corners, and other out-of-the-way or inconvenient sites may be made to contribute their share to the general harvest. The present is a time for a general waking-up. War, with all its nameless horrors, has certain effects on the national character that are not to be despised, and amongst the vices of civilisation it discourages are luxuriousness and extravagance. It is satisfactory to be able to state that there are plenty of food supplies at the time of writing, and garden produce in particular appears normally plentiful. But we have yet to see how far importations will be interfered with, because directly the contributions to our markets from over the seas are curtailed so soon shall we experience a decided change in the aspect of the markets, a change that will compel us to practise that economy which would be of so much greater avail if put into operation before the worst crisis is upon us. No man can tell how long a time may pass before the madness that has come over Europe will be overcome and peace re-established in our midst. It is from this point of view that it is worth while every cultivator giving increased attention to the question of cropping, for if the present season is already very far advanced we have no sure knowledge that the same considera-

tions will not have to be taken into account when sowing-time comes round again in the spring. The one thing to remember is this, that it is a time for the encouragement of intensive culture. If one goes into Belgium in normal seasons and times of peace, it is impossible not to be impressed with the fact that every bit of the land is cropped to the uttermost, the fields resembling great gardens in which no room can be spared even for hedges. We need to imitate our Belgian and Dutch cultivators in this important matter.

German Traders in India

German espionage has not been confined to South Africa. There are indications in the Indian papers that the Government of India has also been faced by a deliberate attempt to stir up trouble. At first there was a disposition to treat Germans and Austrians in India very leniently, but it is noteworthy that after a few weeks the regulations began to grow more drastic. On August 28th the Government of Bengal went so far as to order that "save with special permission, not more than three foreigners shall move about together at any time, or congregate at any one place." All Germans and Austrians of war age were placed in a camp at Ahmednagar. German trade is an important feature of commercial life in India, but soon after the beginning of the war the Government announced that in the case of firms whose partners are British and Germans or Austrian subjects, the partnership was "ipso facto" dissolved, and that the firms must decide whether they wished to carry on business under British or German or Austrian management. Firms deciding to be British had to prove that the German or Austrian partners had "in fact ceased to have any voice in the management of the firm," and that due advertisement of the fact had been made. German or Austrian firms, and firms electing to carry on business under German or Austrian management, were not allowed to trade at all without obtaining special authority from the Government. In Calcutta alone twenty-one German and Austrian firms were shut down whilst their applications for licences to trade were under consideration. One notices that the Germans arrested in India included a number of employes of German mission stations. The Indian papers also print complaints of the rough treatment of Indians who were on German ships on the East coast of Africa when war broke out. One Cutch trader says that the British passengers were shut up in a coal bunker, and robbed of all their valuables, before being put on a native craft and set adrift.—*Rand Daily Mail*.

Rev. Batts on the War Spirit

The Rev. H. J. Batts writes to the *Natal Mercury*:—I feel constrained to write in the hope of getting our people to see what I fear is being lost sight of in these days of trouble through which we are passing. We talk very much about our forces, and the comparative strength of the armies engaged—the advantage obtained to-day and lost to-morrow; but there is a view of it which is not often referred to, and which I think should find a place. Do we as a people realise that this great thing is a judgment of God upon the nations—upon our own as upon others? Is it possible to think other than this? I do not presume to say which is the most deserving and on which it will fall the heaviest; but I am deeply concerned about ourselves, as all Britishers naturally are likewise. I am perfectly convinced that we have not realised the extreme gravity of the position, nor are we seeking to profit by this great warning of God to us all. The only profit I notice that is discussed is trade profit, and what we are going to get out of the defeat of our foes. If we saw things in the right light should we

not, as nominal Christians at least, ask ourselves wherein is our Christianity to serve us? Is there any Christianity left? Great national disaster in the old days of Israel led them to cry to God. What are we doing?

This is my trouble. In a general way, I see no anxiety of people to put themselves right with God—no general confession or humiliation, no looking to Him, as a people, who alone is the great Disposer of events. Our methods of life continue as they were, as though we are quite satisfied with them, and deem that God is, too. If ever there was a time in history when we should seriously think, it is now. But what is happening? We plan for our pleasures, just as usual; places of amusement are well patronised, and places of prayer deserted. The day we call the Lord's Day is used for tennis parties and the like, as though we mean that God's service and worship shall not have any share of our time, and so we go on airily and easily, as though nothing were taking place like to which all history affords no parallel. On these grounds I want to appeal to my fellows, whose well-being is my concern and theirs; I want them to look this thing in the face, or is it that we have lost our religion and given up God?

News in Brief

Matatiele, October, 14 (Reuter).—A coloured trader here has given £25 to the Government for war purposes.

Coomarasamy Vandayar, an Indian, carrying on a fruiterer's and confectioner's business at 3 Russell Road, Port Elizabeth, was charged before Mr. Von Alphen, A.R.M. with contravening the provisions of the new General Dealers Licences Ordinance. The accused applied to the City Council for the transfer of a General Dealers Licence issued to a Mrs. Vassen from 45-47 South Union Street, to 3 Russell Road. This was refused by the Council as was also a subsequent application from the accused to trade in his own name. Notwithstanding the refusal, the accused continued to trade. He was found guilty and fined £5 or one month's imprisonment with hard labour.

The Indian donor who placed a sum of Rs. 50,000 at the disposal of the Government of Madras for the investigation of the prevalence of diabetes among educated Indians, is the Rajah of Pitapuram. The Rajah (says the *Indian Social Reformer*) is well-known as a noble man of exemplary character and generous sympathies in respect of social and religious reform. He was the largest single donor to the South African Indian Fund raised last December and he recently undertook to bear the whole cost of holding in Madras a session of the International Congress of Liberal Religions.

Mr. Spencer Tryon, writing in the *Empire Review*, says:—It is estimated that, if the Union Government were to offer a free passage to India to every free Indian, with a bonus of twenty pounds on landing, it would not be taken advantage of by five per cent of these Indians. . . . Of all the outlets for surplus Indian population I consider British Guiana the most suitable. . . . Its agricultural possibilities—I write from personal knowledge—are unlimited. It only requires an industrious population to make it the brightest gem among our tropical dependencies. More than thirty years ago the Government, in order to induce Indians to remain, went to the expense of draining large areas of coast land for their occupation. So that here the Indian is actually asked for as a colonist.