

Indian Opinion

PUBLISHED WEEKLY IN ENGLISH AND GUJARATI

No. 52—VOL. XII. WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 30TH, 1914. Registered at the G. P. O. as a Newspaper
PRICE THREEPENCE

LORD CURZON'S APPEAL

A MEETING of London business men was held at the Commercial Sale Rooms, in Mincing Lane, on Tuesday, December 1st (says *India*), when Earl Curzon of Kedleston made an appeal on behalf of the Indian Soldiers' Fund. Mr. Arthur Thompson, chairman of the Rooms, presided.

Earl Curzon said there was something peculiarly thrilling and romantic in the contribution of help that was offered us from India. Those who had served in India felt an emotion of pride that all the good work contributed by generations of Englishmen for a hundred years and more to the service of India was being recompensed in the hour of need by the spontaneous and voluntary offer of the dark races of the Indian Empire.

He believed the offer was spontaneous and genuine. The German Emperor might be amazed to hear it, nevertheless the offers from Princes, from gentry, from the people, even from the peasants of India, that reached the Viceroy represented a genuine and not a manufactured or fictitious emotion on the part of the people. (Cheers.) In the first place the people of India welcomed the opportunity of showing their loyalty to the King-Emperor, whom they had seen in their midst and whom they regarded with a personal reverence and affection quite as great as, if not greater than, that which British people felt. Secondly, they wanted to show that the Indian troops were fitted not only to be fellow-citizens of the British in the civil structure of the Empire, but were good enough to stand by our sides, to fight our battles, and to repel our enemies. (Cheers.) Thirdly, he believed that the principles which underlay German policy—what was now known as German militarism—were as detestable to the populations of India as they were to the peoples of Europe.

It must always be remembered that the whole of the stability of the British position in India depended upon our fidelity to our pledged word. Our relations with the Princes, our obligations to the native troops, all depend upon the pledged word of Englishmen. Indian troops were upholding the honour of the British flag not in France alone but in Egypt, in British East Africa, and in other parts of the world. He was not going to say how many of them had left India, because he did not wish to present a valuable secret to the German Emperor, but he thought the number was probably in excess of anything the world believed.

As for the gallantry of the Indians as fighters, it was only necessary to read the despatches of Sir John French to realise how great a part they were playing in the campaign in France and Belgium. He expressed his delight at the news that one of these brave men, a Dogra Havildar, had been recommended for the Victoria Cross. (Cheers.) The news came with particular pleasure to him, because he had the honour of recommending that the King should, at the famous Delhi Durbar, make to the Indian troops the concession of the right to win this coveted award for valour. Why the concession was not

made earlier he never could understand. He had tried to do it in his time, but was unsuccessful.

The British people owed such return as it was in their power to make to these brave men for their loyalty and their deeds. They were fighting under conditions entirely novel and most trying to them. Most of them had lived and been trained to fight in a climate very different from that of France or Belgium in winter. Two days since a native officer just returned from the front told him that he had left his men standing nearly up to their knees in water in the trenches. They had only one pair of boots and one pair of socks, and only puttees wound round their legs. It was true that they had over their drill uniforms greatcoats of a certain description, but what they wanted was the sheepskin to which they were accustomed in service on the Indian frontier. These were now being dealt out by the Government. To improve the conditions generally, the Indian Soldiers' Fund was founded. The money contributed to the fund already amounted to £93,000, and about half of that was pledged to the Indians' hospital at Brockenhurst. If the war was a long one, as he thought it would be, good use could easily be found for a quarter of a million sterling.

Colonel Malcolm, commanding the first battalion of the London Scottish, who has been invalided from the front, added, as a member of the Rooms, a few words to Lord Curzon's appeal, mentioning that on one occasion in a recent engagement the prompt arrival of Indian soldiers had helped very considerably the hard-pressed and thin line of British troops.

The meeting gave Lord Curzon three hearty cheers for his speech, on the call of Mr. C. C. McLeod, who mentioned that the subscription list had been started with a gift of £500 from Mr. A. Brooke. A special sub-committee was also formed to extend the area of the appeal for subscriptions, composed of Mr. C. C. McLeod (Chairman), Mr. F. Faithfull Begg (Chairman of the London Chamber of Commerce), Sir H. Seymour King, Sir David Yule, and Mr. H. R. Beasley (Secretary).

The Indian Soldiers' Fund now amounts to £93,851. The latest subscriptions include £300 from Messrs. Shaw, Wallace and Co., £100 from Messrs. Ballis and Morcom (Ltd.), £65 from the Dowager Lady Farrer and Mrs. Leslie de Gruyther, £40 from the Somerset Hills War Relief Committee, Bernardsville, New Jersey, U.S.A., and £25 from Sir William Younger, M.P.

Members of the India Tea Association have given 150 cases of tea for an extra allowance of tea, apart from rations, and fifty cases are being despatched to the front at once. The British-American Tobacco Company has presented a million cigarettes. Indian sweets are being manufactured for despatch through a firm of London merchants.

Mr. Sanghavel Honoured

The following is the text of the address presented by the Gujarati Hindu Committee of Durban to Mr. Sanghavel just previous to his departure for India last week :—

To Thakarshi Jethabhai Sanghavel, Esquire, Durban
Dear Sir,

We, the undersigned members of the Gujarati Hindu Community, take this opportunity of tendering to you this farewell address on the eve of your departure for India.

We have not the words to express to you our gratitude for the many excellent services rendered to our Community without any personal reward.

We have great pleasure in placing on record your valuable services in connection with the originating of the Devali Festival and its successful observance annually; also the establishing of the Hindoo Smashan (Crematorium) and placing it in its present strong position and management.

Your absence from this Country will be greatly missed by our Community and will be difficult to replace.

We wish you a prosperous and healthful voyage and pray God that you meet your near and dear ones in our Motherland and enjoy the best fruits of your life.

Our "Golden Number"

The *Transvaal Leader* has the following review, as a leading article, of the Passive Resistance Souvenir :—

INDIAN OPINION has published an elaborate souvenir of the Indian passive resistance movement in South Africa, in the form of a "golden number." This is a most interesting record of the events, extending over nearly eight years, which arose out of the contention by British Indians in the Union that unnecessarily repressive legislation was being applied against them and their countrymen. The printing and illustrations are excellent; but the spirit of moderation in which the letterpress is written is the really remarkable thing about the publication. There is the natural gratification at the steadfastness displayed by Mr. Gandhi and his colleagues and followers, and a conviction that what they contended for was an honourable ideal; but there is no extravagance or bombast. A great deal of the narrative, as was inevitable, centres upon the personality of Mr. Gandhi, who, by the way, is at present ill in London, where he has been engaged in military hospital work since the war began. Mr. Gandhi himself contributes his views on what legitimate passive resistance should and should not be as well as a copy of a letter received by him from Count Tolstoy. It is gratifying to reflect that a problem which it at one time appeared must inevitably involve South Africa and other parts of the Empire in serious trouble, was eventually resolved to the permanent satisfaction of both South Africa and Indian sentiment, and the fact is an encouragement to believe that with patience and the exercise of statesmanlike qualities, even the ugliest difficulties usually move on to a solution. The question of India's surplus population has not yet been dealt with at all points; but it is not extravagant to anticipate that the world-wide disturbance which is altering the aspect of questions international, commercial, and even social, may have as one of its results the opening of new possibilities for British Indians in Africa, such as to free the Union more than ever from apprehensions regarding the possibility of being swamped in part or whole by increases of Asiatic population, whether within or from without.

"East Rand Express"

One of the most valuable contributions to the literature of the Asiatic movement in South Africa that we have yet seen (says the *Express*) is "The Golden Number of INDIAN OPINION" just published by the Phoenix Press. It is admirably produced from a typographical standpoint, is printed in English and two or three Asiatic languages, and lavishly illustrated. The special object of the publication is to celebrate the passing of the legislation which, for the time being at least, has ended the Asiatic controversy, and to pay a tribute to Mr. Gandhi's efforts in that connection. For ourselves we have always regarded the struggle as economic rather than racial, and our chief regret has been that the fortune of war made it imperative to fight Mr. Gandhi's schemes to the finish, because we have always held, and still hold, that South Africa can never be a country in which a great white population can exist if Asiatics are encouraged. The rise of the Asiatic means the fall of the European. Mr. Gandhi, a true Indian patriot, naturally fought for his own countrymen, and what is more fought in a way which elicited the admiration even of his bitterest opponents. It is only fitting that his great battle should be the subject of a souvenir. The pity of it is that economic circumstances should force the two races into conflict for we feel sure the question is not finally settled. The best solution would undoubtedly be to give the Asiatics either British East Africa or what is now German East Africa as a colony of their own, and allow all South African Asiatics to journey thither. This would do away once for all with the possibility of further trouble between Europeans and Asiatics in the Union.

Good Wishes to Mr. Chaplin

Mr. Cachalia, the Chairman of the British Indian Association, addressed the following letter, dated the 19th instant, to Mr. F. D. P. Chaplin, Johannesburg :—

"On the eve of your departure for Rhodesia to take up an important position under the Crown, my Association desires to express its regret at your withdrawal from Parliamentary life in this country, in the course of which you have performed signal service of Imperial character to British Indians here, not least of all during the last session of Parliament when the remedial legislation that resulted in the conclusion of the Passive Resistance Struggle was passing through the House. My Association expresses the hope that in your new sphere of life you will have health and happiness, and the Transvaal Indian community beg to extend to you and to Mr. Chaplin, its best wishes for the future."

The following reply has been received from Mr. Chaplin by Mr. Cachalia :—

"I thank you most sincerely for your letter conveying to me your Association's regret at my withdrawal from the Parliament of the Union, and good wishes for the future happiness of Mrs. Chaplin and myself. I greatly appreciate the terms of your letter and it will always be a source of great satisfaction to me to have been able to assist in the settlement of the very important and difficult questions affecting the Indian community of the Transvaal which were before Parliament during its last ordinary session."

A case has been brought to the notice of *India* in which an Indian gentleman, who has enlisted in a Service battalion of the New Army, applied for a commission. He has been informed in reply by an officer, writing on behalf of the Director of Military Training at the War Office, that it has been decided that no alteration can be made to the rule that only "European subjects" are eligible for appointment to commissions in the Regular Forces of the Crown.

From the Editor's Chair

INDIANS OUTSIDE INDIA

WE have felt for a long time past that it was not sufficient that there should be in various parts of India local committees, unconnected with each other, and confining their operations to matters affecting the interests of Indians in South Africa; and we were also looking forward to the development of the South Africa British Indian Committee in London, under the able presidency of Lord Amptill, in the direction of an extension of scope to include matters affecting Indians outside of India. It is a matter of great satisfaction to find, therefore, that authority has been given to the Bombay South Africa Indian Committee to form an Association for this purpose, and that the balance of the funds raised on behalf of South African Passive Resisters has been handed to trustees who are authorised to pay out therefrom to such an association such sums as it may require from time to time for carrying on its objects. This is an indication of the growing importance that is attached amongst Indian public men to this important Imperial question, and we hope that the example of Bombay will be followed in other parts of India, and that a central bureau in London will shortly be created.

A TRAMCAR INCIDENT

ON the 30th ultimo Mr. Beethasee Maharaj boarded an Overport car at the Durban Post-office. Seeing that the seats at the back were already occupied by Indians, he took another seat further up the car. The conductor came up and ordered him to go to the back. Seeing no seat vacant, the passenger asked the conductor to find him a seat, but the conductor simply repeated his order and added that the Indian passenger had no business to sit in front of white men. Mr. Beethasee then got up and went to a seat on which a European was seated, near the back. At this, the conductor became enraged and said that he would have him arrested. Again the passenger asked the conductor to find him a seat but he would not. So the passenger kept his seat. The conductor then fetched a policeman who ordered him off the car. When they reached the ground, instead of arresting him, the policeman went back to his post and, when appealed to, refused to arrest him. Mr. Beethasee then reported the matter to the Chief of Police and the General Manager of Tramways. Both these gentlemen listened to his statement and promised to investigate. Mr. Beethasee was asked to call a few days later at the Tramway offices when the conductor was present and apologised for his conduct verbally and in writing. And so the incident ended happily.

Mr. Beethasee, as a former headmaster of an Indian school and Secretary of various societies, which facts were known to the heads of the Police and the Tramways, was thus able to get some satisfaction by boldly pressing his case at the proper quarters, but, he asks, how many such incidents daily happen and are never heard of? We fear that these incidents are common. An Indian, who pays his fare the same as a European, has an equal right to travel on the cars, and the con-

ductor in this case was wrong in calling the police. The policeman, too, must have known that he was exceeding his duty when he refused to arrest the man whom he had insulted. This kind of bluff will not do. Both the Superintendent of Police and the Manager of Tramways know perfectly well that Indian passengers must be accommodated with seats, and it is their business, as servants of the public, to instruct the men under their charge to treat all citizens with equal respect and fairness. No more and no less than this is certainly demanded.

Indians and the War

The Times correspondent at Boulogne tells how Havildar Ganga Singh, 57th Wilde's Rifles, killed eleven Germans single-handed and won the V.C. He and fifteen men were heavily attacked in their trench before dawn by the enemy; wire entanglements held up the Germans for a brief time and in getting through they lost many, but it was in the hand-to-hand fighting that ensued that Ganga Singh distinguished himself so remarkably. He shot the German officer, took his sword, and with it killed ten more before he was brought down by a bullet in his foot. "Otherwise I should have killed more. It was a heavy sword," he said. He was left for dead, the sole survivor of his party. He is a Dogra from Tikka in the Kangra District, and his regiment was stationed at Ferozpur.

A Deadly Charge

The Daily Express publishes the following from its Boulogne correspondent, dated November 24th:—

When the battle to the north of east—was at its height on Saturday afternoon, a company of 200 Indian soldiers was left without an officer in a few acres of stunted wood and scrub, about one mile and a half west of the actual engagement.

They had imperative orders to remain under the cover of the thick bush until called into action.

After a short wait, they saw a company of about 500 Germans retreating through shell fire and making for their cover. The Gurkhas waited until they were within fifty feet—not yards—of their ambush; then they let go a fan-like flash of musketry that left the enemy dazed just long enough to see the Gurkhas, flashing steel knives, leap out of the bush and follow them in a mad stampede towards a well-hidden German trench about a third of a mile north.

Every Indian then was his own master, and with a yell which increased the terror of the panic-stricken Prussians, the Gurkhas followed. The Germans turned and fired, and ran and turned again and fired and fought with bayonets, until they either dropped or else ran on until a remnant of the thinning numbers fell into their comrades' trench.

It was only then that the Germans in the trench could fire without killing their own men, and they did, with deadly effect.

The impact of their musketry brought the Gurkhas to a halt for a second only, and then, like steel-pointed brown arrows, they dived into the German trench and fought like demons.

The details of the carnage that ensued will never be written, but in the gathering darkness some of the few score of escaping Germans were seen to fall from bullets fired from their own guns, as the Gurkhas had left theirs in the bush.

It was pitch dark when fifty-seven Indian soldiers, calmly humming an Eastern chant, stealthily found their way back to the stunted growth and answered to the challenge of a sentry and a few British soldiers, who were waiting to pilot them back to food and rest and warmth.

It was one of the fifty-seven who described this vivid scene to me with all the intensity and subdued excitement of his race.

In Memory of "Bobs"

The London papers of November 30 contain the following:—"Since the death of Lord Roberts the Indians have been begging to have an opportunity of inflicting a defeat upon the Germans in honour of his memory. They were shelled out of a certain position, and they were then told that the best way in which they could honour Lord Roberts's memory would be to retake lost ground. They swore to do so as long as one of them should be left alive. The Indians advanced under cover of darkness in dead silence, and no suspicion was awakened among the Germans.

"Then there came the cry of an owl, and suddenly the Germans, among whom were some of the Kaiser's best troops, found their swarthy enemies swarming into their trenches. They endeavoured to fly, but few escaped, the majority falling victims to the Indians' bayonets. So far as the remainder were concerned, it was an utter rout.

"When the lost trenches had finally been reoccupied, the Indians asked their officers: 'Do you think if our father had been here he would have been pleased with us?' 'You have proved yourselves worthy of him,' was the reply."

How a V.C. was Won

A *Transvaal Leader* special cablegram states:—

An officer in the battalion in which serves Havildar Durwan Sing Negi, who was decorated by the King with the Victoria Cross, sends a glowing account of the bravery of the Indian.

He says: "What happened in the fight was this: A certain portion of the trenches, about 400 yards in length, was severely shelled by the Germans at dawn, and made untenable. The troops holding them were forced to evacuate the position.

"The Germans then rushed in and held the position strongly with several machine-guns.

"Two attempts were made by the Indians to retake the trenches, but the attacks ended in sanguinary non-success.

"At dusk the enemy still held 300 yards of trenches. We were called up, although we had just done 21 days in the trenches. Owing to the brightness of the night and the snow on the ground, we gave up all idea of making a frontal assault, as none of us would have got within 200 yards, so we decided to file a battalion up the communication trench and attack the enemy from his right flank.

"In this manner the trench was partially retaken. This was slow work. Havildar Durwan Sing Negi, though hit in the head and tunic enough to half-stun him, led his section in charge, after charge, capturing each piece of trench and putting the fear of God into the Huns, who, terrified by the way our little fellows rushed at them, readily threw down their arms and surrendered.

"We bagged two machine-guns, one trench mortar, and 105 prisoners. A lot of men were recommended for decoration, but first of all the Havildar gained the highest of all rewards."

Brighton Pavilion for Indians

The Brighton correspondent of the *Daily Telegraph* makes the following interesting announcement:—

Brighton was agreeably surprised this morning by the announcement that its famous Royal Pavilion was being prepared as a huge military hospital for the reception of the wounded Indian soldiers from the front. The inhabitants regard it as a great compliment and a recognition of the numerous efforts on the part of patriotic residents to provide palatial accommodation for the brave soldiers fighting the nation's battles.

If anything were needed to enhance appreciation of the selection of Brighton as a centre for the treatment of the injured Indians, it would be found in the fact that it was the King's particular wish that such arrangements should be made. Brighton is delighted beyond expression that, in compliance with his Majesty's desire it has been possible to place at the disposal of the military authorities an institution with Royal associations and of a character which must appeal strongly to his Indian soldiers. In spite of all the sneers of the wits of the Georgian era, Brighton is intensely proud of its Royal Pavilion. It has lavished money upon the maintenance of the establishment as a centre of the life and fashion of the place. Never, Brighton people say, was its acquisition by the town more abundantly justified than by this noble appropriation as a home for those brave Indian warriors who have come across the seas in the cause of the Empire.

The official mind moves quickly in these days. It was not until Saturday that the local authorities were made aware of the King's happily inspired idea that Brighton would be a very desirable place to bring the Indians. By five o'clock in the afternoon every thing had been settled. The moment the Mayor (Alderman Otter) received a message from Lord Kitchener conveying his Majesty's thanks for the offer of the Pavilion property—for, with the exception of the northern block of buildings in which the Library and Art Galleries are placed, the whole estate is transferred to the hospital authorities—a start was made in clearing the rooms. In addition to the staff, a contingent of sixty members of the Boys' Brigade were procured, through the instrumentality of Mr. W. B. Gentle (Chief Constable), and in twenty-four hours much progress had been made. Mrs. Otter, the Mayoress, and her daughter were also busy in attending to matters in which ladies are especially interested.

A visit to the Pavilion revealed a mighty transformation. Within the apartments are now ranged symmetrical rows of hospital beds, the neat simplicity of which contrasts with the vivid colouring of Oriental splendour above and around. The greatest metamorphosis perhaps, is at the Dome, the large area known to concert-goers and ceremonial public functions. Under its new aspect the place looks capable of accommodating a very large number of beds.

The big Corn Exchange adjoining is also being prepared for any emergency. It is understood that the King really wanted to make provision here for as many Indian wounded as possible, and the authorities believe that so far as existing arrangements go they will be equal to the treatment of 2,000 cases. Everything is being sacrificed to meet the demand. Gatherings which had been arranged at the Pavilion are to be held elsewhere.

The grounds, through which at ordinary times there is a public right of way, are to be rigorously closed. Complete quietness will be preserved, and every precaution taken to prevent inquisitive people prying into the grounds when the soldiers are able to rest outside on the exquisite carved verandah, which runs along the eastern front of the main building.

The Future of India

The Editor of the *Britannic Review*, in the course of his editorial notes, says, in regard to the co-operation of India in the war:—

But let us beware of misreading the political lesson of this wonderful manifestation, which in some quarters may easily be made the excuse for a reactionary policy. As in the case of the Dominions, the rally of India signifies contentment with the principles of the existing Imperial system. But the main principle of the existing system, in regard to both India and the Dominions, is that it is not stereotyped, but is continuously evolving in the direction of national independence within the Empire. It would be no less erroneous to think that after this war, if the Allies win, a halt can be called to

the policy of giving Indian opinion a larger influence in the government of India, than to imagine that the Dominions must be left to merge their self-government in Imperialism. In a letter to *The Times* an Indian member of the recent Royal Commission on the Public Administration in India thus tried to explain the loyal demonstration:—

"We wish to avert by all that lies in our power the humiliation of a change of government. We have assurances afforded to us in the history of British occupation of India, by the promises of our Sovereign and the pledges given by British statesmen on solemn occasions, that the British Government in India has a higher purpose to serve than merely the maintenance of peace and order, which any Government must secure if it is to exist at all. That purpose is to enlist by means of Western education the sympathy and co-operation of the people in the ideals of Western civilisation, so that they may ultimately be fitted to administer the affairs of their own country as an integral part of the British Empire. From the Germans we can have no similar guarantees. The progress in the desired direction may have been slow in the past, but we have every hope that the pace will now be considerably quickened; this hope is greatly fostered by the recent administrative reforms with which Lord Morley's honoured name is associated and by the sympathetic attitude of Lord Hardinge, our most popular Viceroy, towards national aspirations and sentiments. We believe that by remaining within the orbit of the British Empire we shall be able sooner to realise the destiny of India than otherwise. These are cogent reasons for our sinking all differences in the face of a common danger, apart from the apparent justice of the British attitude in this war."

That is an aspiration which British statesmen should know how to meet; for it could not be checked without advancing disrupting influences.

Equal Rank for India

Regarding the instinctive desire of India for equality of rank with the Dominions, as an independent nation-State within the Empire, the writer concludes by saying:—

To the Government of India, however constituted, should be conceded the same complete liberty which the Dominion Governments already enjoy to frame the social and economic policy of the country in its own interests, without any Imperial dictation. That would be a big step towards equality of rank.

The Indian Soldiers' Fund

The Indian Soldiers' Fund was announced, says *India* of the 27th November, to have reached a total of £92,000.

Many contributors of small sums in the last few days have accompanied their remittances with references to the death of Lord Roberts. Schools of various kinds and in many places are interesting themselves in the work of collection, in one case "in recognition of the fact that so many girls in this school have associations with India." From Upton Park comes a first instalment of 100 half-pound tins containing cinnamon, cloves, and sweets. These have been purchased with the half-pennies of the Council school-children in a poor neighbourhood.

A consignment of 500 pairs of special wet-resisting boots has been promised for the use of the Indian troops in the trenches. They are fifteen inches high, lined with canvas, and thickly soled with rubber.

The large tea-boilers, each with a capacity of thirty-gallons, which have been presented by Earl Curzon of Kedleston as a personal gift to every Indian unit in the field, were despatched from England to the Continent on Tuesday last (November 24), and will be forwarded immediately to the front.

Recent subscribers include Mr. Robert Gordon and Messrs. Wm. Gossage and Sons, Limited, £250; the Worshipful Company of Pewterers, Messrs. Lea and Perrins, Messrs. Turner and Co., Messrs. Harrisons and Crosfield, £105; Mr. William Jackson (of the Calcutta Bar), the British Burmese Steam Navigation Company, the Burma Steamship Company, Mr. G. E. Henderson, Mrs. M. C. Prentice, and the Misses Spencer, £100; the Delhi, Umballa, and Kalka Railway Company, £52 10s; Commander Sir Charles Cust, £50.

"Partner in the Empire"

Referring to the consequences of the "striking and historic event" of India's participation in force in the world-war of the Empire, Mr. Roberts, Under Secretary for India, in the House of Commons, said:—

"It is clear that India claims to be not a more dependent but a partner in the Empire, and her partnership with us in spirit and on the battlefield cannot but alter the angle from which we shall all henceforward look at the problems of the government of India. . . . I cannot but trust that the common endeavours of these days will enable India to realise that she is occupying, and is destined to occupy, a place in our free Empire worthy alike of her ancient civilisation and thought, and of the valour of her fighting races, and of the patriotism of her sons."

Speech by Chief Justice

Capetown, December 19 (Reuter).—Chief Justice Rose-Innes, in opening the Moslem Bazaar to-day, remarked, in the course of his speech, that the awful war had some good by-products, though they did not outweigh the evil. It was a grand sight, he said, to see men hurrying from all parts of the globe, over all the seas of the world, to fight for their King and flag, and for what these symbolised, the liberty and good government enjoyed under them. The Moslems, he went on, were behind none in what they had done. There had been magnificent efforts made by Indian troops, and the readiness with which they poured out their blood, lives, and material possessions, showed that they realised, in spite of mistakes and errors—to which all human efforts are liable—that the British Government did endeavour to do right between all classes of people, and that it did bestow a greater measure of freedom than any other. The result of efforts here, of all nations, colours, classes, and creeds, to do their best would have the result of drawing us all closer together, and after the war many would look to see improvements in the social and political aspect.

An Indian Corn Specialist

Yesterday was "corn day" at Fort Napier, says the *Times of Natal* of the 14th instant. Some vagueness may seem to attach to the epithet, so an explanation will be met. For several weeks many of the men of the D.L.I. have been suffering from corns, in a more or less severe stage of growth, and it is stated that Colonel Dick has been somewhat perturbed at the incident.

An Indian corn specialist, who hails from Durban, put in an appearance yesterday at the camp, and he was soon doing good business. His methods are rather crude to the European mind, but nevertheless his work seems to bear close scrutiny. For a shilling, every man who was afflicted in the manner indicated had the objectionable growths removed, painlessly. In some cases corns as large as half a crown were made to yield to the process, which occupies about half an hour. The spectacle of 50 or more men shouting for the services of this travelling chiropodist was amusing; nevertheless all who came under his treatment certified as to the genuineness of his methods. Moreover, many of those treated were able to walk immediately afterwards. It is stated that the O.C. is desirous that the Indian in question should accompany the regiment when it leaves for active service.

Princes at the War

Honorary Major-General H. H. Sir Pratab Singh Bahadur, G.C.S.I., G.C.V.O., K.C.B., A.D.C., Maharaja-Regent of Jodhpur; Honorary Lieutenant H. H. the Maharaja of Jodhpur; Honorary Colonel H. H. Sir Ganga Singh Bahadur, G.C.S.I., G.C.I.E., A.D.C., Maharaja of Bikanir; Honorary Major H. H. Sir Madan Singh Bahadur, K.C.S.I., K.C.I.E., Maharaja-Dhiraj of Kishengarh; Honorary Captain The Honourable Malik Umar Hayat Khan, C.I.E., M.V.O., Tiwana; Honorary Lieutenant Rajkumar Hira Singh of Panda; Honorary Lieutenant Maharaj-Kumar Hitendro Narayan of Cooch Behar; Lieutenant Malik Mumtaz Mahomed Khan, Native Indian Land Forces; Resaldar Khwaja Mahomed Khan Bahadur, Queen Victoria's Own Corps of Guides; Honorary Captain Shah Mirza Beg, are serving with the Indian contingents.

Forbidden to Surrender

London, December 28.—(Reuter) In an article in the *Frankfurter Zeitung* a correspondent of that paper gives impressions of the Allies' front in the west. He praises the splendid equipment, warlike appearance, and discipline of the Indians, who, he says, are well provided with winter clothing. He further states that these is comparatively but a small number of Indian prisoners in German hands. This is due to the fact that they are forbidden to surrender without the permission of their officers. Hence when their officers are disabled the Indians fight till they are killed.

Two hundred Sikhs and Gurkhas, who have settled in Western Australia, have offered to form a contingent for the front (says a Central News message from Melbourne).

A cable has been received in London announcing that the hospital ship *Loyalty*, with 500 beds and a complete equipment, left Bombay for European waters on the 1st instant. This ship is the gift to the nation of the Maharaja Scindia of Gwalior and the Begum of Bhopal.

The Allahabad *Leader* in a leading article entitled "Utilise India's Manhood," asks why Great Britain should be limiting herself to the Standing Indian Army:

"If a fraction of what we are told about the quality of the German Landsturm is true—and there is no reason to doubt that it is substantially correct—surely India can send hordes of men that can do more than simply hold their own against the enemy's greybeard and beardless conscripts. Is Great Britain justified from the point of view of success in the present war primarily, but also from the broad permanent Imperial standpoint, in depriving itself of the huge and practically inexhaustible reserve of manhood that is lying unutilised in India, but wants to be?"

"The part India had played must have a great effect on India's future and position in the Empire."—EARL OF SELBORNE (speech at Chiswick).

London, December 15.—A Reuter telegram from Sydney states that the trade of New South Wales with Japan for nine months amounts to £1,119,354, being an increase of £62,313. Japan is displaying an active interest in goods which in the past had been exported by Germany. Already Japan's exports show a marked increase.—Reuter.

The security of Rs. 2,000 (£133 6s. 8d.) deposited in respect of the *Comrade and Hamdard* Press, Delhi, (says *India*) has been forfeited under the Press Act in consequence of an article entitled "The Choice of the Turks," published in the *Comrade* of September 26 last.

The South African Indian Fund

A meeting of the subscribers to the South African Indian Fund was held (says the *Indian Social Reformer* of Bombay) in Sir Currimbhoy Ebrahim's Offices on Tuesday, the 3rd November, 1914, to approve and adopt the audited statement of accounts of the South African Indian Fund, and to consider the question of the disposal of the balance in the hands of the Secretaries. The Hon. Sir Fazulbhoy Currimbhoy Kt. was in the chair.

Mr. Jehangir B. Petit read out the audited statement of accounts of the South African Indian Fund showing a balance of Rs. 1,47,867-5-4.

The following resolution was thereupon proposed by the Hon. Sir Fazulbhoy Currimbhoy Kt., seconded by Mr. K. Natarajan and unanimously adopted by the meeting:—

"This meeting of the subscribers to the South African Indian Fund resolves—

(a) That the audited statement of accounts of the South African Indian Fund be and is hereby approved.

(b) That the balance of Rs. 1,47,867-5-4 of the South African Indian Fund, minus the amount of expenditure that may be incurred subsequently to this date in connection with the closing of the Fund, be devoted to securing, safeguarding and maintaining the economic interests and the civil rights of Indians as equal subjects of the British Crown in all British Colonies as well as foreign countries.

(c) That the following gentlemen, namely, the Hon. Sir Jamsetjee Jeejeebhoy Bart, Mr. H. A. Wadia, the Hon. Sir Fazulbhoy Currimbhoy Kt., Mr. Narottam Morarjee Goculdas, Mr. K. Natarajan, and Mr. Jehangir Bomanjee Petit, in whose names the securities now stand, be and are hereby appointed Trustees of this Fund.

(d) That for carrying out the objects set forth in clause (b) of this resolution the South African Indian Committee consisting of:—

President.—Mr. Ratan Tata; *Vice President*.—The Hon. Sir Pherozshah Mehta, K.C.I.E., *Chairman of the Managing Committee*.—the Hon. Sir Jamsetjee Jeejeebhoy, Bart.; *Vice-Chairman*.—Mr. H. A. Wadia; *Members of the Managing Committee*.—Sir Currimbhoy Ebrahim Bart., Sir Dorab Tata, Kt., Sir Ebrahim Rahimtulla, Kt., Sir Vithaldas D. Thakersey, Kt., The Hon. Mr. G. K. Gokhale, The Hon. Mr. Lalubhai Samuldas, The Hon. Mr. G. K. Parekh, Mr. Purshottamdas Thakordas, Mr. J. R. Gharpure, The Hon. Mr. Manmohandas Ramjee, Dr. Stanley Reed, Mr. B. G. Horniman; *Secretaries*.—The Hon. Sir Fazulbhoy Currimbhoy Kt., Mr. Narottam Morarjee Goculdas, Mr. Jehangir B. Petit and Mr. K. Natarajan; *Assistant Secretary*.—Mr. N. M. Joshi, (Servants of India Society).

be and hereby authorised to form an association for safeguarding the interests of Indians out of India, and that the trustees be and are hereby authorised to pay out of the fund to such association such sums as it may require from time to time for carrying out that object.

(e) That the association so formed be and is hereby empowered to make rules for, besides its own constitution, the appointment of trustees whenever there is a vacancy."

We acknowledge with thanks the receipt of a seasonable card from the Cantonese Club, Johannesburg. We wish our Chinese friends a Happy New Year in return.

Amongst the passengers who sailed for India by the s.s. *Gracchus* on the 23rd instant were Mr. Abdul Caadir and his son, Swami Mangalanand Puri, Mr. and Mrs. Sanghavee and Mr. D. C. Mehta of Mossel Bay.