

# Indian Opinion

PUBLISHED WEEKLY IN ENGLISH AND GUJARATI

No. 2—VOL. XIII. WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 13TH, 1915.

Registered at the G.P.O. as a Newspaper  
PRICE THREEPENCE

## AN APPEAL TO RACE HATRED

THE Pretoria correspondent of the *Star* sends the following to his paper in the course of a communication, endeavouring to show that the Union Government have not yet made the right appeal to the up-country community, and what form that appeal should take :—

There is a much homelier argument which, couched hypothetically, would make an irresistible appeal to the Backveld. If it could be declared, with a semblance of authoritative inspiration, that the Imperial Government intends that German South-West shall be taken at all costs; that military resources exist elsewhere, and notably in India, for the taking of the country; that whoever occupies it shall enjoy the rights of the conqueror when the final disposal of the territory is determined; and that South Africa's only safeguard against an Asiatic settlement there is for the Union to respond to the invitation of the Home Government to establish priority of title by doing the work of invasion; then surely no Afriander would hesitate to serve, knowing that by so serving he was preserving a white supremacy in South Africa. The argument, it may be said, is hedged about by a number of international niceties; and its public enunciation might embarrass the Imperial authorities. But against this it is to be remembered that the Home Government understands how local prejudices play a large part in the politics of South Africa, and that the arguments which carry weight in the House of Commons or at Exeter Hall may leave the Backveld unmoved.

### An Irresistible Appeal

The appeal to the Afrianders' known aversion to the Asiatic has been used triumphantly by more than one commandant in assembling his men for service in German South-West. A few weeks ago I met a well-known South African in town who had just arrived from the Highveld with four or five hundred of his men. After asking about the readiness or reluctance of his followers to serve in the campaign, I asked him what arguments he used to produce so prompt a response. His reply was emphatic. "I said to them," he answered, "Look here, boys! If we don't nip across and take that country from the Germans the British Government is going to ask for the loan of 50,000 Japs to do the job for us. And when the Japs have eaten the Germans up they'll swarm into—and eat you and me up too." "That brought 'em," he added emphatically. "I could with more reason have used the Indian argument but I knew the Japanese one would clinch the matter. My fellows came like a shot out of a gun once I had put the matter to them in that fashion. If I had talked to them for a week about the German menace they would not have understood anything about it."

### The Alphabet of Warfare

Surely, then, there is no harm, but instead, much sense in selecting the manner of argument best calculated to secure the ends aimed at, especially when within that argument there exists a sound core of probability. Is it not as certain as anything can be that if the Union Government cannot carry through the German South-West campaign other means will be devised by the Imperial Government, which is not at all dependent on the Union collaboration, for invading German South-West Africa? And is it not also axiomatic that he who pays the piper shall call the tune, and he who runs the fox to earth shall have the brush? These are not far-fetched theories. They belong to the alphabet of warfare; and, though the Backveld may not be able to understand the "German menace," it understands pretty well what are its own interests, and when its pet prejudices are in danger.

### Mr. Polak Replies

Mr. Polak has addressed the following reply :—

It is no longer ago than July last that a settlement of the Indian Passive Resistance troubles in this country was achieved largely through the generosity and forbearance of both sides and an appreciation on the part of the bulk of the European population of the Imperial aspect of the problem.

When, some six weeks later after the war had broken out, the Under Secretary for India announced the magnificent offers of assistance voluntarily made by all India, the whole Empire joined in a gratified pean of thanksgiving. When, at the same time, it was learnt that Britain's Ally, Japan, had entered the present struggle on behalf of the Allies, and that British and Japanese military and naval forces were co-operating in the investment of Tsingtau the whole Empire expressed enthusiastically its appreciation of the value of Japan's action.

What, then, must be one's thoughts of the callous cynicism of your Pretoria correspondent who urges that the Union or the Imperial Government should deliberately deceive the country population by inducing them to believe that unless they proceed to German South West Africa, Indian or Japanese troops will be called in for the purpose of taking that country and that these troops will thereafter over-run South Africa as settlers? And what are the people of India—who have so proudly displayed their loyalty to the Crown—and the people of Japan—who have come to Britain's aid—to think when they are told that our Dutch fellow-countrymen (for your correspondent's suggestion means nothing else) say that India, the most Imperial part of our Empire, and Japan, our Ally, are a greater menace to South Africa (and therefore presumably to the Empire) than Germany, Britain's foremost enemy to-day? How

will this read to the Indian troops at the front, or their Allies at Tsingtau? Damnably, Sir, will it not? And what, do you think, would be your correspondent's fate at their hands if he fell into them? Men like him who would basely appeal to race hatred, harm the Empire infinitely more than half a thousand German spies could ever succeed in doing.

I feel sure that you, and most decent Britishers here, do not share his views, and that you will hasten to represent the fact to him in no uncertain language.

### "King Albert's Book"

Never before (says the London correspondent of the *Amrita Bazar Patrika*) has such a book appeared as "King Albert's Book." Never before have the circumstances, the desolation, the sacrifices called forth such a book. One cannot imagine a tribute more overflowing with the bond of union, sympathy, and reverence than this which is offered to the noble King of the Belgians who, with his people, has lost all but soul. "King Albert's Book"—"A Tribute to the Belgian King and People from representative men and women, throughout the world—Princes, Statesmen, Diplomats, Ecclesiastics, Scholars, Scientists, Men and Women of Letters, Artists, Musicians, etc.," as the official explanation runs—is now in the hands of hundreds of thousands of people who have been saved by the utter self-sacrifice of the dauntless King and his People. Those who buy the book—the net cost is three shillings—have the satisfaction of knowing that the "entire proceeds from the sale go to the *Daily Telegraph* Belgian Fund." This is the Shilling Fund which our contemporary has set going on behalf of the sorely stricken country.

Readers will be interested to know that the Viceroy is a contributor to "King Albert's Book." Cabled from Delhi, his message runs as follows:—

"No nation has regarded with greater abhorrence than India the series of crimes committed by Germans against their peaceful Belgian brothers. With the deep sympathy, felt for them by the people of India in this hour of sorrow, is coupled their admiration for the gallant resistance of their army against the heaviest odds. May they be comforted in the thought that their sacrifice will not have been in vain when the oppressors of the weak have been finally overthrown. India will never rest until Belgium's wrongs have been avenged."

The Marquess of Crewe, Secretary of State for India, in the course of his message says:—

"Those who begin by tearing up a solemn engagement have not far to descend in the moral scale before they lay an innocent country waste."

Lord Curzon, who is host to the children of the brave King and his equally brave Queen, contributes a touching message, ending on a fine note of hope, in the course of which he says:—

"Belgium, by her conduct, and still more by her example, has rendered a priceless service to humanity, for she has once more taught the world the sublime truth that national honour is preferable to national security, and that, though the body may be destroyed, the spirit is immortal."

The contribution of His Highness the Aga Khan is given a place of honour. It is the third in the book, preceded only by that of the Prime Minister and the Archbishop of Canterbury. The tribute speaks of the "ever-deepening admiration" with which the Moslems of India and the British Empire have watched "the unflinching stand of the Belgian King and people,"

and adds: "Belgium unhesitatingly chose the path of honour and duty and made an irreparable sacrifice of material good for moral glory."

Syed Ameer Ali expresses deepest sympathy for the undeserved sufferings of the Belgian nation, and says: "The country devastated, ancient seats of learning rendered desolate, the people driven from their homes for refuge in distant lands make the heart throb with infinite sorrow and pain. The sorrow I feel for her is shared by the whole world—no less by Moslems than by Christians."

One cannot help a feeling of regret that a Hindu contributor is not included, for the heart of Hindu India bleeds for Belgium; but it must be remembered that the book has been compiled and published in an incredibly short time, and communications between this country and India are not so rapid as before the war.

Lord Roberts sent his contribution before his departure to visit the British and Indian army in the field. Its final sentences are as follow:—

"The Belgians have fought heroically for a sacred principle against fearful odds. They have suffered up to the limit of human endurance. God grant that there may yet be in store for them a bright and prosperous future, and a permanent place in the van of Civilisation and Freedom."

### (Indians in Rhodesia)

A correspondent sends us a copy of the *Bulawayo Chronicle* which contains the following letter on the question of Indian traders:—

Despite the fact of the Bulawayo Town Council's expressed determination not to grant any more Asiatic licences, we find Ram Sammy and his compatriots roll up smiling to try once again for the evidently coveted "scrap of paper" which will enable them to start business, shopkeeping or hawking. It is scarcely necessary to reiterate the arguments against a mixed European and Asiatic community, which the granting of trading licences to these people would bye-and-bye bring about. The evil is so evident in Cape Colony and Natal.

Now, apart altogether from the moral stand-point, although that is sufficiently serious in itself, let us look at the material side. There is not nearly enough for the white storekeepers and their assistants to do at the present time. It is an admitted fact that goods are being sold in this town of Bulawayo at a very moderate profit—always excepting butchers—by all the importing firms. Firms who showed a tendency to depart from the path of commercial virtue have been promptly brought to their bearings by the patriotic and sensible majority. Now, sir, this is a European white community, and the presence of Asiatics is only tolerated, not by any means courted. Let us not be either cajoled or threatened into allowing any further extension of licences to these people, who will never rise to our ideal of living. Every shilling paid out to any of them means a shilling less to a white—preferably of English, Scotch, Irish, Welsh or Colonial, extraction.

Far be it from the writer to belittle the gallant deeds done by our Indian soldiers in this titanic struggle for freedom and the right to live, now being waged all over the world. They are fighting for hearth and home—in India—just as we are doing for our own lands, knowing well that the British Raj is synonymous with justice and security. But let us not confound our Indian soldiers with the average class of Indian from Bengal or Madras, who aspires to plant himself in our midst as a store-keeper and hawker of general merchant-

disc—"the thin edge of the wedge." By-and-bye we shall have the wedge entire, and then goodbye to our ideals of a great white community. Our children will certainly not forgive us for betraying their interests.

The writer has confidence in the Council standing to their determination not to grant any Asiatics a licence as they are a danger to the community, and only intrudes on your valuable space, "lest we forget.")

## From the Editor's Chair

### A SCANDALOUS SUGGESTION

We reproduce elsewhere what we venture to characterise as one of the most scandalous abuses of journalistic privilege that it has been our misfortune to observe for a long time past. That anyone, in these critical times, should be so lost to a sense of responsibility as to deliberately suggest to the Government of the Union the stirring up of racial prejudice at the expense of the Indian community resident here, is something so outside of what we had thought to be the realm of possibility, that we should not have wasted time upon it. It would seem, however, that there are some journalists—there is at any rate the Pretoria correspondent of the *Star*—who are prepared to see the Government derive a temporary advantage in its work of military organisation by pandering to an ignoble prejudice held strongly by the most ignorant section of the European population. The whole matter is a disgrace, and Mr. Polak has very rightly condemned it in unsparing terms. We venture to hope that our contemporary will be more careful in future as to what it admits to its columns, and that it will not lay itself open to the charge of fostering race-hatred whereof its correspondent at least has justly been convicted.

### VISITING PERMITS

We understand that the Government have made an enquiry, as the result of the representations made with reference to form D.1.4. to be filled up by applicants for Visiting Permits to neighbouring Provinces of the Union. As a result of their investigations, the Government have realised that a considerable amount of hardship was likely to be inflicted by a strict adherence thereto, and has accordingly issued instructions to officers having the issue of these documents to omit questions 7, 8, 14, 15, 16 and 17, to which such strong exception was taken, in case of persons who are known to them. We understand that, in practice, in the Transvaal, at any rate in Johannesburg and Pretoria, the officers are exercising their discretion widely. We do not think that, at the present time, it is either possible or advisable to press the matter further, for we think that the authorities are entitled to have particulars of applicants who are otherwise unknown to them, and who desire to visit other Provinces of the Union to which they have no legal right of entry. In our opinion, therefore, Visiting Permits may now be

applied for by those who desire to avail themselves of the privileges conferred thereby.

### CAPE LICENCES

We are indebted to our contemporary, *A.P.O.*, for giving currency to the circumstances in which the Cape Administrator has intervened against the Cape Town Municipality in its endeavour to ruin certain Indian traders. We recently published some reports on the subject, and it would appear therefrom that His Honour has exercised the powers conferred upon him by the Cape Licensing Ordinance in cases where the Municipality has refused arbitrarily to issue to an applicant a licence to remove to other premises. There is no doubt that the Cape Town Municipality has deliberately sought to ruin Indian traders already carrying on business and we are grateful to the Administrator for refusing to make himself a party to such a foul proceeding. The Cape Town European population is no doubt prating loudly of its loyalty to the Empire, and it shows this by endeavouring to rob the countrymen of men, who are now fighting in the Flanders trenches, of their means of livelihood. The Councillors have shown themselves to possess the soul of a petty huckster, shrivelled and parched, and their action indicates what hope of justice Indians may expect at the hands of their trade-rivals unrestrained by any higher authority.

## Mr. Gandhi's Return to India.

Writing from London on the 18th ultimo, the correspondent of the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* says:—

Mr. Gandhi told me a few days ago that he has been very disappointed with his visit to this country owing to his inability to do what he so earnestly wished. It is well-known that his original intention was only to stay a short time here to see Mr. Gokhale, but the outbreak of war altered his plans, and his heart was set on the Indian Ambulance Corps. He was able to work with the volunteers during the lectures given by Dr. Cantlie, and spent one week-end with them in camp at Eastcote, but ever since his arrival in August his health has been unsatisfactory, and has hindered the eagerness of his spirit. Lately he has had a serious turn of pleurisy, and though he is recovering and would still like to serve at Netley or Brighton or elsewhere, the decision to return to India has been taken because Mrs. Gandhi's health has also suffered seriously from the climate and the anxieties which have befallen her. Mr. Roberts, Under-Secretary for India, has been a friend indeed; also Lady Cecilia Roberts: they have taken the keenest personal interest in Mr. and Mrs. Gandhi, and have been impressed by their selfless devotion. All friends here regret very much this goodbye which must be said with the briefest of notice, but India will rejoice. The bright sunshine will, no doubt, be a good doctor, and everyone hopes that Mr. Gandhi's health—and Mrs. Gandhi's—will be restored in a way as remarkable and successful as that of the veteran, Mr. Dadabhai Naoroji.

## Indians and the War

London, January 9th (Reuter)—Their Majesties the King and Queen had a great ovation on visiting the Indian wounded at Brighton, where they chatted with several men, including one who had won the Victoria Cross, Ganga Singh, whose wounds are serious.

### Sir Harnam Singh's Loss

Lahore, November 28th (Associated Press of India). Raja Sir Harnam Singh's many friends will be grieved to learn that his son Captain Kunwar Indrajit Singh, I.M.S., of 57th Wilde's Rifles, was killed in action in France on the 23rd instant. Captain Indrajit Singh was appointed to the Indian Medical Service only in 1911. The Raja Sahib has another son, Captain Kunwar Samsher Singh, I.M.S., at the front.

### Commander-in-Chief's Sympathy

News of the death of Captain Kunwar Indrajit Singh, I.M.S., was communicated to his father, Raja Sir Harnam Singh, by the Commander-in-Chief, who expressed his most sincere sympathy with the bereaved family. Only a few days ago, at the suggestion of the late Captain, Raja Harnam Singh, says the *Tribune*, donated £100 for the comfort of the whole regiment of Wilde's Rifles.

### "Our Indian Comrades"

In the course of a lecture on "Britain and Native Races," given at King's College, London, on December 2nd, Mr. Graham Wallas said that when one race called to another and said, "I am in danger; come you and lay down your life in order that I may remain alive," then a situation had been created which no nation that shared any of the common morality of mankind could refuse to look in the face. In the future, those who had been our brothers-in-arms, whose graves were side by side with the graves of British soldiers in France and in Flanders, would, he thought, be able to appeal to a force which was irresistible in the English people when they said, "If you did not believe that we were your brothers and comrades, your equals so far as the Empire is concerned, why did you ask us to die for you?"

Sir Sydney Olivier, Permanent Secretary to the Board of Agriculture, who presided, observed that he did not believe in the insuperable differences in types of "natives." His experience in the West Indies as Governor had taught him that frequently as much intelligence was to be found in the negro as in many white people, especially young people. Although there were strong physical prejudices existing amongst nations, there was no living race in which an equal and a brother could not be found. An instance of this they had in the last action of Lord Roberts, who felt that he could do no better act in the closing days of his career than to go and personally thank those Indians and the sons of those Indians whom he knew and whom he welcomed and recognised as his brother warriors and comrades.—*India*.

### The Viceroy's Son and His D.S.O.

The *Daily Chronicle* publishes a letter from Lance-Corporal W. Eade, of the 15th Hussars, in which the story is told of how the Viceroy's son won the Distinguished Service Order. It is as follows:—

I see that my troop officer, the Hon. E. S. Hardinge, has appeared in the papers for the D.S.O., which he undoubtedly deserved. It is a pity he should have been so severely wounded so early in

the campaign, for I am sure that had he escaped unhurt he would have earned the V.C. ten times over by now.

I was with him the whole time, he himself specially picking me, with two others, to go out with him to try to discover the Germans' line of advance. He told us before we started that it was a very dangerous enterprise, but if we succeeded—which we did—our services would be fully recognised, as both the Lieut.-General and the General reckoned that it was a thousand to one against the four of us getting through without mishap.

We managed to get through unhurt after 48 hours without any rest whatsoever. It was, without doubt, the most nerve-racking experience, and I hope it will never recur; although if duty required, and such a gallant, inspiring officer as Lieut. Hardinge wished it, I would willingly go with him.

The official announcement stated that Lieut. Hardinge was awarded the D.S.O. for ability and gallantry in reconnaissance under great difficulty and machine-gun fire.

### The Indian Soldiers' Fund

The Indian Soldiers' Fund is making very satisfactory progress (says *India* of the 11th ultimo). Last week it was stated that the total reached was £93,851. On December 6th this had risen to £97,227; and on Wednesday (December 9th) the gratifying announcement was made that the figure of £100,000 had been attained. At least another £150,000 is needed, however.

Recent subscriptions, include £250 each from Mr. J. Buchanan and Messrs. James Buchanan and Co. (Limited); £200 each from Lord and Lady Rocksavage, Mr. W. Morrison, and the Indian Empire Club; 100 guineas from the Merchant Taylors' Company; £100 each from the Anglo-Ceylon and General Estates Company (Limited), Messrs. Wm. F. Malcolm and Co., Miss Edith Cunliffe Lister, and the North Anantapur Gold Mines (Limited); £90 from Mr. H. Gridley Bennet (proceeds of exhibitions of Army films at Coventry and Crewe Theatres); and £50 each from Messrs. Burnett Bros. and Sons, Messrs. Fownes Bros. and Co., Messrs. Smithwood and Co., Mr. Granville Alexander, Messrs. Cox, McEwen, and Co., and Mr. R. B. Magor.

The Queen has sent to the Committee of the Indian Soldiers' Fund three cases containing sweets, cigarettes, and matches for the troops. In addition to a money subscription the Merchant Taylors' Company have promised £400 for a motor ambulance for the use of the Indian wounded, and £100 for working expenses. Messrs. Falkenburg and Hesse, of Fenchurch Street, are presenting two tons of sugar candy.

As many greatcoats as possible are wanted for convalescent Indian soldiers. Will anyone who has an old greatcoat or ulster to spare kindly send it to the Warehouse of the Fund at 29, Somerset Street, W.?

### Attack on Dar-es-Salaam

The bombardment of Dar-es-Salaam (says the *Rand Daily Mail*) points to the prosecution of the war in East Africa with more vigour. Operations there have been slow, because British East Africa, which has only a small white population, has had to be defended against German invaders. Hitherto the war in this region has produced no very decisive results, save that the German offensive has been repulsed. A considerable force of Indian troops is protecting British East Africa, but an army sufficient for dealing with German East Africa has not been got together. Had not Indian troops been needed in Europe, the German possession on the East Coast could have been dealt

with more promptly. In all probability the operations on the East Coast will drag on for some time, until an adequate army can be sent from India, or troops released from duties elsewhere.

### A Postman's Generosity

A translation of a letter of a Hindu postman of the Lahore General Post Office who has offered Rs. 2 monthly from his pay to the Imperial Relief Fund till the Germans are defeated is published by the *Civil and Military Gazette*

The loyalty of India, of all classes, castes, and sects, has been one of the most amazing features of this war. We in our turn must prepare ourselves to give India as soon as possible a liberal instalment of self-government. If so far we have not applied the democratic principle in India to the same extent as we should, we have at any rate won the affection of the people by the justice and fairness of our rule. The spectacle of our united Empire is a splendid vision come true. Despite German efforts to cause disaffection among Mahomedans and to stir up the last smouldering prejudices among the Boers, the Empire remains intact. Had the Germans insight enough, they would see that our union and our strength are the result of our freedom and our justice.—*Weekly Dispatch*.

### "What Will Stay the Plague?"

To the Christmas Number of the *Christian Commonwealth* Mr. Edward Carpenter contributes the following article under the above striking headline:—

People ask what new arrangements of diplomacy or revivals of Christianity—what alliances, ententes, leagues of peace, Hague tribunals, regulation of armaments, weeks of prayer, or tons of Christmas puddings sent into the enemies' camps—will finally scotch this pestilence of war. And there is no answer, because the answer is too close at hand for us to see it.

Nothing but the general abandonment of the system of living on the labour of others will avail. *There is no other way.* This, whether as between individuals or as between nations, is—and has been since the beginning of the world—the root-cause of war. Early and primitive wars were for this—to raid crops and cattle, to carry off slaves on whose toil the conquerors could subsist; and the latest wars are the same. To acquire rubber concessions, gold mines, diamond mines, where coloured labour may be exploited to its bitterest extreme; to secure colonies and outlying lands, where giant capitalist enterprises (with either white or coloured labour) may make huge dividends out of the raising of minerals and other industrial products; to crush any other Power which stands in the way of these greedy and inhuman ambitions—such are the

### Objects of Wars To-day.

And we do not see the cause of the sore because it is so near to us, because it is in our blood. The whole private life of the commercial and capitalist classes (who stand as the representatives of the nations to-day) is founded on the same principle. As individuals our one object is to find some worker or group of workers whose labour value we can appropriate. Look at the endless columns of stock and share quotations in the daily papers, and consider the armies of those who scan these lists over their breakfast-tables with the one view of finding somewhere an industrial concern whose slave-driven toilers will yield the share-holder 5, 6, 7, 8, 10, 12 per cent. on his capital. Undisguised and shameless parasitism is the order, or disorder, of our

days. The rapacity of beasts of prey is in our social life but thinly veiled—thinly veiled indeed by a wash of "Christian" sentiment and by a network of philanthropic institutions for the supposed benefit of the very victims whom we have robbed.

Is it any wonder that this principle of internecine warfare and rapacity which rules in our midst,

### The Vulgar Greed

which loads people's bodies with jewels and furs and their tables with costly food, regardless of those from whom these comforts are snatched, should eventuate ultimately in rapacity and violence on the vast stage of the drama of nations, and in red letters of war and conflict written across the continents? It is no good, with a pious snuffle, to say we are out to put down warfare and militarism, and all the time to encourage in our own lives, and in our Church and Empire Leagues and other institutions, the most sordid and selfish commercialism—which itself is in essence a warfare, only a warfare of a far meaner and more cowardly kind than that which is signalled by the shock of troops or the rage of rifles and cannon.

No, there is no other way; and only by the general abandonment of our present commercial and capitalist system will the plague of war be stayed.

### "This Monstrous Mockery"

Here are some passages from John Galsworthy's article "Thoughts on This War" in *Scribner's Magazine*:—

"Three hundred thousand church spires raised to the glory of Christ! Three hundred million human creatures baptised into His service! And—war to the death of them all! I trust the Almighty to give the victory to my arms! 'Let your hearts beat to God, and your fists in the face of the enemy! 'In prayer we call God's blessing on our valiant troops!'

"God on the lips of each potentate, and under the hundred thousand spires prayer that twenty-two million servants of Christ may receive from God the blessed strength to tear and blow each other to pieces, to ravage and buru, to wrench husbands from wives, fathers from their children, to starve the poor, and everywhere destroy the works of the spirit! Prayer under the hundred thousand spires for the blessed strength of God, to use the noblest, most loyal instincts of the human race to the ends of carnage! 'God be with us to the death and dishonour of our foes' (whose God he is no less than ours)! The God who gave His only begotten Son to bring on earth peace and good will toward men!

"No creed—in these days when two and two are put together—can stand against such reeling subversion of its foundation. After this monstrous mockery, beneath this grinning skull of irony, how shall there remain faith in a religion preached and practised to such ends?

"Three weeks before this war began I was in one of those East End London parishes, whose inhabitants exist from hand to mouth on casual employment and sweated labour; where the women, poor, thin, overworked souls, have neither time nor strength nor inclination for cleanliness and comeliness in person or in house; where the men are undersized and underfed, with faces of those without a future; where pale and stunted children playing in the gutters have a monopoly of any mirthless gaiety there is.

"In one household of two rooms they were 'free of debt, thank Gawd!' having just come back from fruit-picking, and were preparing to take up family existence again on the wife's-making of matchboxes at a maximum of six shillings a week, the husband not having

found a job as yet. In another, of one room swarming with flies and foul with a sickly, acrid odour, a baby was half asleep on the few rags of bed bereft of bed-clothes, its lips pressed to something rubbery, and the flies about its eyes; dirty bowls of messes stood about; an offal heap lay in the empty grate; and at a table in the little window a pallid woman of forty with a running cold was desperately sewing the soles on to tiny babies' shoes.

"Prices have gone up. What is happening to such as these?"

"You emperors and militarist bureaucracies! *There is only one national aspiration worth the name: to have from roof to basement a clean, healthy, happy national house. 'War the cleanser! Without war no sacrifice-no nobility!'* I refer you to that mother, slaving, slaving, without hope, without glory, starved and ill, and slaving in a war with death that lasts all her life for the children she has borne."

---

## Mr. Markino on Nationality

Interviewed by the *Christian Commonwealth*, Mr. Yoshio Markino, the Japanese artist and writer said:—

"I am the first Japanese artist who tried to get money from the English public by painting the pictures," he remarked, with a delighted laugh. "My art has been very much handicapped. Just at the time I had to study I was penniless. I had to work as the servant. Sometimes I used to work for my neighbour, sometimes posed for the artists. All the time I was studying how to use the painting. Lately I have begun to write. I have decided to make myself the link between the East and the West because Kipling said that they will never meet. That is a wrong thing. We are all human beings. If you pinch me I feel it just as you do. As I am an artist I take the artist's point of view. The great masters like Michael Angelo did not know nationality. They are the first-class artists. Beauty was beauty to them, wherever it was found. The second-class artists are enslaved by nationality. Christ had no nationality; Buddha had none. But you have Church of Rome, Church of England; that is second-class. I don't mean to be conceited, but I want to pierce through this surface called nationality.

I don't recognise any nationality or race. The real masters are not national; the second-class try to present the essence of each nation; the third-class are imprisoned in nationality. Sometimes they are doing a great deal of damage. This war started through being enslaved in some nationality."

---

## An Indian Artist in Europe

Twenty years ago the idea of an Indian artist exhibiting pictures in London could have been only a joke. It is still the custom with many to imagine that a picture painted by an Indian painter could not be otherwise than grotesque, and it must be admitted that even in the present day the great majority of Indian representations of the human form divine are certainly not godlike. Amongst Indian artists, however, there are a select few whose works are of a very high class, manifesting true art both in their conception and in their composition, and also in their execution. English

papers received by the mail relate that just before the outbreak of war, Mr. Fyzee-Rahamin, a talented young Indian artist, who has recently been exhibiting his pictures in Paris and London, was invited by Herr Reichter, the great German art-critic, to exhibit some of his paintings in Dresden and other important galleries in Germany. Owing to the war Mr. Fyzee-Rahamin was, of course, precluded from accepting the invitation, but an English contemporary remarks that the invitation indicates all the same the gradual spread of the area of European appreciation of Indian Art. Mr. Fyzee-Rahamin is at present exhibiting in the Manchester and Liverpool galleries; and it is of interest to learn that not only are his own pictures attracting admiration, but that a picture entitled "Indian Music," painted by his wife, is "a fascinating work." —*Madras Times*.

---

## News in Brief

London, January 8.—Reuter's Washington correspondent states that the House of Representatives has rejected the Senate's amendment to the Immigration Bill to exclude the African black races from the scope of the Bill. The Bill will now be submitted to a conference of both Houses.—Reuter.

We have received from Mr. C. R. Naidoo, of Tayside, near Dundee, an account of monies received and expended in connection with the Passive Resistance struggle last year. The amount received was £70 13s. 2d. whilst the expenses totalled £67 19s. 3d. There was, therefore, a balance of £2 13s. 11d. on hand.

We deeply regret to learn of the death of Mrs. C. E. Nelson, wife of a strong sympathiser with the Indian community, a member of the European Committee in Johannesburg, and the General Secretary of the South African Theosophical Society. We respectfully tender to the bereaved family our deep sympathy. The British Indian Association has addressed a letter of condolence.

In his new book, "Appearances" Mr. Lowes Dickinson the author of "Letters from John Chinamad," reiterates his old opinion that the Chinese "are alone among the nations of the earth in detesting violence and cultivating reason," and that Christianity is converting China to violence wherever it produces any effect at all. He gives a most eloquent and interesting description of Japan. In the chapter on the difference between Japan and America he says that "judged by every real test the Japanese civilisation is not lower, but higher, than that of any of the new countries who refuse to permit the Japanese to live among them."