

Indian Opinion

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“INDIANS IN THE BRITISH EMPIRE”

MR. B. G. HORNIMAN, editor of the *Bombay Chronicle*, is accorded the place of honour in the December number of the *Hindustan Review* for the following article:—

I have chosen the subject “Indians in the British Empire,” because I think that it is, from the point of view of Indian and Imperial interests, the most pressing problem that exists at the present day; and I think it is going to become more and more pressing. I propose to deal with the problem from the point of view of Indian and Imperial interests, because there are only two points of view, which can possibly concern us in this country, of this great question. One is the Indian point of view and the other the Imperial point of view. Now, I have had the pleasure, or the pain, of listening to more than one discussion on this subject within the last few months, and also of reading a good many articles in Anglo-Indian newspapers, and I have been always painfully impressed by the way in which an Indian audience, or the readers of an Anglo-Indian newspaper, are always asked to look at this question from the Colonial standpoint. Well, I am not going to say that it is not a good thing to look at things from other people's point of view, or to look at questions from your opponent's point of view, but I think that that request has been very largely overdone in this case. Our business in India is to look at this question from the Indian point of view, only qualified by the Imperial point of view and that is the point of view that I am going to adopt. I do not see why we should concern ourselves with the difficulties of the inhabitants of Australia and South Africa and Canada in dealing with an alien population, for the presence of which among themselves they are chiefly responsible. (They have made the situation; it has not been made by India; and it lies upon them to deal with the situation in a manner which appreciates and fully appreciates the recognition which should be paid to India as a component part of the British Empire, and to the citizens of India as fully qualified citizens of the British Empire.)

Now we always find that when Colonial people discuss this question, and I am sorry to say, when a great many of my own countrymen discuss the question, they always start with the assumption that India is not in possession of the same claims and rights as themselves, i.e., of the self-governing dominions, and that in every treatment of the matter, she must receive a secondary consideration. Well, that is not a position which I am going to recognise at all, and it is not a position which I trust any inhabitant of this country is going to recognise, and one of my main objects is to try and impress upon Indians that one of their most important duties, as citizens of the British Empire, is to stand out for their full claim to be treated on an equality with the inhabitants of every other portion of the British Empire, in whatever country they may be, either permanently or temporarily dwelling. I say that

as an English-born citizen myself, because I regard it as a solemn duty upon the people of my country to extend those full rights, which have been solemnly promised to the people of this country by our King-Emperors and late Queen-Empress over and over again.

Well now, let us look at what the position of India is in the British Empire and what is the position of the self-governing colonies. Looking at the question from the practical point of view, it is no use denying that the self-governing dominions occupy a far superior position, because being to a large extent people of the same blood and origin as the people of the mother-country, they were granted very early those free institutions which, however, it is considered a danger to confer upon the people of this country. But looking at it also in another way, from the material and moral point of view—and this is a point which every patriotic Indian ought to instil into his mind and should never forget—the Indian Empire is—I say it as an Englishman and I am prepared to justify it in every possible way—of far greater importance to the British Empire than any of the self-governing dominions. In the first place India, was a valued possession of the British Empire, a valued part of the British Empire long before any of these self-governing dominions began to be of any importance at all, and for the last 150 years India has been contributing to the wealth of the British Empire, and mainly to the wealth of the United Kingdom in a way that leaves these striplings of self-governing dominions far behind. They have, as a matter of fact, only within very recent times become factors of importance from that point of view at all. Whereas India has for all these years been contributing to the wealth of the British Empire, and has in that way been one of its most solid pillars of support, under which the self-governing dominions have been able to flourish and grow up, and earn their claim to the free institutions which they now possess.

(I just want to give in that connection a few figures to show how monstrous is the attitude which is taken up by people like the Premier of the Union of South Africa—by General Botha and others when they talk about India. Because in the course of the recent controversy in regard to the position of Indians in South Africa, the matter was always treated by General Botha and his Ministers as though India had no claim to lay down for herself—as I think that she ought to be allowed to lay down—the lines on which her own subjects shall be treated in a great self-governing dominion—and they always speak from that particular point of view, as though a self-governing dominion were of the first importance to the Empire and as though India were merely a secondary consideration that could easily be put on one side and dealt with in any way they pleased.)

Well, the British Empire exists, as we all know, not by the power of the United Kingdom to exercise control over every part of it, but by the consent of those

countries which are its component parts. The existence of India as part of the British Empire depends as much upon the consent of the people of India as the existence of South Africa or Australia depends upon the consent of the people of Australia and South Africa.

Let us just look at the facts and figures, and examine for a moment the position which India occupies as the strongest pillar of support of the British Empire. If we look at the figures of the trade of the United Kingdom with other parts of the British Empire, we find that the total amount of trade of the United Kingdom with the other portions of the British Empire amounts nearly on an average to about £375,559,000, of which India contributes no less than £111,885,000. The share of the Union of South Africa, in this volume of trade is, £11,151,000, *i.e.*, one-tenth of the total value of the trade with the United Kingdom; Australia's is £36,120,000, *i.e.*, about one-third of the trade of India with the United Kingdom; the North American Colonies, not only of Canada but also other Colonies in North America, have a total of £28,000,000, less than a third of the volume of India's trade with the United Kingdom; New Zealand £20,000,000, less than one-fifth of India's trade. And if we go in detail into those figures, exports and imports, we find how in every respect India holds a leading place, not only in regard to actual figures, but also in regard to the importance of her trade, and the way in which her trade is such an enormously valuable asset to the United Kingdom. But take the figures in another way, *i.e.*, if we take the total of self-governing dominions and of the Crown Colonies with the United Kingdom, we find that India is the head of the whole lot of them by such an enormous figure as puts them entirely in the shade, when compared with India, as contributors to the wealth of the United Kingdom and to the wealth of the British Empire.

There is one consideration, which every Indian should bear in mind whenever he is discussing this question, whatever he thinks of it, that, if India were taken away from the British Empire, the British Empire would receive such a staggering blow that it is doubtful whether it would ever recover from it, and the United Kingdom in its material welfare would receive such a blow that it would possibly, should such a thing happen, which God forbid, have to take its place with small States like Holland and Belgium. If, on the other hand, you took away any single one of the self-governing dominions of the British Empire, Australia, or Canada or the Union of South Africa, I cannot see that the injury which the United Kingdom and which the British Empire would suffer would be of such huge importance that the United Kingdom could not manage to recover from it after a short while; on the other hand, in my opinion, we should gain—I am speaking as an Englishman and as a citizen of the United Kingdom—very large advantages, because it would enable us to deal more easily with many vital questions that arise, and which we are quite unable to settle so long as the self-governing dominions remain portions of the British Empire, on a satisfactory basis—questions we should probably be able to settle in about five minutes if we had to deal with these countries as foreign States. However, we none of us desire to see the state of affairs which would give us such an advantage.

Thus, in considering the position of India in regard to the other component parts of the British Empire, looking at it from the Imperial point of view, which is my point of view as an Englishman, I have to remember that India has all these years contributed so largely to the wealth of the United Kingdom and the British Empire, and has helped in an enormously greater degree than any other parts of the British Empire to make the Empire what it is. India having played that part, when I have to make up my mind in regard to any question affecting the welfare of India or the rights of the Indian citizens as against the claims of the self-governing dominions, I am quite unable to see—India

being as much a part of the British Empire as any other country, and the citizens as I or any other Englishman—I am quite unable to see why I should not in every way give the *fullest* justice and consideration to everything that the Empire and the United Kingdom in particular owes to India for being what it is. And therefore, when I am told—as we have been told recently not only by the self-governing colonies but unfortunately by a very large number of Englishmen in this country—when we are told that every country must have the right to say, who or who shall not come into its territories and reside there, then I say that if that is a right which belongs to the self-governing colonies, it is a right which ought to belong to India. And it seems to me essential that we should make up our minds at once to accord to this country and to the citizens of this country every justice in that respect, for the time will come when this country will be in the same position as the self-governing dominions are at the present day, and be able to say who or who shall not enter its territories, and if that day comes before justice has been meted out to India in that respect, it will be one of the most disastrous days that ever fell upon the United Kingdom and the British Empire. I say that because I do not think that there are many people in my experience, I find that there are not many Indians even, who appreciate the full extent to which English Society and English Institutions and everything in England benefits by the connection with India.

(To be continued)

(India and the Empire)

(The Belfast *Evening Telegraph*, states that the future status and rights of India within the Empire will be advanced and made clearer because of the fact that Indian troops have played a very heroic part in the fighting on the Continent. Having accepted all of the dangers and duties their claim to a fuller enjoyment of the rights of British citizenship must stand henceforward upon more assured ground. Indians are not content to rest satisfied with the improved condition into which India has been brought under British rule. They demand that they shall possess as of right all the freedom of movement within the Empire which other British subjects are permitted to exercise. They ask whether they occupy an identical position with all others of his Majesty's subjects in theory only or in full reality. They point to repeated and unequivocal pledges from the lips of the Sovereign that they are citizens of the Empire and directs an accusing finger towards South Africa, Australia, and Canada, where, in the matter of immigration laws, their right of citizenship is not only challenged but refused point blank.

Canadians and Australians, fighting side by side with Indians, cannot fail to develop that mutual respect and regard which brave men always feel for each other. It will come home clearly to the minds of the men of the prairies and of the vast sheep ranches that the Indian is a man and a brother fit to be a citizen of British territory in every quarter of the world.

Nor are reasons wanting of a more material nature. It is just as well that all concerned should appreciate how vital to the well-being of every portion of the Empire is India. She sends considerably more of raw material and food to this country than any of the Dominions. She absorbs more British manufactures and produce than any of the Colonies, and she is the main-stay of the cotton industry. Of British capital there is invested in various ways in India about £350,000,000. This raises the question to a plane far above any mere matter of taxes and licences and such like limitations; and if other considerations make an unavailing appeal, perhaps this pocket argument will carry the day.)

From the Editor's Chair

INDIANS AND THE WAR

ANOTHER lengthy telegram from India is published summarising an important speech delivered by His Excellency the Viceroy on the 14th instant, at Delhi, in the Viceregal Council, in which he dealt with the attitude of Indians towards the war, and especially of the Indian Moslems. He put the matter succinctly when he reminded the world that "while thousands of Moslems are fighting in the ranks of the British and French armies, not a single Moslem exists in the German ranks." It is quite evident that the Moslem people outside of the official sponsors of the present Turkish War on behalf of Germany, have absolutely declined to be made parties to an attempt, on behalf of this propaganda of super-culture, to arouse Moslem passion against the Allies on the basis of a Holy War; and Turkey's attack upon the Moslem state of Persia, will no doubt have opened the eyes of those few people who may heretofore have had any opinion as to the true meaning of the German efforts at Constantinople. Naturally Indian Moslems' loyalty was beyond question, and that loyalty has been shared by "all classes and creeds of the people of India," as Lord Hardinge has put it. Our Indian exchanges indicate very markedly the revolt of the Indian mind against the brutal atrocities of which the Germans have shown themselves guilty in their conduct of the war. It is a commonplace of Indian history and statesmanship that the non-combatant population has always been respected by combatants and has been left unmolested by them. Indian civilisation can certainly give points on this question to the vaunted civilisation of modern Germany.

(A PECULIAR POINT OF VIEW

As was to be expected, there are certain Europeans in South Africa who have already reached the conclusion that Indians of the class who are to be found in this country, must not on any account be confused with the men who are fighting in the trenches in Europe. In our last issue, we published a copy of a letter appearing in our contemporary, the *Bulawayo Chronicle* raising this very interesting distinction. The writer says: "Let us not confound our Indian soldiers with the average class of Indian from Bengal (Bombay?) or Madras, who aspires to plant himself in our midst as a store-keeper and a hawker of general merchandise—the thin edge of the wedge. By-and-by we shall have the wedge entire, and then good-bye to our ideals of a great white community." Of course, the inference is that there would be no objection whatever to the admission of Indian soldiers to Rhodesia, because they are made of quite a different clay from that of the "average class of Indian" who comes here as a store-keeper or hawker. What, however, does this correspondent suppose that Indian soldiers can do in Rhodesia to earn their living, if they come? Appar-

ently, so long as they practise the destructive arts, they will be welcome, but if they wished to subsist by means of some constructive enterprise, they would at once become unwelcome, simply because they would come into conflict with the interests of the white community; so that really the objection is not to "the average class of Indian" that is to be found in South Africa, but to the fact that he trades, and that objection will hold good whether he were of the soldier class or the trading class, strictly speaking. We often hear it said, for example, that the objection to Indians in this country is that their method of living is inferior to that of Europeans. Now, as a matter of fact, there is a large class of Indians in South Africa that lives to all intents and purposes the European life—we refer to the colonial-born Indian community. We have not heard that they are better treated because of that. They do not find it easier to obtain trading licences; in fact we know several cases where colonial-born Indians have actually been refused trading licences simply because they were Indians. That after all is the real misfortune—that and the fact that they are not content to remain hewers of wood for the European community, but wish to strike out a line of their own, and therefore necessarily come into conflict with what are supposed to be the vested interests of white men. Unfortunately trade is not white, nor is it brown, nor is it black, nor is it even striped or parti-coloured. It is independent of race, creed, class, colour and even sex, and those people who are the best traders either by tradition or by trading, will ordinarily secure the best part of trade.)

There is, however, another aspect of the question. With all respect to their achievements and their purpose in the life and well-being of a community, military men produce nothing, nor do they exchange anything, so far as the material commodities of life are concerned. They consume. In order to provide the wherewithal for their consumption others have to produce and to distribute. Thus the nation sets aside a certain portion of the wealth gained for it by those others for the maintenance of its armies and other military forces. It will surely not be contended that those others are doing a less patriotic work than those who are engaged in the arts of warfare. That, too, appears to be the point of view adopted by Lord Kitchener, and those who are responsible for the successful conduct of the present war, and that point of view is as correct in South Africa as it is in England. (If all men were soldiers, most men would starve, and what has enabled the Government of India to send an army not of 75,000, but 200,000 troops, to the front is the fact that the wealth necessary to enable it to pay the cost of this expenditure has been furnished by the labour of just "the average class of Indian" that is to be found here in South Africa. Were the producing and distributing classes to disappear, civilisation, such as we know it, would disappear, and the world would be left destitute of everything but brute force. We do not suppose that any of these arguments will appeal to persons of the type whose lucubrations have been quoted by us, but there are reasonable people to whom they will appeal, and it is upon these that we rely to prevent the harrying of and injustice to Indians who have become resident in South Africa.)

Striking Speech by the Viceroy

London, January 13th.—Reuter's correspondent at Delhi reports a striking speech by the Viceroy, delivered in the Vice-Regal Council, which was crowded with an audience who listened with the most intense interest.

The Viceroy expressed regret at the participation of Turkey in the war. He reviewed the events leading up to this act, and said: "I am well aware that many leading Moslems have done their utmost to avert the war, but the authorities in Constantinople turned a deaf ear. It is a striking fact that, while thousands of Moslems are now fighting in the British ranks, as well as in the French and Russian armies, not a single Moslem exists in the German ranks. It is no exaggeration to say that Enver Pasha's military clique, under Germany's compulsion, has betrayed the interests of Islam, and that the Turkish Government, in submitting to this, has abdicated its sovereignty."

Continuing, the Viceroy said: "Turkey must now face the consequences of those actions, but, however the tide of events may shape, there can be no doubt that the holy places will remain inviolate, and that Islam will still be one of the great world forces. From the moment the intervention of Turkey appeared to be probable it was clear that amongst Indian Moslems there would be a natural sentiment of sympathy with the great Mahomedan Power; but when the character and motives of this war became fully known and realised by Moslems in India any such sentiment was absolutely swept aside by their feeling of unswerving loyalty to the King-Emperor and the Empire, whose cause they recognised to be that of freedom, honour, and justice. Other great Indian communities are not behindhand in demonstrations of attachment to the Throne and Empire, and a towering wave of patriotism and loyalty swept over India from shore to shore.

"It has been a source of gratification to me to witness this universal demonstration of loyalty of all classes and creeds of the people of India. This has been yet one more of Germany's miscalculations which will bring about her ruin. What is particularly satisfactory to us all has been the splendid behaviour of the Indian troops at the front. No troops could have behaved more gallantly. This is recognised by all. We knew it could not be otherwise. It has also been a source of pride to us all that, in accordance with the boon announced at the King-Emperor's Durbar, two Victoria Crosses have already been awarded to brave Indian soldiers, the much-coveted decoration having in one case been bestowed by the hand of the King-Emperor himself. Previously I announced that India would send forces amounting to over 70,000. Since then we have done much more, thanks to the energy and powers of organisation of the Commander-in-Chief and the military authorities.

"British and Indian troops have been fighting side by side in five theatres of war—France, Egypt, East Africa, the Persian Gulf, and China. We have despatched, or are despatching, nearly 200,000 men overseas to fight for the Empire, of which we are proud to be a living virile unit. These have been relieved by a certain number of fresh troops from England. At the same time we maintained our military forces on the frontier unimpaired. We are all proud of our military forces and of their gallantry. The fact that the Government of India is thus able to help the Mother Country is a supreme mark of my absolute confidence in the fidelity and gallantry of the troops and the loyalty of the Indian people. That confidence is being every day more and more justified. We need feel no doubt regarding the ultimate triumph of right over might."—Reuter.

Indians and the War

Three hundred and forty-five wounded Indian soldiers arrived at Brighton on Monday (December 14th). They were conveyed in two Red Cross trains from Southampton and have been accommodated in the hospital established on the initiative of the King at the Royal Pavilion. The first train brought one hundred and eleven, of whom one hundred were stretcher cases, among them being Naik Durwan Singh Negi, V.C., of the 39th Garhwal Rifles. He was saluted by everyone present, and supplied, says the correspondent of the *Daily Telegraph*, a typical example of stoical fortitude. The other train contained over two hundred, who were most of them able to shift for themselves. Gurkhas were most numerous, but there were also Sikhs, Punjabis, Rajputs, Mahrattas, and Pathans. Quite a number were wounded in the left arm.

Bombay Ladies' Effort

Under the inspiration of Lady Willingdon, the women of Bombay (says *India*) have formed a society which embraces all creeds and communities in the Presidency, and since August between eight and nine thousand garments have been despatched to the British and Indian troops. The Bombay Museum has been entirely equipped as a hospital of 200 beds by the Hindu, Mahomedan, and Parsee sewing circles, and has been named after the late Lady Hardinge. It now awaits the coming of the wounded from the East African and Persian Gulf Expeditionary Forces.

Granted Commissions in Medical Corps

Dr. S. P. Sarbadhikari, commandant of the Bengal Ambulance Corps, has been informed by the Government of India that two members of his corps have been granted direct commissions as lieutenants in the Indian Medical Corps. Lieut. S. N. Mukerjee, L.M.S. (Calcutta), F.R.C.S. (Edin.), has been posted to Peshawar, and Lieut. S. C. Sen-Gupta, M.D., F.R.C.S. (Edin.), to Poona, for service with Indian troops. Other appointments are impending.—*India*.

The Sikhs' Little Surprise

The *London Star* gives the following extracts from a letter written by Private Lawrie, who is serving in a Territorial battalion at the front:

The Sikhs won't stay in their trenches. The Germans generally come out of their trenches at night for rest and exercise. One night the Sikhs got bored and crawled out of our trenches, went over to the Germans', and actually filled them in and crawled back again. There are only 100 yards between the two lines, so it is pretty close fighting; and, of course, when the Germans came back in the morning and found the trenches filled in, they were mown down by hundreds before they got to cover.

One night also some half a dozen Sikhs asked to be allowed to go and spike one of the German guns. As the authorities knew that if they did not give permission they would go all the same, they let them go. So the little party crawled forward in the dark and got right up to the big gun, killed the gunners, blew out the breech, and calmly crawled back.

No wonder the Germans howl at us for bringing "native" troops to fight them!

A Fine Spirit

Here is a story contributed by an officer in an Indian regiment :—

I heard rather a fine thing of one of our men, a Dogra Nark, who was very badly hit by a rifle bullet in the stomach. The doctor said he must have been suffering deadfully, but he never made a sound, and when they brought him into hospital he tried to rise on his stretcher and salute. The poor fellow died within an hour and a half of reaching there, and never even moaned all that time.

The Indian Soldiers' Fund

The Indian Soldiers' Fund has now reached a total of £103,739 (says *India* of the 18th December).

The most recent subscriptions include £500 from the Wholesale Co-operative Society (Ltd.); £250 from Messrs. Steel Brothers and Co. (Ltd.), and the Eastern Telegraph Co.; £200 from Mr. R. Fairfax; £100 each from the Jorehaut Tea Co. (Ltd.), the Grocers' Company (second donation), and Sir Thomas Glen-Coats; 50 guineas from the proprietors of Hay's Wharf (Ltd.), and £50 each from Lord Leconfield, Nobel's Explosive Co. (Ltd.), Southern Punjab Railway Co. (Ltd.) second donation, Mr. J. W. Macdonald, Messrs. Albright and Wilson (Ltd.), and Horlick's Malted Milk Co.

Messrs. Hadjiyanni Vuccino and Co. have given 10,000 cigarettes for the officers and 20,000 for the men of the Expeditionary Force.

A letter has been received from the A.D.C. to Lieutenant-General Anderson, commanding the Meerut Division, in which the highest appreciation is expressed of the large number of gifts which have been collected and forwarded to the troops in the command.

Another benevolent fund from which Indian soldiers are benefiting is the Grand Duke Michael of Russia's Fund for providing gloves and mittens. Grateful letters have been received from the officers commanding the 2nd battalion of the 8th Gurkha Rifles, the Garkwal Brigade, and the 4th Cavalry

The original appeal in this case was for £25,000, of which £10,100 has been subscribed, this amount being in addition to large and welcome gifts sent in by friends. At least £500 a day is required if all the men are to be supplied without delay.

Mr. Ameer Ali has, in a letter to the Press, emphasised the need for large consignments of socks and stockings for the use of the Indian troops. He quotes a letter he has received from an officer of the Indian Medical Service at the front, who says that the men in the trenches are often for days together unable to take their wet boots off. The result is sore feet and at times frostbite, which affected them very sorely during the recent cold snap. The Government and private persons at home have been more than generous in the matter of warm clothes, but the footgear is always wearing out and wants frequent changing.

From another source Mr. Ameer Ali learns that thermogene wool and capsicum vaseline would be most valuable.

Lord Carmichael's Tribute

Lord Carmichael, the Governor of Bengal, said in his speech before the Legislative Council :—

The loyalty to Great Britain shown during the last few months by India, and the eagerness of the Indian people to fight alongside of Britons against the foes of the Emperor, clearly testify to the conviction of all

who think that the good of India and of her people can best be attained if Indians of their own free will are closely united with the people of the British Isles and with those who have left the British Isles to form the Empire which we hope may long continue to be the greatest Power on earth for human good. I do not say that that affection has grown up since the war began. I believe it existed in the hearts of many Indians long before that, and that it was spreading from Indian to Indian. But it has shown itself now as it never showed itself before, and it will never be forgotten. It has made it much easier for Indians and Britons to work together and understand each other.

Lady Redford's Scheme

Writing on December 11th to the *Scotsman* Lady Redford states :—

I shall be greatly obliged if you will permit me the opportunity of stating the results so far of the scheme which was started on 10th November for providing comforts for the Indian troops at the front. The amount of subscriptions we have received up to date, including the receipts of the Usher Hall concert, is £1,961.

Up till now no fewer than 10,540 articles of various kinds have been dispatched to twenty-two regiments. Of these articles 6,634 are cardigan jackets, and the remaining 3,906 consist chiefly of socks and cholera belts.

In addition, 3,000 cardigan jackets and 2,000 pairs of socks have been purchased, and these will be forwarded to the troops as soon as possible after delivery. These additional 5,000 comforts will equip about twelve regiments, but there will still remain twenty-six regiments of our Indian soldiers to be supplied. It is to be hoped that these men will not be disappointed.

The rigours of winter in Flanders, trying as they are to European soldiers, must be doubly so to our troops accustomed to the Indian climate, and I trust the public will continue, by sending money and clothing, to support the efforts of the enthusiastic Committee who are carrying out this scheme.

A Brave Deed

The greatest deed of bravery ever seen by the late Lord Roberts—no mean judge—was performed during the Indian Mutiny by a Punjabi Mahomedan. As the British were cutting their way to Lucknow, they were stopped by a walled enclosure at Secunderabad, strongly held and well fortified. Great difficulty was experienced, but at last a hole was made in a wooden door. The Punjabi Mahomedan put his right arm through the hole for the purpose of drawing back the bolt. That arm was severed by the enemy. Instantly he put through the other arm, drew back the bolt, just before that limb was cut off also! "That is the most remarkable act of bravery I have every witnessed," concluded Lord Roberts, in telling the story.

Indian Loyalty

A remarkable demonstration opened the autumn-session of the Bombay Legislation Council to-day (says the *Daily Telegraph* correspondent in a telegram dated the 10th ultimo). Moulvi Rafiuddin Ahmed, president of the Bombay Provincial Branch of the Moslem League, moved a resolution expressing the Council's deep conviction of the righteousness of the British cause in the war, and assuring his Majesty's Government of the unswerving loyalty of all communities, and offering the Council's humble service in the crisis.

Moulvi Ahmed said that this was a struggle for the right of peoples and States to work out their destinies in their own way. "This is a cause which comes home to us very closely in India; we know our highest destinies stand to be realised within the Empire and under the Crown, and that the future of India is indissolubly associated with the triumph of those liberal principles which are the glory of the British statesmanship. Therefore, whilst we should have lent our loyal and full support in any war in which the Empire might have been engaged we are with it in heart and soul, from prince to peasant, in the war for the defence of smaller States against brutal aggression, and for the right of peoples to work out their own salvation."

"The Moslem allegiance to his Majesty has been strengthened rather than weakened by Turkey's hostility, and I earnestly hope that the Turkish people will even yet wrest the control of their State from those who are unfitted to exercise it."

Shaiks Ghulam Hussein and Hidazat Ullah and the Hon. Syed El Edroos supported, the former saying that as Indian Moslems had shown sympathy with Turkey in the Balkan trouble, it was a pity that Turkey had no regard for the feelings of the Indian Moslems.

Non-official members, representative of all communities, vied with each other in supporting the resolution, Sir Phirozeshah Mehta thanking the Governor and Lady Willingdon for their guidance of the peoples' spontaneous efforts to support the Government, and to aid the troops.

The resolution was carried unanimously.

News in Brief

A telegram appearing in the *Evening Chronicle* (Johannesburg) of the 14th instant, from Bombay states that Mr. Gandhi intends to remain there for the present. The inference is, of course, that he has already arrived in India, though we have not received any direct intimation of the fact.

The stall-holders at the Durban Indian Market sent a deputation by appointment to the Chairman of the Market Committee on Monday last to discuss various grievances alleged against the administration of the Borough Market. The deputation was well received and a satisfactory result is hoped for.

In accordance with the King Emperor's wishes a special intercession service was held at Port Elizabeth on Sunday, the 3rd inst., under the auspices of the Siva Gnana Pregsah Sabha, supported by the Mauritian and Colonial Born Hindu Benefit Society.

Sir Krishna Gupta and Mr. Ameer Ali (says *India*) were among the guests at a special luncheon given by the Company of Painters on Wednesday last (December 16th) at their hall in Little Trinity Lane, London, to express their appreciation of the response made by India and the Dominions to the call in defence of the Empire. The acting High Commissioner of Canada and Sir Newton Moore, formerly Premier of Western Australia, were also present.

A certain correspondent in the *Star* has protested against the management of two of the Johannesburg theatres permitting the galleries of these theatres to be visited by "kaffirs, coolies etc." The editor appends the following foot-note. The managements of the local theatres state that they have followed the practice for some time of reserving the back seats of the gallery for

coloured people, who are not brought in contact with whites. Their experience is that the Indians and coloured people who patronise the theatres are very respectable people, and they express the opinion that any attempted interference with them, particularly at the present time, would display unjustifiable narrow-mindedness.

It has often been suggested that one of the principal reasons that the German people entered with such enthusiasm upon the present war was because of their fear of Russian barbarism. The Bishop of Manchester has authorised for use in church in his diocese the following "very beautiful prayer from Russian sources":—

And for those also, O Lord, the humble beasts, who with us bear the burden and heat of the day and offer their guileless lives for the well-being of their countries, we supplicate Thy great tenderness of heart, for Thou hast promised to save both man and beast, and great is Thy loving-kindness, O Master Saviour of the world.

We referred in a previous issue to the death of Mr. Bipradas Pal Chowdhri of Nadia. We learn that he directed by his will that 45 per cent. of the net proceeds of his property, which amounts to about Rs. 45,000 a year, should be devoted to the spread of education. This splendid benefaction—Rs. 45,000 a year is no small amount—capitalised at 5 per cent. per annum the bequest amounts to nine lakhs of rupees—is immensely creditable to the late Mr. Chowdhri, whose countrymen are his debtors for this valuable practical manifestation of his genuine patriotism. Mr. Chowdhri's brother, Mr. Nufferdas Pal Chowdhri, we learn from the *Bengalee*, has also offered landed property yielding Rs. 20,000 per annum for the promotion of education among his castemen. All honour to the brothers. We congratulate Bengal on her good fortune in having such noble-minded and generous-hearted sons so devoted to the well-being and advancement of their brethren.—*Allahabad Leader*.

Cape Licences

The Port Elizabeth *Looker-on* says:—

We are of opinion that the Provincial Executive has taken a quite reasonable and, ergo, sensible view of the case of one Omar Goolam, who is a resident of this City, and has been refused a removal certificate for his butchery business by the Municipal authorities. It appears from the report of the Council's Medical Officer that the premises to which the man Goolam wishes to remove are quite suitable for the proper carrying on of his business, and the Administrator, or anybody else for that matter, would fail to see any valid reason for refusing the application, which is made strictly in accordance with prescribed regulations and fulfilling every other common-sense requirement. Of course, where a particular sting is felt by the local authorities is a threat by the Administrator that, if they are satisfied with applicant's statement of the case, the Provincial Executive Committee will feel themselves bound to favourably entertain any appeal by him to them under Sub-section 4 of Section 12, and under which the present hullabuloo has been raised. But in any case, with the circumstances in his favour as explained, the applicant would be bound to establish the validity of his application in a court of law. The principles of British justice demand equitable treatment for all members of the community.