

Indian Opinion

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HEROISM IN THE DESERT

THE *Egyptian Gazette* tells how Captain Chope and men of the Bikanir Camel Corps were attacked by about 300 Bedouins.

"The patrol was proceeding in two parties, twenty coastguard camel men (Sudanese with Egyptian officers) in advance, and twenty of the celebrated Bikanir Camel Corps from India half an hour behind them. When Captain Chope, with the rear-guard, reached the place where the coastguards were to have encamped they had disappeared, but there were tell-tale tracks in the sand, and subsequently the Indians met and practically annihilated two separate parties of the enemy mounted on white camels such as our camel men use.

"Then ensued an extraordinary struggle. Having disposed of the two parties just alluded to, Captain Chope and his twenty-one men were attacked by about three hundred Bedouin horsemen.

"They retired fighting, dismounting from their camels from time to time and firing at their pursuers. Evidently the latter were afraid to come to close quarters, and what followed will not encourage them to be more venturesome on future occasions.

"Gradually the heroic little party was reduced in numbers, but they held on their way, beating off every attack, and finally when the remnant, still undefeated, reached its support, it was found that all but four of the original forty had been either killed, wounded or missing—nearly all under the first of these categories. Ninety per cent. of the force was lost, but still it was unbeaten and must have inflicted much heavier losses upon its treacherous and cowardly foe.

"Thus the Indian troops in Egypt have made a brilliant début. The Bikanir Camel Corps came here with the first lot of transports, and as nothing further was heard of them in Egypt, it was pretty clear to most people that they must be patrolling in the Sinai Peninsula. The Camel Corps of Bikanir is the finest corps of this character in the British Empire, for camels are the best known production of that curious spot in the Indian desert. These camels are the very finest of the Indian breed, and the Maharajah has, by careful selection produced a class which, in its way, is as remarkable as that of the horses of Jodhpur."

A Heavy Casualty List

Another heavy casualty list of officers in the Indian forces at the front was published (says *India*) on Monday last (January 4th). Two English and nine Indian officers are reported killed, two English and one Indian officers have died of wounds, and six English and ten Indian officers are missing while fourteen English and twenty-two Indian officers have been wounded. The Gurkha regiments appear to have suffered severely, every one of them contributing its quota. Four Indian officers of the 4th Gurkhas are killed, including the Subadar Major, and three are missing. Of the 2nd Gurkhas four are wounded and

two are missing. Other regiments affected are the 58th and 59th Rifles, the 15th and 47th Sikhs, the 9th Bhopal Infantry, the 6th Jats, the 125th Rifles, the 129th Baluchis, and the 107th Pioneers, together with several cavalry regiments, such as the 15th and 19th Lancers, the 9th Hodson's Horse, the 34th Poona Horse, and the 20th Deccan Horse. A jamadar of the Jodhpur Imperial Service Lancers is also among the wounded.

The Indian Soldiers Fund

The Indian Soldiers Fund has now reached a total of £113,593 (says *India* of the 8th ultimo).

Recent subscriptions include £1,000 from the Indian branch of the St. John Ambulance Association; £200 from Sir Patrick Playfair; £105 from the Indian Manganes Company, Ltd.; £79 7s. 6d. per Major J. H. Murray, I.M.S., being the proceeds of a collection made at Port Blair, Andaman Islands; £50 14s., collected by the Calcutta Branch of the Mercantile Bank of India, Ltd.; £50 each from the Maharaja of Bobbili, Major-General J. B. B. Dickson, and Mrs. Dickson; £50 being part proceeds of a Christmas fair at the Hyde Park Hotel; £49 8s. 3d. from the servants of the Raja of Mahmudabad; £25 from Mr. H. W. Dillon; and £20 from Mrs. Ernest Birch.

(Mr. Swinny on the Message of 1914

Mr. S. H. Swinny, the President of the London Positivist Society, in the course of his Annual Address, delivered on January 1st, in Essex Hall, London, spoke as follows:—

So, too, in India, the promises of equal treatment between all races have happily begun to receive some fulfilment. The Indians have secured some small share in the government of their country. Lord Hardinge has become, in a way no Viceroy has ever been before, the spokesman of Indian opinion by his protest regarding the treatment of Indians in British Colonies. The reaction had evidently spent its forces, and the old belief in British justice was beginning to revive. When the great crisis came, India unanimously took her stand with England in a war against the crushing of weaker nations and the imposition of an alien civilisation, against all that policy of repression which some would like to see identified with British rule in India. There have been those who flouted any claim to equality by the Indians, but in the hour of our danger we have gladly admitted them in the trenches to the equality of a glorious death. It is left now to the Germans to protest against the treachery to the White Race and to European civilisation which we have committed by bringing the Indians to fight in a European war. Let them protest. What has been done can never be undone. There is a covenant henceforth uniting the two peoples—the common memory of heroic

deeds, a brotherhood of brave endeavour. A step has been taken towards the unity of mankind that can never be retraced.

German East Africa for Indians

John Bull puts forward the suggestion, not for the first time, that it would be a "gracious act" to reserve or throw open German East Africa to Indian emigrants when the great settlement takes place at the close of the war: "That an outlet is required for the surplus Hindu population cannot be denied, and in view of the loyal fashion in which our Indian fellow-subjects have rallied to the flag, our appreciation could not be better expressed than by providing scope in a land climatically suitable, fertile, and sparsely inhabited, for the industry and enterprise of thousands of Hindus who are at present chafed by the limitations in which they are forced to live. Germany must be shorn of her Colonial possessions for all time, and no better start could be made towards that purpose than by reserving German East Africa for the Indians."

Raja Sir Harnam Singh Ahluwalia, K.C.I.E., has received a gracious telegram of sympathy from their Majesties the King and Queen on the death of his son, Captain Kunwar Indarjit Singh, of the Indian Medical Service, whose name appeared among the recipients of the Military Cross on New Year's Day, and who was killed in action in France on November 23rd, when serving as medical officer in charge of the 57th Wilde's Rifles.

Mr. Theodore Roosevelt has been unburdening himself to a special correspondent of the *Morning Post* on the subject of the war. He is reported to have expressed great admiration for the work of the Indian troops: "When the war is over you must readjust some of your ideas about India and define more clearly what British citizenship means. Of course the only people competent to deal with black races are those who live among them and understand them. Keep clear of your Exeter Halls and your Aboriginal Protection Societies and you may yet solve the most difficult question which confronts British statesmen to-day."

[NOTE: The ex-President might usefully have cut short his remarks at the end of the first sentence.—Ed. I.O.]

The Times in its review of 1914 says:—"The settlement of the main grievances of the South African Indians in the early part of the year, as the result of the Union Commission, provides ground for hope that in the case of the other self-governing Dominions the war will greatly help to bring some settlement of the Indian emigration question consonant with the common interests and self respect of both sides."

A Distinguished Indian

The Indian papers state that Mr. Jivraj Mehta of Bombay has been placed first on the list and awarded a gold medal in the London University M.D. examination. Dr. Mehta belongs to a Hindu family in Kathiawar and proceeded to England on the Tata studentship and Sir Mangaldas Nathubhoy scholarship for higher medical studies after passing the Bombay L.M.S. with distinction from the Grant Medical College in 1908. He had a brilliant educational career and had won many prizes and medals. He was the first Indian after a quarter of a century to be appointed chemical assistant at London Hospital. In England he has taken part in many public movements in which Indians are interested and after the declaration of war he was an active supporter of the Indian Ambulance Corps and worked zealously with Mr. Gandhi.

Dr. Mehta's connexion with South Africa is of longer standing, however. For several years past, in fact, almost from the time of Mr. Sorabji Shapurji's arrival in London, he has been keenly interested in the passive resistance movement, and has, together with Mr. Sorabji, devoted a great part of his public labours in England to the advocacy of the South African Indian cause. His charm of manner, modesty of character, and intellectual gifts point him out as one of those brilliant sons of India who will, as time passes, help to bring the Motherland more and more into the front rank of the nations. We tender him our warm congratulations, and venture to remind him of some wise words of Mr. Bernard Shaw's, that the most distinguished members of their profession usually are those who are most sceptical about it. Dr. Mehta must have learnt much of the principles, if not of the practice, of nature-cure in the course of his devoted attendance upon Mr. Gandhi in London, recently, during the latter's severe illness there.

Mr. Gandhi at Bombay

Mr. and Mrs. Gandhi arrived at Bombay on the 9th ultimo by the mail steamer *Arabis*. They were met on board by a deputation consisting of Messrs. Narottam Morarji Goculdas, J. B. Petit, B. L. Horniman and others. The party returned with Mr. and Mrs. Gandhi in a steam launch to the Apollo Bunder where, with the consent of the authorities, they landed. Though the reception at the Bunder was of a private nature, a large gathering of representatives of the various Indian communities and associations was present to accord Mr. Gandhi a warm welcome. They motored from the Apollo Bunder to the residence of Mr. Narottam Morarji Goculdas, where the Hon. Mr. Gokhale was staying. At the Bunder steps and en route the crowds enthusiastically cheered, and presented Mr. and Mrs. Gandhi with flowers and garlands. Mr. Gandhi left later for Santa Cruz, a suburb of Bombay.

Mr. Gandhi, interviewed by a *Times of India* representative, after his arrival in Bombay, regarding the present position of Indians in South Africa, said that it was much better than it was before the settlement. He thought that on the whole the Indian community was satisfied with the relieving legislation that had been passed. "One great thing which I think has been attained," he said, "is that the Government have recognised that in any legislation affecting the British Indians in South Africa, the Indians should be consulted, and their wishes respected as far as possible. This, I think, is an advance in the right direction. This happy result has no doubt been arrived at owing to the valuable assistance afforded to our cause by Lord Hardinge, and the magnificent response made by the Motherland under the spirited guidance of the Hon. Mr. Gokhale."

Describing the present attitude of the Indian settlers in South Africa, Mr. Gandhi said that there was no hesitation on the part of the whole community in offering their services to the local and Imperial Governments during the War.

Though the occasion for the acceptance of their service has not arisen, the offer was much appreciated by the Governments. Mr. Gandhi added that on the whole the present Ministry was not unsympathetic. The material position of the Indians in the Colony was not all that could be desired, but its improvement depended on the future commercial outlook.

Mr. Gandhi said that he intended to devote his time to the study of Indian problems, and to serve the Motherland to the best of his power during the remainder of his life; he did not propose to return to the scene of his former activities unless some unforeseen call was made on him.

From the Editor's Chair

BELGIUM.

THE visit to Durban of Advocate E. Standaert and Dr. M. A. van de Perre, the Belgian delegates sent to South Africa to tell the story of the sufferings of their people at the hands of Germany, is an historic occasion. The burden of their tale of woe is that the innocent civilian population of Belgium is being sacrificed to the cruel lust of the Prussian soldiery. Old men; frail, delicate women, and sweet, innocent children have been cruelly done to death. The wanton destruction of world-famed art treasures and religious edifices, which have been the pride of all the civilised peoples of the globe, has never before been equalled. Germany, which boasted of being one of the foremost exponents of modern civilisation and scientific progress is thus shown to be the lowest of the low. It is, in our opinion, an eloquent illustration of how a nation may be advanced in all the arts and sciences, possess a culture of its own, create masters of music and captains of industry inferior to none—and yet have no soul. The lust for power and the covetous ambition, coupled with stupendous blasphemy, of the Kaiser stand out and will remain in history as something to shudder over. Whilst gallant little Belgium, whose sufferings cannot be told, will shine for ever in happy memory of a people who would sacrifice all but soul. In this struggle there is a strange blending of soul-force and physical courage, and it is not possible to distinguish where one begins and another ends; but this we know, that, whereas Germany has shown courage in battle—mechanical though it is—its spirit has been that of a demon; Belgium, on the other hand, has fought with courage, inspired by the love of home and dear ones, for whose protection it is fighting, and with the thought uppermost of upholding not only its own honour as a nation but the honour and safety of England, France and Russia. Belgium has, therefore, suffered for the sake of others. In receiving the Belgian delegates Durban has honoured the great people of a small country whose noble king, at the present time, stands out a magnificent figure among the kings of all the nations. England had one who was affectionately called "Albert the Good"; to-day we have King Albert of Belgium who may be called "Albert the Fearless"—fearless of everything that might endanger material possessions and even life itself so long as honour and truth might be upheld and the name of Belgium remain untarnished by the betrayal of its plighted word. The Indian community in this country must admire the splendid characteristics of the Belgian king and people in this terrible crisis. There cannot be a single man who does not deeply sympathise with the sufferers. We, therefore, extend the hearty sympathy of the Indian people of South Africa to the people of Belgium and ask Advocate Standaert and Dr. van de Perre to convey our feelings to their king and countrymen.

IMPUDENCE OR IGNORANCE?

In our last issue we published the remarks of the Judge-President of the Natal Provincial Division of the Supreme Court, in the matter of an appeal brought by a Native against the decision of the Magistrate of New Hanover. It appears that the Native was sentenced to two months' imprisonment, with 24 days' spare diet, for alleged breach of the Masters and Servants Ordinance. Mr. Justice Dove-Wilson said, in the course of his remarks, that "the Magistrate had not only taken the course which he ought to have known was not right, but had proceeded to inflict a sentence which was beyond his jurisdiction under the

statute." The two sections under which the Native was charged provided for a sentence not exceeding one month. The Magistrate, therefore, doubled the statutory punishment, and added to it 24 days' solitary confinement with spare diet. In other words, he added mental and physical torture to twice the maximum penalty imposed by law. We are rejoiced to note that His Lordship has declared his intention to place the matter before the Minister of Justice, and that he, at the same time, stated his regret that he was not in a position to order costs against the Magistrate personally. This is at least the third flagrant defiance of the Supreme Court's ruling by this Magistrate, and we are astonished that he has not been ordered to show cause why he should not be committed to prison for contempt of Court. These cases of deliberate disregard of the law on the part of certain Magistrates are becoming too frequent, but it is significant that they only occur when the accused happens to be a native or an Indian of the labouring classes, that is to say, a person who is presupposed by the Magistrate not to be in a position to defend himself or to protest against a sentence in excess of that which the law permits. We quite understand, of course, that, in many of the up-country magistracies, the Magistrate is largely amenable to the influence of public opinion of his district, and this public opinion is rarely exerted on behalf of persons afflicted with colour. There is no doubt whatever, in our mind, that large numbers of supposedly responsible Europeans in this Province in practice regard their coloured employes as occupying a servile position towards them. There is all the willingness to maintain conditions of slavery and, so far as the law permits it, effect is given to this strongly selfish desire. We do not know what were the motives that influenced the particular Magistrate in question, but as, in the case of the Verulam Magistrate, we did not hesitate to say that he is unfit to occupy the magisterial bench, so we are compelled to say the same of the Magistrate in New Hanover, and we trust that the Minister of Justice will take immediate steps to remove him from his position. Such men drag the name of Justice in the dust, and can only be described as enemies to the progress of a nation.

At the time of going to press we learn that, in the same Court, on the 15th instant, before Justices Dove-Wilson, Broome and Carter, another appeal was brought against the decision of the Magistrate of New Hanover. The *Natal Mercury* reports as follows:—

"In the matter of *Abdul Rahman v. Rex*.—The Court set aside the conviction on count 2 and reduced the sentence imposed on the accused by the Magistrate of New Hanover to one of nine months' imprisonment, with hard labour, and a flogging of five strokes with the cane; otherwise the appeal was dismissed. The original sentence was one of 12 months' imprisonment and a flogging of ten strokes with the cat. The accused was charged with the theft on two counts, one of which alleged that he had stolen a lamb."

CERTIFICATES OF IDENTITY

WE understand that a representation was made to the Union Government with reference to the report that had reached us to the effect that the Principal Immigration Officer, Natal, was making the production of photographs a *sine qua non* to the issue of Certificates of Identity. An official reply has now been received from which we learn that this is not so, but that the production of photographs has been advised, and that it has rarely been objected to as, so we are informed, many applicants recognise that they facilitate matters owing to the vigilance exercised by shipping companies in booking passages to South Africa. Whether this is so or not, of course, we are not in a position to state; but it is quite clear that no Indian who does not wish to do so can be compelled to produce photographs of himself as a condition attached to the issue to him of

a Certificate of Identity. It is entirely a matter for individual Indians whether or not, as a matter of convenience, they do produce photographs, though, in our opinion, such production is unnecessary and undesirable.)

Indian National Congress

(Concluded)

In moving the resolution on reciprocity Mrs. Annie Besant said:—

The resolution is one of great importance to the Indian nation. Some of you who are students of literature may chance to remember that once when a man went to Confucius, the Chinese sage, and asked him what word was there which is the rule of the whole life, his answer was, is not reciprocity such a word? And he went on then to explain the principle in the question of how a man should deal with another, recompense good with good, and evil with justice. Now justice is the word which really lies behind reciprocity and the reason for moving a resolution of this kind today, although it be of a contentious nature, is because the Viceroy, Lord Hardinge, has invited the expression of opinion on the subject and it is the duty of the Congress therefore to express here the opinion of the educated Indian. I had intended in moving this resolution to bring some evidence before you of the changed opinions in the colonies which have grown out of the expression of Indian loyalty. We have heard something of the change in India's claims being due to her as a reward for loyalty. I venture to say that the reward for loyalty is the changed feeling, the changed atmosphere which now we have seen in the colonies with regard to India, and that there is no reward save that which India cares for. India claims the right as a nation to justice among the people. India asked for this before the war, India asks for it during the war and will ask for it after the war, but not as a reward, but as a right. With regard to details, I would ask you to bear in mind that there is one point of importance which sometimes is overlooked.

A Point not to be Forgotten

It is that we must guard the future of India as an autonomous part of the Empire, as a self-governing nation. Be careful then in your attacks on the colonial ungenerosity not to challenge the right of any autonomous part of the Empire to be master in its own household. I know you very often say that a citizen should go all over the Empire as he will, but remember when we have self-government in India, you will demand to be masters in your own house and that for the sake of India's future you must not challenge the question of self-government in each colony along its own lines. Looking forward, do not think only for the moment and live from hand to mouth. You are trying for the self-government, and that precious right must not be limited in the future by any unwisdom of the claims you make to-day. What then should you ask? Lord Hardinge spoke of reciprocity.

Perfect Equality

I do not put into his mind my own translation of it, but I think I may say what India means when she wishes for reciprocity. She means absolute equality of right between herself and any one of the self-governing colonies. She demands that whatever imposition they put on the entry of a citizen of India, India shall have a right to put. She demands that if, as in Canada, an equal law is laid down for every emigrant, white and coloured, then she has no quarrel, but if a special law be made against the Indians and if a law be made that they may come only direct from India to Canada where there is no line of steamers that can bring them, then

India shall say that no Canadian shall come to India unless he comes along a line through which there is no steamer. India demands that if a Rhodes scholar from Oxford comes to the Civil Service of India, then an Indian civil servant shall have the right to go into the Civil Service of the colony and be eligible in that colony to the same places as the Rhodes scholar can claim in the Indian Civil Service. We ask absolute equality at both ends of the line.

There is another point to consider with regard to a colony like Australia. Australia has a special test, not a test of colour; they are too clever for that—they are turning yellow themselves (laughter); they say that people coming in, Asiatics, must be able to translate some living language put before them, and when an Indian comes, they give him modern Greek, which he is absolutely certain not to know. But if a white emigrant comes, they give him French or German, that all educated men know. If that be the rule of coming in from India to Australia, then the Australian must be ready to translate Bengali, or Tamil or Telugu or Malayalam or Canarese. (Laughter) In all and every point, equality. But there is here again another matter that arises. It spoke of the change of feeling perhaps now in Australia. They cannot keep that continent for five millions of whites and that Indian citizens should be asked to colonise Queensland. If that invitation came freely and fully, if the Indian had the same privileges as the white settler and if they offer him all the attractions for colonising that they offer whenever a white man is called, then it might be possible to accept the offer and let India build a colony beyond the seas under conditions favourable to the people and without any derogation of her rights as citizens in the Empire. You must remember where you talk of equality, you may give six for six and that would be equal. You must remember that you might give half a dozen for six; then it will be equality in different words. (Laughter.)

Retaliation

My reason for pointing out this is that no Australians want to come as labourers in India, but some Indians might want to go as labourers to Australia. If you find unfair conditions are levied, how can you gain reciprocity? By levying a heavy duty on Australian imports which come to this country. The imports that come into Madras from Australia increase yearly and they rise to Rs. 13,14,000 of horses, cattle, fruits and other provisions. It seems to me that it will be a fair thing to say that we will exclude Australia's imports, if Australia excludes our people. We will not allow them to gain wealth by sending imports to India if they say that their coasts are closed against the Indian emigrant, and so in that way you would make them feel and you would create a moral effect that nothing else can do. You may remember that Mr. Gokhale, when he was speaking of South Africa, declared, and declared wisely I am sure, that some form—he called it retaliation—but reciprocity sounds nicer than retaliation—some sort of prohibitory duty should be inflicted, as a moral protest against the wrongs which were being inflicted on the Indians in the colonies.

Indenture is Slavery

The last point is that there is still the abominable system of indenture, slavery with one or two syllables. Indentured labour is slavery to all intents and purposes. I know that the Government here have checked the export of indentured labour to some parts of the South African Union, but it is going on still in Fiji. You ought to say that if an Indian is to go into any white country under indenture, then only under an indenture would you admit those white people into your land. You have in passing this resolution to remember that you have at present an autonomy which puts into the Council of the nations the rights it ought to possess, and so we ask in the resolution that these powers shall be exercised by the Government of India.

That, until you have autonomy, until you are a self-governing nation—and it is not so far off as some people seem to imagine—until the day shall come when you shall be ruled by your own freely elected representatives, until then the Viceroy and the Government of India must in your name exercise the powers for which we ask. Whatever a colony does towards India in the meantime, let the Government of India do towards that colony. That is the rule and nothing less than that will satisfy the sentiments of the people of India, for it has to be remembered that India is growing in the sense of her own dignity. She is not content any longer to be a child in the nursery of the nations. She demands that she shall be a man going out to the world with the man's rights and man's responsibilities. She is now sharing the responsibilities of man in Europe. Give her the freedom of man in India. (Loud applause.)

Mr. Kesava Pillay

In seconding the resolution, the Hon. Mr. Kesava Pillay observed that Indians in the matter of rules and regulations under the Emigration Act always felt that they were treated as an inferior race. And so long as they were treated as an inferior race in their own country, he did not think that anybody could expect the people in the colonies to treat them differently. He was certain that the present war would change the sentiments of the people in the colonies and that at home their own Government would see justice granted to them and would grant them a potential voice in the management of their own affairs. Then they could bring those colonies which were hitherto ill-treating them to a proper understanding of the questions that affected their people.

Mr. Kunzru's Speech

The following speech was made by Mr. H. N. Kunzru in supporting the resolution on reciprocity:—

Mr. President, ladies and gentlemen.—The resolution that I have the honour to support relates to the position of Indians in all the three self-governing colonies of Australia, South Africa and Canada. But the problem it deals with exists in a far acuter form in Canada than in any other colony and it was with special reference to this question that Lord Hardinge spoke in Council on the 8th September last. There are at present about 4,500 Indians in Canada owning property worth about 2½ crores. The immigration commenced in 1905 and restriction began to be imposed in 1908. Indians labour under two serious disabilities to-day. They must go direct to Canada from the land of their birth and must satisfy the immigration officer concerned that they are each in actual and personal possession of 200 dollars. As there is no direct passenger service between India and Canada, it is physically impossible for Indians to comply with this demand. Again, the Indian settlers are not allowed to send for their families from India with the result that with the exception of three women who have been allowed to enter the colony as an act of grace, the entire Indian population of Canada consists of males. Let us compare the treatment of Indians with that of other Asiatic immigrants whose rights are protected by special treaties entered into with their Governments. Four hundred Japanese can enter Canada annually on showing that they are individually in possession of 50 dollars in specie or negotiable securities. The security required of them is much smaller than that demanded from Indians and need not be in the form of cash. As to the Chinese any number of them can gain admission on payment of a head tax of 500 dollars. And both the Chinese and Japanese have the right to settle in Canada not only with their wives and children but also with their near-relatives. The Chinese is polygamous and may

live with several wives at the same time without any protest on the part of the colonists. But the Indian who is a monogamist in practice, is not allowed to ask his wife and children to come near enough to smile into his eyes. It is sometimes said that the power possessed by the colonies to exclude undesirable immigrants is not used against Indians only and that it has not unfrequently been exercised against men arriving from the United Kingdom. It is true that during the years 1901 to 1902 to 1912-13, while only 368 Indians were refused permission to land, the number of Britishers rejected at the various ports of entry amounted to 1,080, but it must be remembered at the same time that a million men coming from the United Kingdom settled in Canada during that period while, practically speaking, not a single Indian has been allowed to enter since restrictions began to be imposed on Indian immigration.

What is the remedy for this state of things? Obviously the relief immediately necessary is that the Indian settlers in Canada should be allowed to call over their families from India or wherever they may be. This relief was proposed to them by the Minister of the Interior in 1911, but the pledge has not been fulfilled till now. For the rest it has to be borne in mind that the question of the position of Indians in Canada must depend for its proper settlement on a right solution of the latter problem. It is therefore to the larger question that we must devote our attention. It is plain to any intelligent observer that nothing less than absolute equality with the colonies will satisfy India.—I am sure nothing would have pleased this Congress better than to ask that this equality should be founded on the possession of common rights and privileges. But as the prospect in this direction is not very hopeful, it is compelled to ask for equality on a negative basis. It asks that colonial immigrants shall be subjected to the same restrictions and disabilities as are imposed on Indians in the colonies. In other words it asks that we should follow a policy of retaliation, or rather complete reciprocity, for that is, as Mrs. Besant has said, a milder and more attractive word. Such a solution being in harmony with the growing political consciousness of India, will possess the necessary elements of finality. It will lift the ideal of Imperial citizenship and impart a large element of truth to the boast of British statesmen that under the British flag distinctions of race and religion are unknown and that the rule of England is synonymous with the rule of justice and freedom. For these reasons, gentlemen, I beg to accord my hearty support to the resolution placed before you by Mrs. Besant.

Greenwood Park Indian National School

Messrs. K. K. Pillay and Onia Pather write:—Some time ago, with the help of the farmers residing in this district, this school was built for the purpose of imparting both English and Vernacular education purely on National lines; and, since then, it has been maintained from the funds contributed by them monthly. The school, which then started with an attendance of about 40, has now doubled its number, owing to its growing popularity; hence it is our desire to extend the building as the present one cannot properly accommodate the present number. For this purpose subscriptions are solicited. Notwithstanding the many calls made lately on the purse, we believe that the public will respond to this appeal as it is for a noble purpose.—Through the kindness of some Tamil and Gujarati friends the sum of £19 3s. 4d. has already been collected.

The Indian Army

Mr. H. T. Montague Bell, writing in *United Empire* on the Indian Expeditionary Force, says:—

The Indian Army consists in peace time of 75,000 British troops, 160,000 Indian troops, together with 22,000 Imperial Service Troops, and 35,000 Native Reservists.

The embargo placed by the War Office on the publication of the exact composition of the Indian Expeditionary Force has not yet been removed. From the casualty list appended to this article the names of some of the units comprised in the Force may be learned, and the list unfortunately is long enough to indicate the care which the military authorities gave to a selection that should be representative of the Indian Army and cause as little disappointment as possible to the troops, who were all eager to be chosen for active service.

Three expeditionary forces, apart from the supplementary troops sent to France since the arrival of the first force, have been despatched from India since the outbreak of war. One is operating from the Persian Gulf up the Tigris. It includes, with a battalion of the Norfolk and Dorsetshire Regiments, the 20th Infantry Regiment, the 48th Pioneers, the 104th Wellesley's Rifles, the 105th and 110th Mahratta Light Infantry and the 117th Mahrattas. To East Africa have been sent in company with the 2nd Battalion of the Loyal North Lancashire Regiment, the 13th Rajputs, the 38th Dogras, the 61st Pioneers, the 83rd Wallajahbad Light Infantry, the 63rd Palamcottah Light Infantry, the 98th Infantry, and the 101st Grenadiers.

In view of the fact that all artillery in India, with the exception of twelve mountain batteries, is British, each field force sent from India has to be composite; but from the composition of the two minor expeditions it will be noticed that in both cases the principle of giving the native regiments a "stiffening" of British infantry troops has been adopted. British troops formed part also of the Indian Expeditionary Force to Europe, although the thirty-nine regiments of cavalry and the 140 regiments of Infantry (with nineteen companies of Sappers and Miners) of the Indian Army provided ample material for as fine a fighting force of the two arms as could be desired.

The Indian Army, like the British Army, has a fighting tradition. All the cavalry regiments, with two exceptions, have seen service in Afghanistan and on the Punjab frontier; several have distinguished themselves in Egypt, Burmah, Abyssinia, and in the Terah expedition. The 2nd Lancers (Gardner's Horse), the 6th King Edward's Own Cavalry, and the 13th Duke of Connaught's Lancers took part in the Egyptian campaign in 1882 and were conspicuous at the battle of Tel-el-Kebir. The 34th Poona Horse, which has already been in action on the Continent, was formed in 1817 and has a distinguished record. In 1900 the cavalry sent to China included the 33rd Queen's Own Light Cavalry which has taken part in nearly every expedition in which Indian troops have been engaged since 1842, the 11th King Edward's Own Lancers (some officers of which have been in Belgium), the 16th Cavalry Regiment, and the 19th Lancers. Wherever he has been used, the Indian cavalryman has proved his usefulness time and again. When opportunity once more favours our mounted troops in this war, the Indian cavalry will be found a worthy collaborator with the British cavalry, which has already established its superiority over the enemy.

If the Indian cavalry is able to supplement the spectacular appeal it makes to the senses by sterling merits, it is certain that the Indian infantryman is not a whit behind his mounted colleague. As a soldier the Sikh is unsurpassed in his own country, and few people can look upon a company of these men, whether soldiers or policemen, without being impressed by

their fine physique and martial bearing. The Gurkha is, perhaps, a more popular figure with the reading public by reason of his traditional friendship with our own Highlanders. He belongs to the independent Kingdom of Nepal, and is recruited for the Indian Army on the strength of a treaty a hundred years old—the first Gurkha Regiments dating from 1815. As to the Nepalese are the inhabitants of British Garhwal Gurkha regiments formerly contained many Garhwals and the regiment now known as the 39th Garhwal Rifles, to which one of the first Indian V.C.'s has gone was originally the 2nd battalion of the 3rd Gurkha Rajputs, Brahmans, Pathans, and so on through the different types of the Indian Army, one and all warriors by descent and profession. It is this fact that gives the Indian Army its strength.

News in Brief

From the Report of the Auditor-General, for the year ended March 31st, 1914, we learn that the Indian strike in Natal entailed special police expenditure £1,642.

A Bioscope Entertainment will be given at the "Star" Picture Palace Bioscope, Johannesburg, Wednesday, the 24th instant, in aid of the Hindu Asharam, Hindi Press, Hindi Newspaper and a Public Hindi Free School which it is intended to establish within the course of the next two or three months. Admission to the entertainment is one shilling.

A trustworthy correspondent sends us the following extract from a letter addressed to him by the Magistrate of his town:—"I am very glad to notice that the Indian community appreciated my efforts to be fair and just. The Indians have always had my sympathy for I have found in my dealings with them that they are a civil, quiet and fair community, much maligned by people who are not disinterested. I have learned in late years that the agitation against them is cleverly manoeuvred by the traders."

Lady Aileen Roberts writes as follows to the Secretaries of the Natal Indian Association:—"I am asked by my mother, Lady Roberts, to thank you very much indeed for sending her the Resolution of Natal Indians on the death of my Father. We should be very glad if you would convey to the members of your Association our deep gratitude for their expressions of sympathy."

Lady Aileen Roberts, who has succeeded to the title on the death of her father, the late Earl Roberts, has addressed the following letter to the Chairman of the Transvaal British Indian Association:—"I am asked by my Mother, Lady Roberts, to thank you very much for the expression of condolence passed at the meeting of the British Indian Association, Transvaal, on the death of my Father, conveyed to her through Lord Kitchener. We should be very grateful if you would express to the Members of the Committee our heartfelt thanks for their sympathy."

Mr. S. P. Sinha, the first Indian member of the Government of India, who assisted greatly during Lord Minto's Viceroyalty, in giving effect to Mr. Gokhale's resolution to prohibit further recruitment of indentured labour for Natal, has received the honour of knighthood. Mr. G. K. Devdhar, the head of the Bombay Branch of the Servants of India Society, has been rewarded for his energetic labours, on behalf of the poor and the labouring classes, with the Kaiser Hind silver medal. We tender our congratulations to both gentlemen.