

Indian Opinion

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Indian Population in Crown Colonies

The following return showing the Total Population and the Indian Population separately in various Colonies and Protectorates, was recently published by the Imperial Government :—

	Total Population.	Indian Population.	Adult Indian Population.
British Guiana	309,041	126,517	{ Males ... 53,083 } { Females ... 34,779 } 87,862
Ceylon	4,110,367	470,651	
East Africa Protectorate	4,000,000	17,886	
Fiji Islands	139,541	40,286	{ Males ... 20,062 } { Females ... 8,785 } 28,847
Jamaica	831,383	17,380	{ Males ... 7,137 } { Females ... 4,775 } 11,912
Leeward Islands :—			
Antigua (with Barbuda and Redonda)	32,296	3	
Dominica	33,863	8	
Montserrat	12,196	2	
St. Christopher and Nevis	43,303	38	
Virgin Islands	5,562	—	
Malay States (Federated)	1,036,999	172,465	{ Males ... 116,626 } { Females ... 28,368 } 144,994
Mauritius	377,083	*257,697	{ Males ... 89,996 } { Females ... 71,833 } 161,829
Seychelles	22,691	420	
Straits Settlements	714,069	82,055	
Trinidad and Tobago	333,552	50,585	{ Males ... 31,989 } { Females ... 17,159 } 49,148
Uganda	2,843,325	1,622	
Windward Islands :—			
Grenada	66,750	406	
St. Lucia	48,637	2,064	
St. Vincent	41,877	376	

*Indo-Mauritian, 222,301; other Indians, 35,396.

The above Return is compiled from the 1911 Census Reports of the various Colonies and Protectorates.

Where no figures are furnished none are available.

Adults have been regarded as persons aged 16 years and upwards as the quinquennial grouping of ages in the Census Returns makes 15 and 16 the maximum and minimum respectively of two groups.

The East London "Badge" Regulations

The following petition has been presented to the Administrator of the Cape Province :—

To the Honourable Sir Nicolaas Frederic de Waal, Knight Commander of the most distinguished Order of St. Michael and St. George; Administrator of the Province of the Cape of Good Hope. The Petition of the British Indian Association and the undersigned British Indians carrying on business in East London as Hawkers, praying for the rejection of the proposed Regulations relating to Vendors of Fruit, Vegetables, etc., as framed by the Municipality of East London,

HUMBLY SHEWETH :—

1. That annexure hereto marked "A" is a copy of the Regulations relating to Vendors of Fruit, Vegetables, etc., recently framed under the provisions of Ordinance No. 10 of 1912 and passed by the Municipality of East London, and about to be promulgated in the *Provincial Gazette*.

2. That at the time these Regulations were published and objections called for we duly protested, and gave the Town Council of East London our reasons for doing so.

3. Dealing with the Regulations *seriatim*, we wish to bring the following facts to your notice :—that your Petitioners are all holders of Hawker's Licences, and have already paid for their Licences.

4. That before obtaining a Hawker's Licence every applicant has to apply to the Local Authority for a Certificate authorising the issue of such Licence.

5. That in the terms of the laws of the Province of the Cape of Good Hope, when a Hawker has once obtained his Licence, he has only to apply to the Issuer of Licences each year for a new Licence.

6. That your Petitioners have been informed and verily believe that the proposed Regulations have been three times rejected by the Municipal Council of East London as unnecessary.

7. That the Municipal Council of East London in the proposed Regulations concerning Hawkers, wish to compel Hawkers to apply annually for registration and for a badge, for which a sum of Two shillings and Six pence sterling is to be paid annually.

8. We have gone into the matter very fully and have also discussed the matter with His Worship, the Mayor of East London, but we are not convinced that there is any need for us to wear a badge when plying our trade. We regard the Regulations in this respect as degrading and unnecessary.

9. That your Petitioners purchase the fruit and vegetables, which they sell, on the Municipal Market, and go straight from the Market on their rounds, and that when the rounds are completed there is, as a rule, no fruit or vegetables left. When there is any left on hand it is kept in a sanitary condition.

10. That most of your Petitioners have carried on their business in the City of East London for the past ten or fifteen years and no individual Indian Hawker has been prosecuted in East London for acts of theft or violence whilst plying his trade as a Hawker during that period.

11. That an examination of the criminal records will show that the Hawkers are law-abiding subjects.

12. That the definition of Hawkers as given in the proposed Regulations is inconsistent with the definition given in Ordinance No. 19 of 1914, and that the Municipality are attempting to give the term a wider meaning than that given in the Ordinance.

13. That the Clause prohibiting any person accompanying a Hawker unless such person is a registered Hawker debar the Hawkers from employing Natives to assist in wheeling our carts or carrying our wares; if these people have to be registered in every instance it

will mean employing a man constantly which is wholly unnecessary; besides, Natives will work for a man for a few days, and then, without assigning any reason, will refrain from turning up to work once they have received their pay. It would then be necessary for us to obtain other Natives and have them registered before being able to proceed with our business.

14. That your Petitioners also consider it unreasonable that any householder shall have the right to demand production of the Hawker's Licence.

15. That your Petitioners consider the whole of the proposed Regulations to be unreasonable and unnecessary, and if passed will put a heavy burden on them, they being all loyal British Indians.

We humbly suggest that your Honour might assist us greatly by representing our case to His Excellency the Governor-General with a view to obtaining the repeal or amendment of the Regulations above dealt with, and allowing us to reside on more liberal terms in the Town of East London proper.

We maintain that the Indians have proved themselves worthy subjects of the Empire, and are entitled to more liberal terms than they have received from the hands of the East London Municipal Council.

And your Petitioners as in duty bound will ever pray.
Dated at East London this 25th day of March, 1915.

Australia's "Righteous Indignation"

Sir Henry Galway, the Governor of South Australia, had the temerity to make some observations on the fetish of a "White Australia" some time ago, and it appears (says the *Bombay Chronicle*) that his words have given dire offence to Australians. At a State luncheon the Governor made a speech, the purport of which was that the development of the northern territory of Australia was the greatest difficulty with which the Government was faced. It is an immense area lying fallow for want of pioneers, and the policy of exclusion by Australia is in a great degree responsible for this state of things. The Governor said it was impossible to conceive how such a vast tract could be cultivated by "white labour alone," and although he sympathised with those who cried for a "white" Australia, he urged that it was a pity to keep the land undeveloped until the requisite white labour could be got together. Sir Henry ventured to say further :—

Looking at the splendid services being rendered to the Empire by our Indian troops and by our Japanese allies, I am one of those who think that the feelings of Australians on the colour question will undergo considerable—or should I say a softening?—change when the war is over.

I have not the intention nor the wish to raise a controversy. I simply refer to what to me is a most difficult problem future Australian Governments will have to face in connection with the development of the land.

An Apology Demanded

This speech seems to have given a keen shock to Australia, and the Prime Minister of the Commonwealth is said to have given vent to his indignation to a press representative in these terms :—

"If the words attributed by the press to the Governor of South Australia were uttered by him, they constitute a grave official indiscretion which cannot be allowed to pass without notice, nor for a day without protest."

Mr. Fisher forwarded the report of the speech to the Government of South Australia asking whether it was a correct report, and the Governor, thinking it, perhaps, best to drop the controversy at that stage, replied :—

"The newspaper report is quite correct. In making the remarks I did, I had neither the wish nor the intention to comment adversely on the policy of the Commonwealth. I now see that it would have been

wiser had I omitted from my speech any reference to the much-debated colour question, and I regret having said anything on that subject."

Australia can now sleep with a clear conscience (adds our contemporary) that it has kept intact the ideal of a "White Australia."

From the Editor's Chair

THE IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT

A REUTER message from Capetown states that a departmental enquiry will shortly be held to enquire into the working of the Immigration Department. It is added that Commissioners have already been appointed and witnesses requested to give evidence, but the date and place of the first sitting have not yet been fixed. Exactly what the significance of this announcement is we do not know, but we feel that the Government have been wisely advised in instituting such an enquiry as that announced. There is no doubt that the Union Immigration Department needs serious overhauling. But we understand that the enquiry is to be confined to the Cape Province. This seems a pity. All kinds of rumours are afloat as to what is transpiring in some of the offices, and we have excellent reason to know that these rumours are far from being without foundation. Like Caesar's wife, the Immigration Department should be above suspicion, and unfortunately, almost by its very constitution, it is far from that. The best that can be said of it is that it is beset by red tape and routine, and that its principal officials are largely out of touch, with rare exceptions, with the spirit of last year's settlement. The worst that may be said of it will, no doubt, be the subject of the enquiry that is to be held. We trust that steps will be taken in the Cape Province to place before the Committee the views of responsible members of the Indian community with reference to the working of the Department. We welcome this enquiry and we hope that the Government will ultimately decide to extend its operations to the other Provinces.

ANOTHER CAPE BLUNDER

Rosy and Cecelia Deane both were born in Maritzburg and could pass the educational test. Cecelia Deane passed her examination in teaching. Rosy is about 20 and Cecelia about 18. About two weeks ago these two girls, with their brother, left for East London with the intention of remaining there. Wires were sent to the Immigration Officer at Cape Town and cost nearly 18/6, but no reply was received. A week later another wire was sent and a reply was received to the effect that authority must come from the Minister of the Interior. As all arrangements were practically made, these ladies left for East London and the Immigration Officer restricted them at East London under section 4 (1) (a) of Act 22 of 1913. The boat arrived at about 10 o'clock in the morning and a wire had to be sent from the boat to Cape Town for permission to land. This was refused and eventually at about 8 o'clock in the evening they were allowed to land, by depositing £22, and served with notices as prohibited immigrants. Fourteen days were passed at

ladies. Before leaving Durban, they were in possession of their Birth Certificates.

We understand that the matter was subsequently referred to the Minister who at once gave instructions for the release of the Sisters Deane and the refund of the deposits made by them; but the point is that Mr. Cousins has again egregiously failed to realise what is due to the public from him. In the first place, assuming that these ladies had not brought their Birth Certificates with them, the mere fact that they were English-speaking Indians claiming to be lawfully resident in Natal, should have entitled them under the Immigration law of 1913 to be put to the education test which has been specially retained for that purpose; but on producing their Birth Certificates they were entitled under the settlement of last year to be landed without being subjected to any test at all. Mr. Cousins not only has ignored the terms of the settlement of which he must have been fully aware, but he has also failed to carry out the law, which he is statutorily required to do. We venture to hope that this also will be one of the subjects of enquiry before the committee that we understand has been appointed to investigate the working of the Immigration Department.

(Cape Immigration Case

The following facts have been brought to our notice:—

One Ismail Amien first arrived at Cape Town in 1905, his age being then 22 years. He had no funds nor could he read or write any European language, and he was consequently a prohibited immigrant. He had no near relatives in India, but his brother was in Cape Town. The man was detained on the ship, from which he escaped and was at large for a year. In 1906 he was arrested and detained. Some of the Cape Town Indian leaders made representations to the Immigration Office stating that the man was destitute and that he was dependent upon his brother. As a result of these representations Mr. Cousins was satisfied, and permission was granted to Ismail Amien to remain. In 1909 he visited India and applied for a permit. This was granted to him upon Mr. Cousins being reminded of the permission that had been granted by himself in 1906. He returned within the period of his permit and was re-admitted without trouble. In 1914 the man again applied for a permit to visit India and was granted a Certificate of Domicile. When, however, he returned on the 26th ult., by the s.s. *Walmer Castle*, he was detained by the Immigration Department on the ground that his freedom to stay in the Colony was the result of serious misrepresentations. He was locked up in the Immigration Depot at Cape Town for eight days by himself. No friends were allowed to see him or speak to him. The person who took his food daily was only allowed by the guard to speak to him for a couple of minutes. He was then taken to Mr. Cousins' office for examination. The name of one friend was given to Mr. Cousins who, however, did not send for him. The matter was at once brought to the notice of the Minister. Meanwhile, on the 3rd inst., the man was released on bail, but a prohibition notice was served upon him and an appeal was at once noted to the Appeal Board. He was represented by Mr. Alexander, M.L.A., who demanded the production of proof of misrepresentations, and as the Immigration Officer could not produce any proof he was obliged to withdraw the charge and the appeal was allowed.

It is evident from the above facts, if correctly stated, as we have every reason to suppose them to be, that Mr. Cousins is once again endeavouring to show how utterly incompetent he is to understand the spirit of

An Indian's Offer

"C.R.G." writes as follows to the *Natal Mercury* :—

"I am a young Indian, aged 22 years, speaking English fluently, my own language (Tamil), and know Hindustani thoroughly. I wish to proceed to England to offer my services as an attendant to the sick and wounded in the New Forest Hospital or elsewhere. I have some ambulance experience, and am of good character, and can produce satisfactory references. I am willing to submit myself for medical inspection as to fitness. I would be glad if you would kindly favour me by inserting this in your paper, in the hope that some wealthy Indian may see his way to provide a passage for me to England to enable me to offer my services there."

[NOTE: We understand that the writer's name and address is in the possession of the Editor of the above paper. We should be glad if the writer would also kindly communicate with us—Ed. I.O.]

The Hobhouse Schools

The following is a summary of the report of the Transvaal Home Industries Board, which has led to the closing down of the spinning and weaving schools and classes initiated as the result of Miss Hobhouse's efforts shortly after the late war :—

During the past 12 months the Transvaal Home Industries Board has been considering whether the results which have attended their efforts justify a continuation of the annual grant of £5,000 received, first, from the Transvaal Government, and, since Union, from the Provincial Administration. The desire of the promoters was to see, in the course of some few years, a considerable number of girls, the daughters of the farmers especially, spinning and weaving in their own homes, not so much with the idea of earning money directly, but rather of curtailing expenditure by means of supplying the home with such indispensable articles as rugs, tweeds, carpets, etc., the making of which would at the same time furnish useful and congenial occupations for spare time. The daughter or wife was to find the raw material close to hand on the farm. She was to realise that a very considerable means of economy would attend her work. Thus the aim was educational and economic in the industrial sense; not to any great extent commercial. At any rate, the supreme test was to be found in the response of the pupils to the instructions given in the district schools, as evidenced by the number who continued afterwards to work in their own homes.

The number trained in spinning and weaving since 1908 is about 800, but only 74 continue to spin and about six to weave in their own homes. "In other words," says the report, "the realisation of our ultimate aim and object, viz., the introduction of spinning and weaving as a home industry, has been achieved in the case of only 10 per cent. of the pupils."

Causes of Failure

The Board summarised the causes of failure as follows :—

(a) The climate and other conditions of the country do not appear to stimulate effort of this nature. The severity of European weather and the competition, which compel many of the inhabitants of northern countries to seize every opportunity of making an honest living, are absent here.

(b) The great majority of pupils is drawn from the poorer class, and their homes are in most cases too small and inconvenient to allow of the erection of a loom.

(c) The early age of marrying often presents an alternative career for the trained pupil.

(d) The actual possible income, even for an industrious girl, is very small when compared with that earned in other occupations.

(e) Probably many girls still regard hand occupations as somewhat undignified, especially in days when many of their friends find their way to the universities and enter upon professional careers.

In conclusion, the Board said they could not and did not consider the result commensurate with the outlay, and they were unanimously of opinion that the grant could be devoted to better purpose on education in other directions.

The schools will, therefore, close down at the end of next month, and the looms and other machinery will be taken over by the prisons.

"The One Problem"

Speaking at the Gurjar Sabha's reception to Mr. and Mrs. Gandhi, Mr. M. A. Jinnah said that, after the great war that is going on and which has to decide the issue between right and wrong—and he had no doubt that right will succeed (hear, hear)—questions affecting India will have to be considered and solved and the one word that he might say to Mr. Gandhi was that throughout the whole country, the two sister communities of India—Hindus and Mahomedans—showed themselves unanimous, absolutely one, on the South African question, and he thought that that was the first question and the first occasion on which the two sister communities stood together in absolute union and it had its moral and political effect on the settlement of the question. That it had its gain was being displayed by the attitude of India towards the war and the whole of India had stood by the Empire as one of its members. It was that frame of mind, that state, that condition which they had to bring about between the two communities, when most of their problems, he had no doubt, would be easily solved. That, he said to Mr. Gandhi, was one problem of all the problems of India—namely, how to bring about unanimity and co-operation between the two communities so that the demands of India may be made absolutely unanimously.

How a Stranger was Impressed

I lent my copy of "The Golden Number" of INDIAN OPINION (writes the London correspondent of the *Amrita Bazar Patrika*) to a friend who wanted to know particulars of the Passive Resistance Movement in South Africa. The interest aroused was due to a few minutes' conversation with Mr. Gandhi in London; he had not talked about South Africa; the topic was the war and how Indians could help—Indians in this country, not the soldiers from India. "Let me know something more of this Indian," was the request made to me soon after. What could I do better than put the "Golden Volume" into the enquirer's hand? It has now come back to me with a brief note. Its purport is this: This is a remarkable record; it could only have been achieved by singleness of heart, earnestness of purpose, complete self-surrender, and a noble idea of service. I may never meet Mr. Gandhi again—the enquirer comes from the United States—but he has enriched life for me. I shall cling to hope in dark days, remembering his courage, and I shall watch with keenest interest the treatment of Indians in every part of the world!

The stranger is one of many; time after time similar tribute has been paid to Mr. Gandhi; he puts aside all personal merit, but the fact remains that he has been used as a maker of history. All who know the story of the Passive Resistance struggle in South Africa will rejoice that this noteworthy record has been published. India and Britain owe to its Editor warmest appreciation and thanks; it is a wonder of compilation and production, and should find its way to the British

Dominions Overseas and other countries as a worthy record—strong in its simplicity—of an epoch-making struggle in which not only victory came to the few but ill-will—and worse—melted into goodwill and sympathy and understanding.

The Late Mr. Gokhale

Under the heading "A Servant of India," Mr. H. W. Nevinson writes in the *Nation* a tribute to the late Mr. Gokhale in which he says:—"However quiet his speech, the courage of unyielding conviction and of that regardlessness of self, fortune or applause was always felt behind it. It needs some bravery to continue insisting on the same cause, year after year, with hardly any apparent result. And perhaps it needs even more to protest against a burning national injustice before a council of officials who stare coldly or write letters, and then year after year, proceed to the next business as though nothing had been said."

A leading article in the same paper calls him "The Statesman of India," and says: "We shall miss his calm wisdom, his sweet reasonableness, his remarkable breadth of view, and, withal, his sturdy pertinacity, when the urgent problems of Indian nationalism come up for settlement; the problems of the Press Law and the Arms Act, of the concession of equal rights in the Indian Civil Service; above all, of the admission of our Indian fellow subjects to the other parts of the Empire." The article ends with a protest against the "clumsy stupidity" of the C.I.D., which, till recently, used to shadow every movement of the man whom Viceroy and Secretaries of State trusted and consulted, and telegraphed his journeys by rail (as "No. 62") as if he had been a suspected burglar.

His Majesty's Condolence

The following telegram has been received at Poona from the Private Secretary to the Viceroy by the family of the late Mr. Gokhale:—"Viceroy (has) been requested to convey on behalf of (His) Majesty the King-Emperor to (the) representative of (the) late Mr. Gokhale's family (His) Majesty's deep sympathy with them in their bereavement."

Sir George Birdwood on India

In his recently published book, "Sva," Sir George Birdwood, who was born in India in 1832, writes:—"India has done everything for us, everything that has made these islands . . . the greatest Empire the world has ever known, and for this we owe undying gratitude to India. . . . It is only of moral conviction, or, so to say, of religious inspiration, that I feel it incumbent upon us, that, being in India for our own advantage, we should also seek in every way, to the utmost of our power, and as a consecrated service, to subserve her material and moral advantage."

"Were I responsible for the Government of India, I would at once place the Educational Department wholly in the hands of duly qualified Hindus, Muslims, and Parsis; the Judicial Department three-fourths in their hands; and I would freely admit the Rajputs and the members of the other ruling classes and warrior castes into the higher commissions of the Imperial British Army, up to one-third of the number of officers required; and, above all else, I would insist on developing, without let or stint, the illimitable reproductive resources of the country *pari passu* with the European education of its people. This beneficent policy, *inter alia*, would indefinitely postpone any inclination on the part of the latter to emigrate to our hostile democratic Colonies."

News in Brief

The Natal Shop Hours Act Amendment Ordinance was disposed of in the Provincial Council last week by the Chairman being voted out of the chair in Committee. The ordinance is thus removed from the Council's current legislative programme.

Subadar Parbat Chand, of the Indian Army, gain the Military cross for leading the 59th Scinde Rifle after their European officer had fallen.—Reuter.

Capetown, April 15 (Reuter).—A departmental inquiry will shortly be held to inquire into the working of the Immigration Department. Commissioners have already been appointed, and witnesses requested to give evidence, but the date of the first sitting has not yet been fixed.

London, April 10.—Reuter's Simla correspondent telegraphs that Indian princes and noblemen continue to make generous war gifts, while British-Indian ladies throughout the country are constantly forwarding comforts to the troops at the front. Indian princes and others have given further great sums towards war expenses, as well as gifts of medical appliances, motor ambulances, large tents for hospitals in France, money contributions for hospitals, thousands of sheepskins, millions of cheroots, and thousands of copies of the Koran; also a hospital motor launch for the Persian Gulf.—Reuter.

Private James Slim, who was born in Jamaica, and is a coloured man, has enlisted in the 4th (Reserve) Coldstream Guards at Windsor. He first joined the Foreign Legion of France, and was wounded while serving in the trenches. When he recovered he expressed a desire to join the British Army, and Lord Kitchener granted his wish. He is now going through a course of training at Victoria Barracks, and hopes shortly to leave for the front. He is the first coloured Guardsman within memory.

Mr. K. M. Panikker, of Christ Church, Oxford, writes to *New India* on the necessity for an organisation in India to support the Indians in Crown Colonies. He suggests that an influential All-India Committee should be formed to look after their welfare. It should depute persons to enquire into the condition of the labourers, etc., and issue yearly reports about their state and prosperity.

A distinguished Japanese professor, writing to a friend in the Cape Peninsula, exclaims at the close of his letter: "La guerre du monde! Il faut defendre la civilisation menacee par l'ambition du chief des nouveaux barbares." ("The world's war! We must defend civilisation which is menaced by the ambition of the chief of the new barbarians.") The description of the task of the Allies is as accurate as it is pithy (adds a Rand contemporary). But what a reflection from the Far East upon the pass to which the pretensions of "kultur" have brought the West!

In his introduction to his new work "The Ancient and Mediæval Architecture of India," Mr. E. B. Havell says:—"Ever since the Aryans made India prosperous and content with the wonderful organisation of their village communities and the splendid culture which grew out of them, those who have tampered with it, knowingly or ignorantly, have had to meet the active or passive resistance of all—to whatever race or sect they may belong—who had learned to love the freedom of Indo-Aryan institutions."

Commenting on the suggestion that Indians should be allowed to settle in parts of British East Africa and the district which, it is hoped, will be no longer German East Africa, the *Civil Service Gazette* says:—As there is unlikely to be any large amount of white emigration thither, there would be no serious obstacle to the administration of the province by the Indian Government, which has already been charged with the administration of territory outside the limits of India proper. The scheme seems to promise more hopefully than the idea entertained some time ago by the Colonial Office, and apparently by the Viceroy of India, that after the war the self-governing Dominions would relax their immigration laws against Asiatics. There is not the slightest tendency to do so, and the Dominions being masters of their own legislation in this, as in most other respects, nothing but disappointment and friction can come from pressing them on this point.

An "Indian Army Officer," writing in *Truth*, on the work of the Indian soldiers, gives the following figures:

It is difficult to arrive at exact figures. Casualty lists for the Indian Army are only published in Indian papers, but I believe I am correct in saying that over 10,000 men have been killed and wounded out of a total of some 25,000 bayonets. The percentage of killed is very high, and the percentage of missing very low. With regard to this last item, it may not be out of place to point out that "missing" includes all unrecovered dead and wounded and surrenders. The number of surrenders are exceptionally low, so far as I can ascertain, the percentage of surrenders to killed and wounded is far lower in the Indian Army than the British (even excluding the retreat from Mons). These details, even if not very precise, are an eloquent tribute to the stern nature of the fighting.

The various sections of the local commercial community have been moved to an unusual degree of interest (says the *Natal Mercury's* Greytown correspondent) in the application of Mr. M. E. Lahki for a retail trader's licence. On a previous occasion the application was refused, on the ground that the applicant had not a suitable building. In the meantime he had erected premises, but, notwithstanding that this appeared to imply the satisfaction of the only remaining requirement, the opposition was renewed, not only by the Chamber of Commerce, but by the chief Indian traders of the town. A considerable amount of evidence was taken, and in the end the Licensing Officer granted the application. He pointed to the prosperity of the existing Indian traders as evidence supporting the claim that there was scope for another firm, and answered the plea that the spending powers of the natives had been reduced in consequence of the stagnation of the wattle industry by stating that a native can always earn good wages when he wishes to work.

In a recent number of the little magazine *Sabuz Patra* (Green Leaves), to which Mr. Rabindranath Tagore is a frequent contributor, is an excellent article on the war by the editor, Mr. Pramatha Chaudhuri, in which he says:—

"Because militarism is hateful, I do not go so far as to say that our present mercantile civilization is in all points its superior. No civilization is wholly free from taint, and our modern civilization is necessarily imperfect. But if we are to be fair judges of any set of institutions, we must consider not only its past and its present, but its probable future. After all, human life is but a period of transition from past to future. If our present system contains vices that are only too visible, we are to ask ourselves if it possesses sufficient healthy vitality to slough off the diseases by which it is infested. For my part, I hold that Western civilization has such a vitality. In any case, the appropriate re-

medy for its ills is not the savage surgery of the German sword, but the stimulating medicine of the true physician—the social reformer."

"Enough Asiatic Licences"

At the meeting of the Durban Town Council on the 1st instant Shaik Abdool Latiff, an Indian, appealed against the decision of the Acting Licensing Officer in refusing to grant him a retail licence for premises at 219, Umgeni Road. The licence was refused by the officer on the ground that, in his opinion, it was undesirable to increase the number of Asiatic licences in Durban. Mr. P. O'Hea appeared on his behalf. He enlarged upon the rights of a British subject, and maintained that it did not matter whether a man were born under the Indian or the African sun.

The Mayor, interrupting, explained that the Council recognised the rights of British citizens, and admitted them.

The Acting Licensing Officer stated that he had no personal objection to the applicant, but the Council had previously refused to grant this Indian a licence for other premises on the ground that there were enough Asiatic licences.

After a short retirement the Council agreed, on the motion of Mr. Payne, seconded by Mr. Burman, to grant the licence.—*Natal Mercury*.

A Great Indian Enterprise

The Calcutta correspondent of the *Morning Post*, in a communication dated the 9th February, says:—

The inauguration yesterday by the Governor of Bombay of the Tata hydro-electric scheme, which ultimately will provide Bombay with electric energy equal to 130,000 horse-power, or five times the amount hitherto derived from water throughout India, is regarded as of immense industrial significance. The scheme represents the effort to utilise the rainfall of the Western Ghats for the development of cheap electrical energy for Bombay cotton mills.

As an engineering feat alone the achievement is a romance. The storage of water in three artificial lakes in the mountains has been rendered possible by the construction of vast dams, the largest of which is longer and higher than that at Assuan. To concentrate the contents of the three lakes necessitated an artificial channel five miles long, adequate to carry a stream with a flow equal to that of the Thames. From the concentration point the water drops 1,734ft. in immensely strong pipes to turbines, which work the generators. The current is conveyed forty-five miles by cable to Bombay. One out of the three dams is now finished, and four generators are installed. By July the mills will be in receipt of 40,000 horse-power.

As the Governor said, the scheme is not merely of Indian but of Imperial significance. The Chairman of the Company considered the most remarkable feature to be the fact that the scheme has been financed with Indian capital. He said: "The great sums of money needed were forthcoming mainly because those who commanded them believed that the scheme would assuredly play an important part in the industrial renaissance of India, which is of paramount importance to the future of the whole country. The capital invested by the Native States in this and other enterprises in India is very remarkable evidence of their confidence in the deep-rooted stability of the British Raj."

[NOTE: It would be interesting to know what some of our "backvelders" think of such enterprise on the part of men who, in this country, would be classed as "coolies."—Ed. I.O.]