

Indian Opinion

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(A PEACEFUL VICTORY

WE give below, in parallel columns, sections of the Southern Rhodesia Ordinance No. 7 of 1914 with the amendments thereto contained in Ordinance 28 of 1914. Readers will notice the great importance to Indians of the amendments :

Ordinance No. 7

2. Any such person as is described in any sub-section of this section who enters or, having entered after the promulgation of this Ordinance, is found within this Territory shall be a prohibited immigrant, that is to say :—

- (1) any person or class of person deemed by the Administrator on economic grounds, or on account of standard or habits of life, to be undesirable inhabitants ;

7. The following persons or classes of persons shall not be prohibited immigrants for the purposes of this Ordinance, namely :—

- (4) any person domiciled in this Territory, Northern Rhodesia, or in the Bechuanaland Protectorate, and the wife and children of such persons :

Ordinance No. 28

2. Any such person as is described in any sub-section of this section who enters or, having entered after the promulgation of this Ordinance, is found within this Territory shall be a prohibited immigrant, that is to say :—

- (1) any person or class of persons declared by the Administrator, with the sanction of the High Commissioner, on economic grounds, or on account of standard or habits of life, to be undesirable inhabitants ;

The following new clause is added to Section 4 :—

- (5) A Magistrate's Court may, of its own motion, and shall, at the request of the appellant or of an immigration officer, reserve for the decision of the High Court any question of law which arises upon an appeal heard before such Magistrate's Court, and shall state such question in the form of a special case for the opinion of such Court by transmitting such special case to the Registrar thereof. The question so stated may be heard by and argued before a Judge of the High Court at any convenient time in chambers or in open Court, notwithstanding that the High Court be not then sitting in any term appointed by the Administrator, and such Court or Judge may call for further information to be supplied by the Magistrate, if the Court shall deem such information necessary, and may give such answer on such case, supplemented by such information (if any), and may make such order as to the cost of the proceedings, as it may think right. For the purposes of this sub-section a question of law shall include a question of domicile.

Section (7) clause 4, is amended by the addition of the following words :—

"The term 'wife' shall include any one woman between whom and the domiciled person there exists a union recognised as a marriage under the tenets of the religion professed by such domiciled person, and which sanctions polygamous marriages ; provided that no woman shall be deemed to be the wife of such exempted person—

- (a) if such a union exists between him and any other woman who resides in the Territory ; or
- (b) if such exempted person has in the Territory offspring by any other woman who is still living ; and 'children' shall mean and include any child under the age of 16 who is the offspring of the exempted person and the wife as herein defined, or the child of the exempted person and a deceased woman who, if she had been alive, could have been recognised as the wife (as herein defined) ;

The following new clause is added to section 7 :—

- (6) any person born of parents domiciled in Southern Rhodesia.)

(Reason or Prejudice

The following letter appeared in the *Star* (Johannesburg):—

In discussing the question of other than European persons travelling upon trams, everyone, it seems to me, has ignored the main points bearing on the case. The whole thing has been summed up by the contention that, because white people dislike proximity with those of other races, therefore the other must not be permitted to enjoy the facilities of public conveyances. The general idea seems to be that our Indian fellow-citizens are burning with the desire to show their equality with the whites by mingling with them. This is utterly absurd. The Indian merely desires to be able to avail himself of one of the ordinary conveniences of civilisation, for which he is prepared to pay on the same scale as the rest of the population. It is merely an incident that, because these facilities are not available for his use separately, he wants access to the same car as the European. As for his desiring to mix with the white passengers, those who have been brought into contact with these people in their own country know well that distaste for the immediate presence of members of the other race is not less than on our own side. Although commercial and official relations necessarily entail considerable intimacy, that intimacy never extends further than is absolutely essential for the transaction of business; except in isolated cases, which are so comparatively rare as not to affect the argument. In India where no coloured bar exists in connection with public means of locomotion, generally speaking, the native, when travelling, will instinctively avoid compartments used by Europeans. I say generally, because it sometimes happens that a native, usually of the educated Babu class, will place himself in a compartment with Europeans, but this not from any real preference for their society, but as a means of exhibiting his conversational powers in the English language, of which he is not a little vain. This may at times be objectionable, but not more so, and often less so, than the infliction of a garrulous, and perhaps otherwise undesirable compatriot. However, the majority, what may be termed the people of the country, keep themselves strictly aloof.

If then, the desire of the Indian (I aschew the illiterate term "Coolie") to use the trams arises from his legitimate needs, and not from any seeking to place himself in a position of equality with Europeans, why, in the name of common sense, cannot he be allowed to do so?

I believe that one of the greatest obstacles to a reasonable consideration of this lies in the fact that the Indians have joined issue with the Cape Coloured people in putting forward their claims. It is very unfortunate that this should be so, as the case is prejudiced in the eyes of Europeans thereby. But this coalition, which is quite foreign to the ideals of the Indians, was unavoidable, the two parties, each individually, too insignificant to make itself heard, becoming, when joined together, a force to be reckoned with. Such political partnerships are not entirely unknown amongst other sections of the population. This joining of hands on the part of the Indians was particularly bad policy for them; it has involved loss of self-respect, in that it admitted a sort of equality with the Kaffir. In this connection it may be borne in mind that the term "Kaffir" is identical with the Arabic word signifying infidel and is used opprobriously by Mahomedans. They thereby added to the determination of the white section to resist any encroachment on its preserves.

So far I have not touched upon the question of the Indian being recognised as a member of the community, and before proceeding further I would state most emphatically that I am opposed to any Asiatic engaging in any business or calling whatsoever, whether as labourer or mechanic, shopkeeper, merchant or professional man, or being permitted to acquire property in

any community of which the wage-earning population is European.

We in South Africa have, however, to recognise that the Indian is here and that he is here with the consent and support of the white people. In the first place he came to this country at the invitation of the white man, for the white man's own purposes. Originally a labourer (or coolie) it was only in the natural course that he should have developed into the shopkeeper and the merchant. It has only been by the sheer weight of numbers that he has been prevented from competing in the ranks of mechanics and clerks and the various other branches of employment. Want of ability has not kept him out, for in this country he fills such positions with marked efficiency. I say he is here on the tolerance of the white population, because if the white people did not support him in his various enterprises, he would not remain a day longer. I will not tread on anybody's corns by suggesting which sections of the community are responsible for the Asiatic trader in our midst: whom the cap fits may wear it. I am not now discussing the rights or wrongs of Asiatic trading—talking will not affect the position—whether the Indian goes or stays rests entirely with those who at present give him their support. The point I wish to make is that while he lives in our country with our consent and complies with our laws, he, being a citizen of the British Empire, has the right to make use of all institutions that are provided out of the public funds, to which he, in common with his white fellow subjects, contributes.

Granted that the white man objects to his wife or daughter having to travel on the same vehicle as one of these people. But is his objection any the less to his womenfolk travelling with an unclean or ill-behaved member of his own race? The latter contingency is sometimes unavoidable and is one of the risks inseparable from daily life in all communities. Let a commonsense and good-natured attempt be made to solve the difficulty and I am sure the Indian community will themselves co-operate in such a manner that all sore feeling will quickly disappear.

With all our air of contemptuous superiority, there are many characteristics in which the Indian is not behind us. Where for instance, shall we find an example of more perfect loyalty than that offered to-day by our Indian Army? These men are fighting—and voluntarily mind you—not because they expect to gain anything thereby; not out of gratitude for favours received, for they are probably not conscious of being indebted that way; nor out of fear of any direct effect on themselves from the events of the war; but just simply because they are loyal.

I doubt not that many will dissent from the view I have expressed; let them, by all means; but, if the subject is to be discussed, do let us have some real definite argument put forward as to why the Indian should not receive just treatment. I must honestly say that I do not remember ever having seen a single logical reason put forward for what I can only describe as a campaign of "hate" against members of a nation with whose history much of the glory of the British Empire is associated.

To descend to the petty matter which is the subject of my communication, I would, in conclusion, state that whether we agree or not it is pretty certain that the Indian will take his seat on the trams, because, however much individuals may protest, the law has decided. It sometimes happens that the law is overriden by public opinion, but only when backed up by reason and not merely by prejudice—I am, etc.,

A. J. BUTLER.

[NOTE: The above letter is, in our opinion, a reasonable statement of the Indian position from one who is evidently not a member of the Indian community. We do not share the writer's views with reference to Natives; moreover, the association with the coloured people was not with the Native population. He appa-

rently was not aware of the fact that the legal proceedings were initiated and carried through by the Coloured People's Organisation and not by the Indian community, who were approached only in the later stages. —Ed. I.O.]

From the Editor's Chair

SOUTHERN RHODESIAN IMMIGRATION ORDINANCE

We published last May the text of the draft Immigration Ordinance for the territory of Southern Rhodesia and we severely commented upon its terms as being unwarranted by the circumstances of that country, and we especially criticised the adoption by the Legislative Council of the economic clause contained in the Union Act. It would appear that, upon the Ordinance as passed being submitted to the High Commissioner, and by him presumably to the Secretary of State for the Colonies, together with the representations made by the Indian community of Southern Rhodesia, it was made a condition that the Ordinance would be assented to provided that an amending Ordinance was subsequently passed. This has now been done and the economic clause now reads very differently, whilst the clause in regard to wives and children protects Indian marriages and their issue. It will be impossible for Indians to be declared prohibited immigrants on economic grounds or on those of standard or habits of living unless they are specially so declared by the Administrator with the sanction of the High Commissioner. In other words, the burden and responsibility are placed upon the Imperial Government itself of imposing a stigma upon the Indian people as such. We can hardly imagine the possibility of such an occurrence in view of the happenings of the last two years, and we consider that an important victory has been secured by reason of the amending legislation now passed by the Rhodesian Legislative Council.)

CAPE LICENSING APPEAL

We publish elsewhere in this issue an important judgment on the Cape Licensing Ordinance of 1914. It would appear therefrom that the King William's Town Town Council, acting in an arbitrary manner, failed to carry out the duties imposed upon it by law and was mulet in costs. Unfortunately the appellant at the end of all his trouble may be no nearer to having his name recorded in the list of general dealers than at the commencement of the proceedings, for, provided that the Municipality outwardly carries out the obligations imposed upon it by the statute, the jurisdiction of the Supreme Court as to whether or not it was justified in coming to the same conclusion as before is ousted. In other words the Supreme Court has jurisdiction only in matters of procedure and not in matters of fact. That has been the tendency of legislation in South Africa, in the main directed against British Indians engaged in trade, for many years past. Some slight relief was afforded in Natal a few years ago, but the position may generally be stated as above. There is no doubt that the aim of Municipalities, throughout the greater part of South Africa, is to squeeze out the Indian trader. Even in the Transvaal the Indian

community is not exempt from this attack, because Municipalities have vested in them the power of granting or refusing certain classes of licences, and Courts in that Province have held themselves to be restricted in their functions, in the same manner as the Cape Division of the Supreme Court has declared itself to be. It behoves Indians in the Transvaal to keep a very careful watch lest worse things befall them, and our advice to the Indian community throughout South Africa is to remember that, whilst it is wasting its energies upon internal controversies relative to the deeds or misdeeds of individuals, the enemy at the gates is pressing forward a remorseless attack with a view to the capture of the citadel.

THE CAPE COMMISSION OF ENQUIRY

We very much fear that the Commission of Enquiry into the working of the Cape Immigration Department is likely to fail in its purpose by reason of its personnel. It was, we understand, originally intended that there should be three Commissioners, and Reuter certainly telegraphed that Commissioners had been appointed. We learn, however, that there is only one Commissioner, Mr. Hewett, the present Chairman of the Cape Immigration Appeal Board. It is most regrettable that an official associated with immigration should have been appointed to make this enquiry. There should have been an entirely outside official appointed for this purpose. There remains one source of satisfaction, namely, that the Minister has made a statement in the House of Assembly that, should the Departmental enquiry fail to give a satisfactory result, a public one will be instituted. Meanwhile, we trust that those who have complaints to make will place them before the Commissioner with supporting evidence. It is earnestly to be hoped that an enquiry will also be made as regards the working of the Pretoria office. Somewhat sinister rumours are in circulation, and it is desirable both in the interests of the Government and of the Indian community that the suspicions aroused by these rumours should either be laid at rest or confirmed.

Popular Indian Official

A pleasing function took place in the Ladysmith Court House on the 22nd instant, says the *Times of Natal*, when a presentation was made to Mr. R. Vinden, Indian Interpreter of the Court, who is retiring on attaining the fifty-five years of age limit. Mr. P. Hugo, Resident Magistrate, presided, and there was a good attendance of the representatives of the Civil Service and Bar, besides representative Indian residents.

Mr. Hugo referred in eulogistic terms to the twenty-eight years' good service Mr. Vinden had put in as Interpreter and clerk at Ladysmith, and said Mr. Vinden's retirement was regretted especially by the Indian community, and he had been highly respected by the European townspeople as well. He was still capable of good work, but the Government had decided to retire him on pension, and he hoped he would long enjoy it.

A presentation of a purse containing £17 odd was made.

Mr. Attorney Cawood acted as secretary and treasurer of the Presentation Fund, and it is pleasing to see the Side Bar thus interesting themselves in the recognition of good services rendered by a Government servant.

Cape Licensing Appeal

The appeal of Bechar Parbhoo *vs.* the Town Clerk and Municipality of King William's Town was heard in the Circuit Division of the Supreme Court on the 22nd March before the Judge President (Sir Henry Juta), Mr. Justice Koetze and Mr. Justice Searle. In giving judgment the Judge President said:—

This is an appeal from a decision of Mr. Justice McGregor, delivered at the Circuit Court held at King William's Town, on an application in which the appellant, Parbhoo, applied for an order directing that his name should be placed on list (a), being the list of general dealers provided for by sub-section 1 of sub-section 11 of Ordinance 19 of 1914, on the ground that he was at the date of the promulgation of the Ordinance trading within the Municipality of King William's Town as a general dealer as defined in that Ordinance; which application was refused with costs.

For the appellant, two grounds have been advanced. The first is that if the appellant was trading as a general dealer as defined in the Ordinance at the date of the promulgation of the Ordinance, then notwithstanding that he might have been mainly carrying on business as a green-grocer before March 16, 1914, he was entitled to be placed on the list (a). The eleventh section in question provides that on promulgation of the Cape Provincial Ordinance, No. 19 of 1914, it should be the duty of the Town Clerk (in this case) to frame or cause to be framed a list of persons "then trading" (a) as general dealers, butchers or bakers; and (b) as greengrocers; provided that if any person should claim to have his name placed on list (a) and the Council (in this case) is satisfied that such person did immediately before March 16th, 1914, carry on business mainly as a greengrocer, the name of such person shall be placed on list (b) unless the Council decide to place it on list (a).

The difficulty in the contention of the appellant was to give a meaning to the *proviso*, and it was argued that its meaning was that any person who was not trading as a general dealer on the promulgation of this Ordinance, but was so trading before March 16th, might apply to be put on list (a). This is a construction which is most unnatural; it imports words and conditions which might easily have been put into the section, but which are not there; and it does not suggest any explanation for the insertion of the date March 16th. The consequence of that interpretation would, moreover, be startling. It takes several stages in the Provincial Legislation before a Bill can become law. On the introduction of this Ordinance, every person in the Cape Province becoming aware of it, would by trading in something else than fruit, vegetables, non-alcoholic drinks, tobacco, fish, eggs, poultry, honey, cakes, and sweets (of South African manufacture), on May 29th, the date of promulgation of the Ordinance, have been entitled to be put on list (a), which exempted him from certain duties, e.g., the obtaining of a certificate. This throwing open of the trading as general dealer is quite contrary to the policy of the Ordinance as shown in its provisions.

I think that reading the eleventh section as a whole, a reasonable construction can be given to every part of it, viz., that it was the duty of the Town Clerk to frame lists (a) and (b), and that any person who deemed that he was entitled to be on list (a), but who was not, such could apply to the Council to be put on such list, and then the question was one for the satisfaction of the Council in terms of the section. The object of the insertion of the date March 16th may very well have been, as suggested by Mr. Sutton, to prevent every person who became aware of the contents of the Bill from trading as I have pointed out above, and thus becoming entitled to be put on the list (a). I think therefore that this first ground cannot be sustained.

The second ground, which is not part of the original application, is that the Council did not satisfy itself

that the appellant carried on business mainly as a greengrocer immediately before March 16th, 1914. By the words "is satisfied" I understand that the Council shall have applied its mind to the question upon which it was to be satisfied, viz., that the appellant carried on business mainly as a greengrocer immediately before March 16th.

Now, I cannot find anything whatever to show that the Council did so apply its mind. I do not say that this Court should inquire whether the Council took, or did not take, reasonable steps to ascertain whether appellant carried on such business. Nor is it a question for us now to decide whether, on the 29th of May, the appellant was then trading as a general dealer, or whether the appellant carried on business mainly as a greengrocer. The question is whether the Council applied its mind to the question it had to be satisfied on? The appellant, in his affidavit of Act 30, 1914, distinctly states that the Council took no steps to ascertain the facts upon which it had to be satisfied. This is not denied.

For the Council, the Town Clerk, in his affidavit, refers to a letter written to the Administrator, in which he stated that the application was refused on the ground that appellant traded mainly as a greengrocer before March 16th; but he does not swear to this, nor is it in any way supported by any statement of any Councillor. Reliance is, moreover, placed by Mr. Sutton on a certificate of the Medical Officer of Health of date June 13th, in which he states that he has examined the premises in appellant's occupation, and used as a fruit and confectionery shop. Now, even if this has any bearing on the question before the Council of the trade carried on by appellant immediately before March 16th, it is a certificate given for quite a different purpose, and not in an inquiry or report upon the question upon which the Council had to be satisfied, and now before the Court. Reliance is also placed on the fact that appellant himself applied previously for a certificate; but there is nothing to show that this was before the Council, so that they took it into consideration in applying their minds to the question before them.

The affidavit of Mr. Morgan shows that the question to which the Council did apply their minds was whether or not it was true. As stated in Messrs. Innes and Hutton's letter, the appellant had dealt in the long list of articles innumerable therein, and Mr. Moodie so far applied his mind to the question as to state that dealing in Colonial produce entitled appellant to a greengrocer's licence, which was not a correct view of the law, and was not relevant to the question upon which the Council had to be satisfied. But of evidence to show that they ever had the question before them of the dealing by appellant immediately before March 16th, there is none. But it may be said that all things must be presumed to have been rightly done. But here we have evidence to the contrary. Moreover, it was the duty of the Council, if they had been so satisfied, to have placed appellant on list (a); but they did not do so, so that this presumption is clearly not applicable. It seems to me, therefore, that the Council did not apply their minds at all to the real question which is dealt with by section 11, and therefore could not, in terms thereof, have been satisfied that appellant carried on business mainly as a greengrocer immediately before March 16th.

Under these circumstances it has been contended, by Mr. Benjamin that the Court should now do what the Council has not done; namely, to decide whether we are satisfied, in terms of the 11th section. But no authority has been cited for such a proposition, that where a discretion is submitted by the legislature to a public body, this Court can exercise that discretion, where the public body has wholly failed to exercise such discretion, and has not applied its mind at all to the exercise of such discretion. The case of *Shidiack vs. the Minister of the Interior* (A.C., 1912; 642) is, in my opinion, against that proposition. The case of

Pillay vs. the Humansdorp Municipality (heard in October last year) was relied upon in argument. But the questions now before us were not argued in that case, and indeed judging from the arguments the Municipal Council in that case did not really oppose the application. It is therefore not a precedent of force in this case. The proper course, I think, is to send the matter back to the Council to do its duty in terms of section 11 of the Act. That, however, was not the relief sought before the learned Judge on Circuit. But no objection was raised against this relief on appeal, even if any objection would have been well founded. Under these circumstances the question is, what should be our order as to costs? I do not think that the Council's attitude would have been any different if the appellant had asked for this relief in the first instance, because he stated in his affidavit that the Council had taken no steps whatever to ascertain whether his business was mainly that of a greengrocer. It was the duty of the Council to have satisfied itself of these facts; yet the serious allegations in this affidavit were ignored and not denied. I say ignored, because even if the affidavit had been a replying one, this allegation of dereliction of duty should have induced the Council to apply to the Court to be allowed to answer it. Under these circumstances, as I cannot agree with the judgment in the Court below, I think the appellant should have his costs.

Order is; Appeal allowed with costs here and in Court below, and the petition of the appellant to the respondent Council be remitted to the latter to be dealt with in accordance with the terms of the 11th section of Ordinance 19 of 1914.

Mr. Justice Koetze and Mr. Justice Searle delivered lengthy concurring judgments.

Education in Natal

The Report of the Superintendent of Education for the Province of Natal has recently been published. It contains interesting matter. We give below some extracts:—

During the year, 697 schools were under Government inspection, namely, 341 European, 296 Native, 39 Indian and 21 for Coloured children. In the previous year there were 655 schools under inspection, the increase in the twelve months being, therefore, 42. European schools showed an increase of 13, and Native of 29; and while last year there were two schools less for Indians, there was an increase of two for Coloured children. In 1913 the reverse was the case, as there were then two more for Indians and two less for Coloured than in 1912.

The average enrolment was as follows:—

Europeans 18,526, Natives 21,595, Indians 4,950, Coloured 1,495.

The cost to the Government of educating each child is, for Europeans, £6 15s. 8½d.; Indians, £2 0s. 2½d.; Coloured children, £4 13s. 6½d.; Natives, £1 2s. 9½d.

Indian Education

Indian Education is making considerable progress, and a third Government School for Indians was established during the year, the Aided School at Ladysmith being converted into a Government institution and housed in an excellent new brick building. The crude methods of the Indian teacher are being replaced by better, and his faults of bombastic verbiage and rules-of-thumb are slowly disappearing. Those children who wish to continue their education beyond the elementary stage attend the Government Indian Schools in Maritzburg and Durban, the Sydenham Indian College or private classes for teachers where their education is continued to the Indian Teachers' Junior and Senior Certificate examinations. The Indians in the mining centres are on the alert, and it is on the tapis that before long requests will be made to provide education for these people both at Dannhauser and

Hatting Spruit. The school-building at Umgeni, which has long proved itself unsuitable, will soon be replaced by a more commodious and suitable structure.)

Native Industrial Work

A branch of Native Education which deserves more attention is the Manual Training. The subject has been frequently referred to, and the little training that has been possible with the funds available, has invariably been criticised; it is, however, questionable as to whether the matter has ever had the needed consideration both from (i) the Native standpoint and (ii) the ultimate effect on the country. Government support has fluctuated considerably. As far back as 1864 the State gave an annual grant of £1,000 towards the training of carpenters, wheelwrights, brickmakers, masons, and shoemakers, and, at one school, towards the cultivation of coffee, but this annual contribution appears to have decreased and not increased during the succeeding years. In 1886 a Government Industrial School was established near Zwartkop, but it lived for only 5½ years. Parliament continued to encourage industrial work at Mission Stations and to give grants towards the teaching of the various handicrafts until 1898, when public prejudice had grown so strong that a law was passed prohibiting the sale of work done by the Native boys at these schools. As no institution could afford to make tables, doors, carts, etc., only to burn them, the teaching staff was thereupon dismissed, the working plant disposed of in the best possible manner, and the shops were closed down at almost every school. This prohibition was withdrawn again in 1902, and opportunities were once more open to the Missionaries to re-open their Shops. Remembering, however, the sudden unexpected prohibitory enactment of 1898, which had caused a considerable financial loss, and having very limited funds at his disposal, the Missionary has ever since been very cautious in re-attempting any advanced scheme of industrial training. In 1903 a sum of £1,500 was sanctioned for the establishment of another Government Industrial School in the Driefontein district, but on account of some technical difficulty in connection with the landed property, the plan fell through. Eighteen months ago the Driefontein scheme was again revived, but the extra expenditure was not sanctioned.

At present, Carpentry is taught and supported at four institutions, stone-dressing and masonry are practised at three schools, and at one Boarding School a large number of the boys do nursery work. An attempt is now being made to introduce the teaching of elementary agriculture into every school. The girls have always had instruction in needlework. Although general housework is taught more or less at each Boarding School, two institutions have recently commenced a housewifery class, five others are giving special attention to laundry work, and two schools have pupils who take regular lessons in spinning and weaving. The present Government grant-in-aid of the enumerated industrial work amounts to, approximately, £650 per annum.

Want of money is the only obstacle in the way of developing manual training. The matter, however, must sooner or later be seriously dealt with, and there are two branches of industrial work which deserve immediate attention and financial support from the State, viz.:—

- (i) A housewifery course in every Secondary School for Girls—suitable for the civilized Native home and extended to include the training necessary for domestic servants in European households.
- (ii) A general course to include (a) brick-making and burning, building with brick, stone, and wood-and-iron, and carpentry, such as is required to roof and furnish a small cottage, and (b) agriculture for all the boys in Standards V. and VI.

The first named course would be most useful, not only to the Natives, but to Europeans as well. The training suggested for the boys would lead to the

Natives building better houses for themselves and cultivating their fields more skillfully than they do at the present time, and both these improvements would help towards the commercial prosperity of the country.

(Expenditure

The following is a summary of the expenditure of the Education Department for last year:—

| | £ | s. | d. |
|---|-----------------|-----------|----------|
| Administration and Inspection | 9,829 | 19 | 9 |
| Training of Teachers | 4,922 | 9 | 1 |
| Secondary Education | 24,839 | 15 | 10 |
| Primary Education | 106,774 | 16 | 7 |
| Technical Education | 14,808 | 13 | 11 |
| Native Education | 21,889 | 18 | 6 |
| Indian Education | 8,373 | 13 | 1 |
| Education of Coloured Children | 6,647 | 8 | 8 |
| Expenses of Advisory Boards and Committees | 21 | 18 | 3 |
| | £198,108 | 13 | 3 |

The Path of Duty

He that walks it, only thirsting
For the right, and learns to deaden
Love of self, before his journey closes,
He shall find the stubborn thistle bursting
Into glossy purples, which outtreden
All voluptuous garden roses.

He that, ever following her commands,
On with toil of heart and knees and hands,
Through the long gorge to the far light has won
His path upward, and prevailed,
Shall find the toppling crags of duty scaled
Are close upon the shining table-lands
To which our God Himself is moon and sun.
Such was he: his work is done.

The above lines and also the following from Tennyson were quoted by the London correspondent of the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* in a fine personal tribute to the late Mr. Gokhale.

His voice is silent in your council hall
For ever; and whatever tempests lour
For ever silent; even if they broke
In thunder, silent; yet remember all
He spake among you, and the man who spoke;
Who never sold the truth to serve the hour,
Nor paltered with Eternal God for power;
Who let the turbid streams of rumour flow
Through either babbling world of high or low;
Whose life was work, whose language rife
With rugged maxims hewn from life.

"Our First Duty"

In a recent issue of the *Indian Emigrant* the place of honour is accorded to the following message (translated from Bengali) addressed by Dr. Rabindranath Tagore to the Hindusthan Association of America:—

"The present problem of India is not political. We shall never be able to fit ourselves for higher privileges unless we can do away with the narrowness of our mind and the weakness of our character. All the poison of ignorance, indifference and disunion that are in the very marrow of our society is standing in the way of our fullest development. Our warfare is with these. We have to train ourselves to extend our vision from the family and from the village to wider circles. We have to eradicate the hedges of *effete* customs and plough our social soil for higher purposes than mere truck gardening.

"Let us first liberate our society from the tyranny of hide-bound customs and dedicate it to a spirit of liberality. This is our first duty.

"We badly need the training of mixing with the outside world. Following the beaten track of the drudgery of governmental clerkship, we have become disgracefully worthless. Shake our country to its very foundation at this point and teach our countrymen to walk defiantly in the wide world in pursuit of modern scientific and industrial knowledge to modernize our ancient and glorious land."

No message could enforce a more important, a more urgently needed lesson (adds the *Leader* of Allahabad). Unquestionably we ought to be gravely dissatisfied with our present political position: we should not be deserving of the proud appellation of MEN if we were contented with it. But our very efforts at political advancement demand for their ultimate fruition our engaging ourselves ceaselessly and with a dogged determination in an organized endeavour to make ourselves more efficient and more united. Greater capacity and higher character are the two most indispensable of requisites. Which is the same thing as to say that we should give our first and best attention to education and social reform. These, we are more strongly convinced than ever, are the two certain means of our national elevation.

News in Brief

Mr. Polak took the service at the Unitarian Hall, Johannesburg, on Sunday evening the 17th inst., and delivered an address to a large congregation on "The New Spirit in India." Mr. Polak is to address the Johannesburg Lodge of the Theosophical Society on the 20th proximo on "Scenes of Indian Life"

A lecture upon Reincarnation from the standpoint of the Vedic Religion was given on the 10th inst., under the auspices of the Durban branch of the Reincarnation Society: the lecturer being Mr. Thungavelu. There was a large attendance including both Indians and Europeans, among whom were many ladies. The next lecture, entitled "Reincarnation from the Theosophical Standpoint," will be delivered by Mr. H. J. Bell, at the Lodge Room, Acutt's Arcade, Durban, (upstairs over Tea Room) at 8 p.m. on Friday, May the 21st.

The Hon'ble Mr. Chimanlal Hiralal Setalvad, B.A., L.L.B., an Advocate of the Bombay High Court, and an elected member of the Bombay Legislative Council has been elected by the non-official additional members of the Bombay Legislative Council as their representative in the Governor-General's Legislative Council in place of the late Hon'ble Mr. G. K. Gokhale, C.I.E., under regulation 2 of the regulations for nomination and election of additional members of the Legislative Council of the Governor-General.—*Bengalee*.

Within a few days of arrival at the front (says a writer in the press) the Indian Army Corps lost almost half its officers. For two and half months the corps struggled on, each day seeing a further depletion of its slender stock of British officers, each day the climatic conditions becoming worse and worse, till finally, on the 19th and 20th of December, these shattered fragments of regiments were called upon to deliver an attack by night on an almost impregnable position, under appalling weather conditions. Small wonder that failure ensued—a failure, let it be noted, that was almost an astonishing success. No troops in the world could have done more. A fresh army, which arrived on the scene a few hours afterwards, failed to do as much. And yet one hears that the Indian Army has not been a success!