

Indian Opinion

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(A WHITE MAN'S COUNTRY?)

WHEN the General Dealers' and other Licences (Further) Amendment Draft Ordinance was under discussion in the Cape Provincial Council, Mr. Goodwin moved to insert the following words at the end of sub-clause (2) of clause (6): "Provided, however, that if any Council, Board or Magistrate refuse to grant a licence to any such purchaser, he shall have the right of appeal to the Administrator, who may, if satisfied that no good reason has been given for refusing to grant such licence, issue same to the purchaser."

The mover pointed out that at every fortnightly meeting of the Cape Town City Council applications for transfers by purchasers of businesses are refused without any reason whatever except that the applicant is an Asiatic. A very grave injustice was done to British subjects, who were law abiding and rendering the Empire incalculable service at present. The Administrator, continued Mr. Goodwin, knew that in the case of removal permits a safeguard similar to that now proposed already existed. All he asked was that when an Indian thought he had been unjustly treated in the matter of transfers he should also have the right to appeal to the Administrator and his Executive.

The Administrator (Sir Frederic de Waal) said that local authorities had the power to refuse or grant licences. Under certain powers which had been reserved to him and his Executive he had been able to see that justice was done in the matter of granting and refusing removal permits. He instanced cases where traders were told that they could not remove to other shops, and this left them at the mercy of landlords, who could put up the rent. The Act of 1908 did not anticipate such cases, but it did aim at a certain class of trader.

South Africa, he continued, was a white man's country, and it was their duty to guard against its being flooded with Asiatics. He was astounded to notice the number of Chinese traders in Port Elizabeth. The fruit trade in Cape Town was in the hands of another nationality. Asiatics were ousting the white traders. Indians were acting nobly in France. Nevertheless, the present was not the time to raise the question, and he could not accept the amendment.

Mr. Ginsberg thought appeals should be allowed in cases of transfers of licences as well as removals.

Dr. Abdurahman said that two remarks of the Administrator's impelled him to speak, namely, "this is a white man's country," and "this is not the time to raise the Asiatic question."

"What," asked the Doctor, "did the Administrator mean by saying this is a white man's country?"

The Administrator: I will tell you.

Well, whatever the meaning the Administrator attached to the phrase, continued the doctor, it was unwise for anyone, let alone the Administrator, to make use of that expression without clearly and lucidly

defining what it meant. He (the speaker) was born in this country, and resented strongly such a remark. He had never heard it used before.

The Administrator: You have heard it now.

Dr. Abdurahman: Yes, and I know now how it sounds. It goes deep down into my soul. Why should a man who was not even born in this country say to me, who was born here, that "this is a white man's country"?

The Administrator, continued the doctor, spoke of flooding the country with Asiatics. No one advocated that. It would be futile to do so in the face of the very stringent immigration law. But France was being flooded with Indians, and no questions were asked whether they would be desirables or undesirables in South Africa, as long as they could shoulder a rifle, thrust straight with a bayonet, and were prepared to shed their blood for their King and Country and the Empire. They were despatched in thousands to France, and received with open arms, while in South Africa they were persecuted. He could not conceive of a more fitting time than the present to show to India their gratitude for the noble services rendered by her sons in fighting in France for the Empire and western civilization. The Council had before it an Ordinance which was causing grave injustices to Indians. That was the time to amend that Ordinance. The Administrator knew that he himself had to intervene on more than one occasion. He, the speaker, had been nine years in the Cape Town City Council, and instanced several cases of injustice which had occurred in the matter of transfers of licences, simply because the applicants were Asiatics. When they had a Town Council such as they had, and he knew the Council well, it was time that the Administrator stepped in and interfered in the interests of a people whose brothers had proved themselves worthy. And if ever there was a time when it was possible to deal justly with a people who had shown their worth it was the present. Let them show their gratitude to Indians, and grant them the right of appeal.

The Administrator, speaking somewhat heatedly, said the hon. member for Woodstock was young in the House, otherwise he would not have spoken as he did. It was a mistake to go into heroics and hysterics. It was absurd to say that he had never before heard that this country was called "a white man's country."

Dr. Abdurahman: Never in my presence.

The Administrator: What does it mean?

Dr. Abdurahman: I know now how it sounds.

Well, proceeded the Administrator, in any case this was not a black man's country. What he meant by a "white man's country" was that the white race was the dominant race and must rule. The Union had laid it down that Coloured men were excluded from the legislature—a principle with which he agreed wholeheartedly. The white race would not allow the black man a seat in the Union Parliament, and the hon.

member who had the privilege of sitting in that Council should appreciate it. This was a white man's country—if it were not so he would pack his trunks and leave to-morrow. They had had enough of Liberia and Hayti, and they did not want such experiences here. They did not want to inflict injustice on Indians already here, but they did want to stop them coming here in millions to the detriment of the white man. The Asiatic question was fraught with grave danger, and the House was not in a mood to deal with it.—A.P.O.

A Bengal Reception

The *Bengalee* of the 17th March gives a lengthy report of the receptions given to Mr. and Mrs. Gandhi on their arrival at Calcutta. We give a condensed report—

Calcutta was astir from early morning on Friday—the train carrying Mr. and Mrs. Gandhi was timed to arrive at Howrah at 8-30 a.m. People from all parts of the city and belonging to all classes and denominations wended their way to Howrah to receive the illustrious arrivals. Processions from different parts of the city, some carrying flags, others singing patriotic songs, amalgamated at Howrah and by 8 o'clock the platform and its approaches were thronged with an eager crowd awaiting the arrival of the train. There were representatives of all the communities resident in this city. Marwaris, Gujaratis, Mahrattas, Mussalmans, Madrasis combined with the Bengalees and stood on the same platform, animated by the same desire, prompted by the same sentiment, guided by the same spirit, to do honour to their national hero. The arrival of Mr. and Mrs. Gandhi was announced in the papers only that morning. But such was the spontaneity of feeling of the people towards them that it was almost miraculous how that concourse of people could gather so early in the morning at Howrah. It was a national reception in the truest sense of the term.

All faces brightened with cheerfulness, and enthusiasm rose to the highest pitch as the time approached for the arrival of the train. When she was in sight, the crowd gave themselves up to wild enthusiasm, shouts of "Bande Mataram" and "Gandhi-ji-ki-jai" rent the sky. The young and old alike caught the spirit of the moment and the sight of joyous madness that followed beggars all description. An attempt was made to form a small party of leading men of various communities at a place where the party was to alight, presumably from a first or second class compartment. But belying the expectation of many and fulfilling that of others, Mr. and Mrs. Gandhi were not to be found there. A search was made, so to say, for the illustrious passengers, and the short, slim, unostentatious figure of the hero of a hundred battles and the beautiful face of his dutiful wife were discovered in a third-class compartment among their rustic fellow-passengers. While the passengers in the train looked mute wondering at the scenes before them, alighted Mr. and Mrs. Gandhi from the carriage, little noticed by the thousands of men who were there to do them honour and thus to honour themselves. Wreaths of flowers were flung from all sides, some to wrong persons who hung down their heads and transferred them to the heads for which they were intended. Once discovered, the clean shaven face under a big white 'puggree' and the bright little lady in an ordinary 'saree' and jacket became the cynosure of all eyes. Cheers followed cheers, and shouts drowned shouts, hands waved and flags fluttered, confusion and disorder became the order of the time. For a time, in the midst of the rush that was almost suffocating, the two short figures had to take care of themselves.

Babu Bhupendra Nath Basu garlanded Mr. and Mrs. Gandhi. Wreaths and stray flowers were showered

from all sides and they were buried, as it were, under their floral tribute.

As soon as the party could be accommodated in the carriage waiting for them, the carriage was unhorsed and there was keen rivalry among the crowd to 'put on the harness' in carrying one who has been in harness so many years of his life. Young men had the upper hand in the matter and old men strove, some successfully and some in vain, to place their hands on the rods of the phaeton. Others contented themselves with only shouting "Bande Mataram" and "Gandhi-ki-jai."

The carriage moved slowly with its treasured burden and the sea of human heads moved forward along with it. No description can adequately bring before the reader the scene that met the eye on the Howrah Bridge and far beyond it. There was one solid mass of humanity extended how far it was difficult to see. The procession was interrupted on the way by feeder receptions arranged in many places in Bara Bazar. The route from the foot of the Howrah Bridge up to Chitpur Road and beyond it, through Harrison Road, was decorated with flags and evergreens. Venerable Pandits poured their blessings, offered sandal paste and flowers, chanted hymns and uttered the benedictions of God; young and old gave luxuriant floral tributes, singers sang, girls greeted and ladies showered flowers. All this was received by Mr. and Mrs. Gandhi with a silent nod of the head, Mr. Gandhi clasping his hands all the time as if entreating the crowd to desist from paying him any more attention.

The procession broke up at the crossing of Harrison Road and College Square. The party carrying flags, however, went all the way to Mr. Bhupendra Nath Basu's house.

Throughout the journey the whole assembly was most enthusiastic, conscious of the fact that they were receiving the great hero and his heroic wife to whom no sacrifice was too great in the cause of the motherland; who kept their 'self' in the background in the interest of their countrymen.

A Maharani's Loyal Work

With a view to informing the people of Western India correctly as to the progress of the war, the Maharani of Bhaunagar (says the *Daily Telegraph*) has undertaken the issue of a weekly newspaper in Gujarati, which is distributed in thousands throughout her husband's State, and those immediately adjoining. A few copies have been sent as specimens to this country, and are excellently and clearly printed, bearing the British Royal Arms on the front page. Of each day's news a concise but not too brief a summary is given, and the publication cannot fail to be of the greatest service in meeting any rumours or false statements that might be set afloat as to the progress of the Empire's Fleet and Armies.

The Maharani is herself one of the most advanced and far-seeing of Indian Princesses. Education, especially for girls, is remarkably encouraged throughout the State, and there is excellent provision for medical aid for the women. Both the Maharaja and Maharani were conspicuous figures in the brilliant events of the Coronation Durbar at Delhi, where the effective decorations of the gateway of their camp were trophies of the brasswork that is a leading industry of the State. The association of a Maharani with an enterprise in journalism of this kind marks quite a new phase of feminine progress in India, and the undertaking is yet another proof of the extraordinary interest that the war has evoked among the women of the Eastern Empire, many of whom have worked no less assiduously also for the Red Cross hospitals than those in this country.

From the Editor's Chair

ANOTHER DEPARTMENTAL INQUIRY

We are glad to inform our readers that, acting upon information received from a number of sources, and upon strong representations to that end from many quarters, the Minister of the Interior has authorised a Departmental Inquiry into the working and administration of the Immigration Department of the Transvaal. Most serious allegations, we understand, have been made, and we feel that the Minister has been well advised to institute this inquiry. Should the allegations fail to be substantiated, or should they be substantiated partly or completely, nothing but good can result. Mr. Clarence, lately Chief Magistrate at Maritzburg, has been appointed to conduct the inquiry, which commences its proceedings at Pretoria to-day. In another column we print the text of a letter from the Acting Secretary for the Interior in which an indemnity is guaranteed to persons who may have been guilty of irregular entry into the Transvaal, and to the sub-agents who have been concerned therein, but not to principal agents. We earnestly trust that all sections of the Transvaal Indian community will co-operate cordially, through the British Indian Association, with the Government in placing relevant evidence before the Commissioner. Both the Government and the Indian community need each other's co-operation in a matter of this kind, and we have no doubt that the community will perform its obvious duty with the utmost loyalty.

THE ADVANTAGE (?) OF BEING "FREE"

The Natal Agricultural Union, at its recent session, passed the following resolution, brought forward by the Chaka's Kraal and Umhlali District Farmers' Association:—

"That the final Sub-section of Section 12 of Act 49, 1901, which reads: 'The master shall on no pretext keep a servant's identification pass, unless with the consent of the Native,' be abrogated and replaced as follows: 'The master shall retain a servant's identification pass and issue a working pass to the servant setting forth full particulars contained in the identification pass together with full particulars of the contract of service entered into.'"

This is an attempt to secure similar control over Natives to that exercised over Indians at the present time. There is no section of the Masters and Servants Ordinance (No. 2 of 1850) similar to the one quoted above, which only appears in the Ordinance relating to Native servants. Employers of Indian labour, when engaging "free" men, make a practice of confiscating the permanent certificate or Colonial-born pass without giving in return any equivalent. By this means the "free" Indian is placed in a similar position to the indentured man. He is not allowed to leave his employer's premises without a written pass and is, to all intents and purposes, *not* free but bound. If he would

like to visit friends at a distance during leisure hours, he must see the "boss" and secure, if possible, and with considerable delay and trouble, a ticket-of-leave, unless he is prepared to run the risk of being arrested. The pass may be, and no doubt often is, refused. In that case he is helpless, although he is the lawful possessor of a Colonial-born pass or a certificate of identification issued under the instructions of the Government to those who have completed their indentures under Act 17 of 1895. Thus the protection afforded to him by law and authority is of no avail. In the absence of such a clause as the one appearing in the Native Ordinance, the employer cannot be proceeded against for keeping in his possession the pass. Now, if the man rightly refuses to give up the pass, he cannot find employment, as employers are agreed about this business. Sometimes it happens that a civil contract has already been signed before the production of the certificate is demanded. The method then adopted is to keep back the man's wages until he gives up this symbol of freedom. If the poor man only knew, he could charge his employer with refusing his wages, but, as a rule, he is ignorant and can be imposed upon. Whilst it is true that a "free" man cannot be convicted under the indenture laws, our knowledge of Magistrates' Courts and the fact that the employee is rarely defended by counsel, leads us to believe that it is possible for a "free" man to be thus convicted and no one but the employer be any the wiser. One may well ask: How much better off is a "free" man than one under indenture? Practically very little. This question strikes at the very root of the evil of indenture. The taint of slavery that permeates the laws relating to indenture is also in this matter of passes. By depriving labourers of these documents, which belong only to them, the object for which they were issued is defeated. We do not know whether the Government is aware of the position of time-expired Indians in this respect, but we think that the matter demands attention.

Transvaal Commission of Inquiry

The Minister of the Interior has appointed Mr. Clarence, lately Chief Magistrate at Maritzburg, to conduct a Departmental Inquiry into the administration of the Transvaal Immigration Department. In reply to the British Indian Association's enquiry as to the guarantees under which witnesses will be asked to give evidence, the following reply from the Secretary for the Interior, and dated the 30th ultimo, has been received:—

"I have to advise you that the Commissioner who is to be charged with the duty of investigating the administration of the Department of Immigration will be instructed that, in so far as that Department is concerned, an assurance should be given to the witnesses that no steps will be taken to deport, as prohibited immigrants, any of the men to whom Registration Certificates have illegally been issued, who come forward to give evidence in connection with the inquiry, and, further, that the Department will take no steps to prosecute them in connection with any matter arising out of the inquiry, provided that the evidence given by them is truthful and justifies such a step."

Indian Emigration to Crown Colonies

The report of the committee of an Indian and a European appointed to report on the condition of Indian immigrants in the four British colonies, Trinidad, British Guiana or Demarara, Jamaica and Fiji, and in the Dutch Colony of Surinam, recently referred to in these columns, contains a number of recommendations for improving the condition in the existing system. They are as follows :

1. Unsuitable emigrants, men or women, should be excluded. The agreements should state clearly how misconduct will be punished. The proportion of female to male emigrants should be raised from 40 to 50 per cent., and the present minimum age limit should be abolished.
2. In all colonies, provisions, whether operative or inoperative in practice, which are unduly rigorous or restrictive, should be expunged from the ordinances. The punishments prescribed should in most cases be reduced and the fines imposed should be recoverable in small instalments.
3. The intemperate use of the disciplinary provisions of the ordinance should be prevented by empowering the officers of the Immigration Department in each colony to control the employers in this respect.
4. The officers of the Immigration Department in each colony should be empowered to adjudicate in cases brought by employers against labourers so that the concern of courts of criminal jurisdiction with the enforcement of contracts may be minimised if not extinguished.
5. Separate places of detention should be provided for labourers who, notwithstanding the revision proposed in 2, may be sentenced to imprisonment for breaches of disciplinary provisions of the ordinance.
6. Subject to a limitation of the proportion of labourers on an individual estate who may commute their indentures within a single year, the labourer should be entitled at any time to commute his indentures by payment of a graduated redemption fee.
7. Facilities for occupying land on a satisfactorily secure tenure should be provided.
8. The registration of marriages should be facilitated.
9. The special needs of Indian children in the matter of primary education should receive consideration.
10. The regulations affecting the grant of medical relief to the poorer classes of Indians not residing on estates should be revised.
11. The annual reports of the Immigration Department of each colony should give more intelligible and precise information regarding the health of indentured immigrants. They should also show not only the average earnings of immigrants, but the cost of living and the surplus.

The Only Remedy

There can be no doubt that if these recommendations are fully given effect to, that will result in an amelioration of the condition of the immigrants, and will make the securing to them of considerate treatment more possible. But the main evils of the system, though they may be minimised, cannot be eradicated so long as the system of securing labour by means of indentures is continued. Abuses by recruiting agents in India will continue, and a number of ignorant victims are sure to be inveigled. It is doubtful how far the officers of the Immigration Department in each colony will use the authority, with which they may be vested, to prevent the intemperate use of the disciplinary pro-

visions of the ordinance', in the interest of the labourer. Why should not inducements for free emigration be held out? We are sure that when a large number of persons are available to indenture themselves for service, a still larger number will be available if facilities are offered for emigration without indenture. The employers in the colonies will then have a larger field to select their labour from, and if a labourer does not do his work properly he can be turned away, instead of being coerced into work, simply because the employer has got, under the indenture system, a property in the human material, which he can use as his own chattel or as his beast of burden. The demoralising effects of the system cannot be done away with in spite of any number of palliative remedies, and it is both in the interest of the employer and the employee that it should be done away with.—*Leader*, Allahabad.

Indians on Trams

A police constable named Kraukamp was charged in "B" Court Johannesburg last week with assaulting two Indian passengers on a tramcar, by laying his hands on their shoulders. Mr. Gill was on the Bench.

Mr. Bovill prosecuted, and the case was recognised as being a test as to whether a tram conductor can order coloured persons to sit in allotted seats.

An Indian living at Vrededorp said that on April 22 he and another Indian entered a car on the corner of Noord and Harrison Streets. It was a Zoo tram, and witness and his companion got on top of the car and went inside. The conductor came to collect the fares, and he said to witness: "You must get up and go outside"—indicating the outside seats on the top. Witness said "the justices" had given them the right to sit where they liked. The conductor thereupon refused to take their fares, and, when the car was near the Post Office at Braamfontein, he called a constable. Witness was called by the constable, and he stood on the step with his companion. After some talk, witness said "Well, if I am wrong, arrest me." The constable said he was willing to do so, and witness said "You lay your hands on me, then." Thereupon the constable placed a hand on him, and said "Come off it." Witness' companion was also "dragged off the car." Later they went to Braamfontein and laid a complaint against the constable.

Another Indian, who said he was the chairman of the Islamic Society, corroborated the previous witness. The witness said that "he wanted to see for himself what happened on tram-cars."

Mr. Gill: Did you invite the constable to pull you off?—I said you must put your hands on me, otherwise I will not get off.

The witness added that the constable put his hands on his shoulder, and said "Come on, get up." Witness then got to his feet, and walked down the steps, the constable following.

The constable: And you call that forcing you off a car?—Yes, I do.

A European traveller on the car, called for the prosecution, said that the Indians said they would only leave the car if force were used. They argued with the conductor about their rights on the car.

Henry Robert Barker, the tram conductor, called for the defence, said the constable simply placed his hands on the Indians' shoulders as they asked him to do it. The constable "just touched them."

Replying to Mr. Bovill, the witness said he went quietly to the Indians and asked them courteously if they would sit in the seats he indicated. They replied that they "wanted no interference from him or anybody else. They would do just as they liked."

Mr. Bovill: And that nettled you?—Not exactly; but they were certainly inpatient.

The witness said he had no power, so long as the

passengers were clean, and of European origin, to move them about in the car. He thought he had the power to tell coloured people where they could sit.

Mr. Bovill, in asking for a conviction, said he thought a technical assault had been committed. As the Supreme Court had held that coloured people could sit where they liked in a tram, the conductor was simply obeying wrong instructions in interfering with the Indians.

Magistrate and Prosecutor

Mr. Gill asked what the Public Prosecutor thought of the point that the Indians had invited the constable to lay hands on them.

Mr. Bovill replied that he thought the right interpretation of the Indians' request was that they were remonstrating with the constable for interfering with them.

Mr. Gill asked if it was not a case where the Indians wanted a test in a Court of law.

Mr. Bovill said whether that was so or not, the Indians had carried their case to the right standpoint. There was no doubt but that they had been interferred with.

Mr. Gill: But there was no arrest.

Mr. Bovill: Then the assault was worse, because it was gross interference with the rights of a passenger.

Mr. Gill: How can you argue that when the Indians invited the interference of the constable? Did they not ask the constable to lay his hands on them?

Mr. Gill: It seems to me that the Indians may have a civil action for being turned off the car. But I can't see where the assault came in. There was no forcible removal about it.

Later in the argument, the Magistrate said a policeman had no right to touch any law-abiding citizen; but if a person asked a constable to button his overcoat, and the constable did so, how could that be called assault?

Mr. Gill added that he believed it was an assault to cut the string of a kite while another man was flying it. However, there were numerous authorities on petty assaults, and he would look them up.

Judgment was reserved till Saturday morning.—*Rand Daily Mail*.

On Saturday, the 1st inst., in delivering judgment, the Magistrate held that as non-Europeans had a complete right to use any part of the Johannesburg Municipal tram-cars on exactly the same terms as Europeans, the Police Constable had committed a technical assault, of which he found him guilty, and as the matter was in the nature of a test case, he imposed a nominal fine of one shilling.

India's Right to be Heard

Discussing the question of the Dominions being consulted in regard to the terms of settlement after the war, the *Natal Witness*, in the course of a leading article, says:—

There is, however, a much more complicated and delicate question to deal with in the disposal of Asiatic Turkey, in which India is chiefly interested of the Dominions, and Russia of the Allies. It seems to us inconceivable that a settlement of the immense and far-reaching interests involved in this quarter could be made as between the Allies and Great Britain without the latter conceding the right of the Indian people to be heard. That right exists also to no little extent in relation to Germany's East Africa possessions, abutting as they do on British territory now largely populated by Indians. As we pointed out in an article some weeks ago, German East Africa might suitably be regarded as

the colonial outlet for the surplus population of the Indian Empire, thereby assisting to solve problems in which both Australia and Canada had a direct personal interest. The question of Indian immigration to those Dominions had reached so acute a stage immediately before the war as without doubt to have encouraged in the breast of Germany the delusion that India would cast off her allegiance to the Empire when the first shot was fired! Quite possibly the war, in some such manner as above suggested, and greatly to the chagrin of Germany, may yet lead to a solution of the whole problem; and in this it would be monstrous for the Dominions concerned to be excluded from the fullest and freest consultation.

The Goal to be Reached

The true end of our work is to renovate, to purify, and also to perfect the whole man by liberating his intellect, elevating his standard of duty, and developing to the full all his powers. Till so renovated, purified, and perfected, we can never hope to be what our ancestors once were—a chosen people to whom great tasks were allotted and by whom great deeds were performed. Where this feeling animates the worker, it is a matter of comparative indifference in what particular direction it asserts itself and in what particular method it proceeds to work. With a liberated manhood, with a buoyant hope, with a faith that never shirks duty, with a sense of justice that deals fairly by all, with unclouded intellect and powers fully calculated, and lastly, with a love that overleaps all bounds, renovated India will take her proper rank among the nations of the world, and be the master of the situation and of her own destiny. This is the goal to be reached—this is the promised land. Happy are they who see it in distant vision; happy are those who are permitted to work and clear the way on to it; happiest they, who live to see it with their eyes and tread upon the holy soil once more. Famine and pestilence, oppression and sorrow will then be a myth of the past and the gods will once again descend to the earth and associate with men as they did in time which we now call mythical.—Mr. Justice Ranade.

The path is beset with great difficulties—there are constant temptations to turn back—bitter disappointments will repeatedly try the faith of those who have put their hand to the work. But the weary toil can have but one end, if only the workers grow not faint-hearted on the way. One essential condition of success is that a sufficient number of our countrymen must now come forward to devote themselves to the cause in the spirit in which religious work is undertaken. Public life must be spiritualized. Love of country must so fill the heart that all else shall appear as of little moment by its side. A fervent patriotism which rejoices at every opportunity of sacrifice for the Motherland, a dauntless heart which refuses to be turned back from its object by difficulty or danger, a deep faith in the purpose of Providence that nothing can shake; equipped with these, the worker must start on his mission and reverently seek the joy which comes of spending oneself in the service of one's country.—The Hon. Mr. Gokhale.

Here is the first small fruit of India's correct attitude in the war (says the *Leader* of Allahabad). Reuter tells us that a motion in the legislature of British Columbia to prohibit the employment of Asiatics in local industries has been withdrawn at the request of the Premier, based on Imperial policy. We trust a similar attitude will be maintained all through and in all the dominions of the Crown.

News in Brief

The Natal Indian Women's Association are arranging for a send-off to Mrs. and Miss Moodley who have been respectively Vice-president and Secretary of the Association and in recognition of their pioneer work in the cause of Tamil vernacular education. The function will take place in the Union Theatre, Victoria Street, Durban, on Tuesday next, the 11th instant, at 7 p.m.

India to-day occupies a higher plane in the Empire than ever before, and has materially advanced her claim towards self-government, and it is inevitable that, after the war, her outstanding demands should receive the most sympathetic consideration. We have made promises of self-government to Egypt, and it is inconceivable that we should deny the same privileges to India. At present India is not pressing her claim but patiently awaits her just due—not as a reward, but as a right which her conduct has shown her worthy of possessing.—*Review of Reviews.*

Mr. Justice Boshoff made some interesting remarks in the Native High Court of Natal while delivering judgment on a native who was charged with divining. It appeared that this native had been convicted of the offence on several previous occasions, yet on resuming civil life had always returned to the practice. Mr. Justice Boshoff said it was evident that the accused believed he was able to converse with spirits, and that he was guided and controlled by them. He, in fact, believed in Spiritualism, and why the black skin should be penalised for doing exactly as some 600,000 Europeans did, he could not see. It would have been better, in his opinion, if the man had been charged with obtaining money under false pretences.—*Natal Mercury.*

Dr. Turner, a son of the late Sir George Turner, will join the staff of the Leper Asylum at Pretoria, where he will carry on work in the investigation of leprosy originated by his father, whose death was recently recorded.

At the sitting of the Central Provinces Legislative Council in March, the President (Sir Benjamin Robertson) referred to Mr. Gokhale's death. To Sir Benjamin, his death was a personal loss. As a member of the Imperial Council, he had the opportunity of knowing him intimately and discussing with him several matters of public policy, chief amongst which was the South African Indian question. After paying a high tribute to his marvellous clear sightedness, moderation, and statesmanship in solving this difficulty, he observed that India was poorer to-day by his death, and commended his example for all time to come to guide and encourage all those working for the country's advancement and welfare of the people.

The following is the text of the Viceroy's speech at the special session of the Legislative Council in which he made special reference to the late Mr. Gokhale's services in respect of the South African Indian question:—"It is also right that on this occasion I should refer to the important part taken by Mr. Gokhale in emigration questions and in particular that relating to Indian emigration to South Africa. In this question as in all other political questions, Mr. Gokhale strove ceaselessly for the amelioration of the condition of Indians and for the promotion of their welfare. And in my opinion it was largely due to him and his tactful and statesmanlike attitude during his visit to South Africa that this thorny question eventually received a satisfactory solution.

A Question of Doubt

At the Natal Agricultural Union Conference, held at Maritzburg last week, Mr. W. Sykes, on behalf of the Natal Sugar Association, moved:—"That in view of the doubt that has arisen in regard to the applicability of the Master and Servants Law to Indians indentured under Law No. 17 of 1895, this Union is of opinion that the Government should be asked to amend the relative laws so that Indian immigrants who entered Natal under Act No. 17 of 1897 can be made amenable to the Master and Servants Ordinance."

In speaking to the motion, he said several lawyers had been approached on the matter, but they differed.

Mr. Townsend seconded, saying that, in his own mind, there was a doubt whether the case was a sound one. They wanted the Government to state clearly what the case was.

The motion was carried.—*Natal Witness.*

Mr. Gokhale's Sense of Reverence

We publish the following extract from a leading article of the *Leader*, Allahabad, describing one side of the late Mr. Gokhale's character:—

In the feebleness of public spirit in his countrymen, in their lack of working power, in their disorganized condition, he saw the supreme need of the building up of a new race of men, the production of a new type of character; and he was never tired of insisting on the necessity of discipline in public life. Of the latter his sense was indeed so keen that he was known to say more than once, I will sooner be wrong with Sir Pherozeshah than right without him. On which an esteemed publicist of another province remarked: we are badly off out here as compared with Bombay: there a leader of Mr. Gokhale's eminence willingly follows Sir Pherozeshah Mehta: here our leader cannot count on the unquestioning allegiance of even half a dozen students. No one could ever fail to see the amount of reverence there was in Mr. Gokhale's composition. To him Dadabhai Naoroji and Ranade were sacred personalities. For Sir William Wedderburn his love and reverence never knew any bounds. He was never weary of acknowledging the matchless leadership of Sir Pherozeshah Mehta or the unerring judgment of Mr. W. C. Bonnerjee. Even so late as 1912 he described himself at the Congress as a junior worker! He was most anxious that the younger men in the public life of India should never divest themselves of our traditional and inherited quality of reverence for age and respect for authority and with his severe notion of discipline and habitual sense of propriety, never failed to come down upon any one in his circle who showed a disposition to be irreverent, or cynical, or contemptuous of others. Always respectful to seniors, and affectionate to the younger men within the orbit of his influence, always fair-minded, ever anxious to put most favourable possible construction on the acts or utterances or foibles of others, with a genius for friendship, never improperly elated or hopelessly depressed, the most scrupulously and sensitively honourable and conscientious, with never a thought save for the Motherland and his brothers and sisters, he laboured hard, he toiled ceaselessly, to the last conscious moment of his life on this earth for the uplift of India and her children and his one regret at the time the call came from on High was that some work for the country was left unfinished. Right well was he called a gem of the purest ray serene; an ornament of his race and the pride of his country.