

# Indian Opinion

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## MR. GANDHI'S FUTURE WORK

**S**IR SUBRAMANIA AIYAR, in opening the proceedings of a great meeting in Madras to welcome Mr. and Mrs. Gandhi, said, in the course of his speech:—

Mr. Gandhi's life is not unknown to you. Many of the important events are so fresh in our memory that it is hardly necessary for me to enter into detail in referring to them. Nevertheless, this observation I wish to make, that it is a life every incident in which from the day on which he set his foot on the South African soil to the day on which he left it deserves to be recorded in every vernacular of this country in chaste and impressive language and distributed broadcast so that the knowledge thereof may extend to every man, woman, or child (cheers). The work done by him is such as to extort from the historians of this century admiration. Great as has been the work done by him, my conviction is that the work he has done is simply a preparation to what he is destined to do in the future (cheers). It was the good fortune of India that induced him to go to South Africa. Had he remained in Bombay or any other part of India he could certainly not have had the opportunity of ever becoming a worker which he was destined to become by and by and there would have been no opportunity for him to study what—to use his own phrase—is called soul-force. In Bombay he could not have had the facility for using passive resistance. There was that opportunity for him to develop the whole of his soul and there was a necessity for studying how to begin his work for his motherland. The work which he is going to do will not be the work of the kind—I take it—that fell to the lot of his distinguished and late lamented friend, Mr. Gokhale, that great patriot and statesman. I don't think it will be the work of brilliant advocacy of Indian rights before the British Government. I don't think it will be making remarkable speeches in the Legislative Councils; but it will be work done among the people, for the people and by the people themselves. The material he moulded in South Africa was of the lowest kind but what he did there was remarkable. He was able to infuse into them such enthusiasm and such soul-force as to make them so invincible that the whole physical force of the colonies and even the physical forces of the Empire had to quail before him. He will form an organisation—I am speaking from information much of which, probably, is my own imagination, but I think I am not far wrong from the substance—his work will be in the establishment of an organisation which will do on a larger scale here what he had been able to do with the little band of comrades in South Africa. He is now on a visit here not for the sake of visiting the temples, nor for taking a pleasure tour. He and Mrs. Gandhi travelled in a third-class compartment during this hot weather for the purpose of actually studying the condition of third-class passengers, for knowing first hand the inconvenience to which third-class passengers are subject. After a conscientious examination of the con-

ditions of the people in different parts of the country, he will begin the work in right earnest. When that work begins he will be able to gather round him a few more Sanyasins in the truest sense of the term who will not be working for their own salvation but for the salvation of the masses, for the millions of inhabitants of India. He is making tours to get at the very lowest reach of the society. He would stand all the sufferings inflicted without raising a single finger. The opposition of immense physical force will cow down before his soul-force. I attach the greatest importance to his work from this point of view. It is only when that work is complete, when the Sanyasins of the new order whose vocation is to uplift the masses, number in thousands and do organized action in every part of India, the masses will be pulled up from the grinding poverty and ignorance. The removal of ignorance of the masses cannot be done by the Educational department. The example of Mr. Gandhi and the Sanyasins of the new order will enable the masses to learn to lift themselves educationally, industrially and socially. Mr. Gandhi's work will be not that of a mere politician giving lectures on the duties of a citizen which will come to nothing; his work will not be that of a mere social reformer, talking grandly about infant marriages. When workers of Mr. Gandhi's stamp number in thousands in India, India's people will be lifted. The demands which you now make for the Indian people will, I am afraid, not come. You may have a century of work of the kind that the politicians now do—appeals to Parliament, appeals to the British public—but they will not come.

There is one other matter to which I refer with a certain amount of trepidation. I feel strongly and it is my duty to give it out. Perhaps this is the last time I am addressing you (cries of no, no). I do not in the least deprecate or diminish the value of the services rendered by the Indian forces working side by side with the European forces in the war. A great deal has been made of that. But I for my part hold that much of the expectations raised thereby would come to nothing. (Hear, hear). How it would enhance the claim of India to all the demands which it claims. I cannot understand. The great portion of the Indian population are not fighters at all. Where is the martial capacity in them? I do not want you to understand that I am one of those who want martial capacity to develop. What is wanted in India is not so much martial capacity, physical force, power to threaten other people. We want the soul-force which Mr. Gandhi is trying to work up. Soul-force consists in a man being prepared to undergo any physical or mental suffering, taking the precaution that he will not lay a single finger to inflict physical force upon the other side. It was that soul-force that was manifested by the South African Indians and it was the same force that should be developed in this country.—Condensed from *The Hindu*.

## At the Heart of the Empire

We take the following from the London Letter of the *Amrita Basar Patrika*, despatched on the 14th ultimo:—

### Foresight and Wisdom

Sir Francis Younghusband is turning the eye of the philosopher on to men and things in this part of the world and in India. He was the lecturer last Tuesday evening at the Royal Colonial Institute and his subject was "India and the War." He dealt with it in a way which gave food for thought to many in his large audience, most of whom are much more familiar with the Overseas Dominions than with India. The applause during his lecture and the hearty thanks given at the conclusion proved the interest he had aroused. He declared that war was the great test of nations and that this war was the great test of British rule in India. It provoked the momentous question; was the tie binding Britain and India to be, in the crucial hour, a help or a danger? The story he told of India's devotion and self-sacrifice proved that instead of being an anxiety she was a bulwark. The arrival of a stately procession of transports at Marseilles last September bearing Indian troops who had come to fight in Europe for Britain and France against Germany was the most practical answer to the momentous question; it also proved that Britain was still mistress of the seas. He quoted Sir G. Chinavis who said that though there might be internal differences and difficulties, in face of outside danger Indians of all ranks rallied round the King-Emperor. This wide and wonderful demonstration enabled Lord Hardinge to offer, instead of ask, help; India was a strength, not a drain to the Empire, and the Indian soldier, arriving at the crucial moment in Europe, rendered "a service to the Empire for which the Empire owes him gratitude." The Indian people, he added, have a great capacity for affection and an innate sense of loyalty to their rulers. He told the wonderful story of how Queen Victoria's great proclamation came to be written, of how she was not satisfied with the draft and returned it to her Minister indicating her desire as to what should be said, and the result we all know. The devotion given by India to her was given to her son and now to her grandson, as Rulers and it is on this that to-day's loyalty is built. Sir Francis pointed out that the generous outburst of loyalty will not banish all discontent. The war must bring changes, demands will be heard. He mentioned the following: commissions in the army, and he added "it seems so reasonable and fair to grant them to those who have fought so loyally and well;" the admission of Indians into the Councils; a more definite share in the Councils of the Empire, a larger part in the management of their own affairs, a higher status, the right to bear arms and to volunteer, a more equal social position, a larger part in the administration of their own affairs and self-government within the Empire. The war, in the meantime, was bringing Britain and India closer together; the Indian soldier had now a great respect for the British Tommy, and *vice versa*. As the century lengthens, said Sir Francis, we shall be able to regard India less and less as an appanage and an anxiety and more and more as a trusted support and bulwark of the Empire. Sir Thomas Holderness, Sir Harry Steven, and Admiral Freeman took part in the discussion, and Mr. C. H. Hobhouse, Postmaster-General, and once Under-Secretary for India, presided.

### Lord Crewe Speaks Out

It is not often that so exalted a personage as the Secretary of State presides at a meeting, but at yesterday's meeting of the Indian Section of the Society of Arts, Lord Crewe occupied the chair, and spoke out with an air of freedom that is not usually associated with a responsible Minister. He, of course, swamped the lecturer, Sir Charles Armstrong, in the newspaper

this morning, but no doubt Sir Charles fully expected what would be the result of the honour of having so distinguished a chairman. He put unusual warmth into the declaration that it was impossible for Britain to reiterate too often the debt they owe to the people of India, without distinction of race or class or religion for the part they are taking in the stupendous struggle of the war. To "men and women alike" he paid warmest tribute, and the words, one felt, came straight from his heart. The Indian troops had, if possible, excelled the feats of previous wars, and princes and people had testified, according to their means and opportunities, to their support of the King-Emperor and the righteousness of the cause for which we are fighting. Lord Crewe dealt with the question of the veto on the export of wheat and said that it was his earnest hope that no fresh taxation should be imposed on the people during the long struggle. His description of the difficulty any fresh burden would entail was strong evidence of the burden as it is. He said: "What was at the bottom of the desire not to impose fresh taxation was the difficulty, in the circumstances of India, of devising any system of raising fresh taxation without hitting the very poorest classes." This let in a side light which was significant, and added weight to the statement that his lordship hoped there would have to be only to the smallest extent, economies in production works in India. He urged praise for the patriotic investor who did public service by taking, according to his means, a share in the Government loan. Sir Charles Armstrong's paper was full of information as to how Indian trade had been affected by the war and he dwelt on the hopeful news of the excellent harvest and the immense amount of grain which would be available.

### The Question of Commissions

The question of Commissions for Indians may be said to be one of the burning questions of the day. Sir Francis Younghusband spoke the other night about the granting of them to Indians who had fought so well being reasonable and fair. The Indian students who met recently to discuss what action should be taken to remove the racial distinction which prevents them from joining the Officers' Training Corps, determined to ask for a deputation to be received by the War Office and the India Office, to urge their support of the movement. The Officers' Training Corps is doing good work and is the stepping stone of students to Commissions. They must, of course, show themselves keen and competent, but, given these qualifications, the Commission is practically assured. In fact the request is received at Universities that the War Office be informed how many members of its Corps will accept Commissions and how soon? The Indian meeting was most representative of students at the Universities and the Inns of Court in London, the Provinces and Scotland and Ireland. Telegrams and letters were received from many who could not be present, including a number of men who have been on duty with the wounded Indian soldiers.

Dr. J. N. Mehta, who is one of the most brilliant medical students India has sent to this country, and who gained the medal of the London University, presided at the meeting; an organised committee was formed to take the matter in hand on which each centre shall be represented; the sub-committee appointed consisted of Dr. J. N. Mehta, Messrs. M. A. Hamid, Syud Hussain, P. R. Naidu, G. K. Pillai, J. N. Sahay, R. P. Thanewalla, and S. Sorabji, hon. secretary. The further progress of this effort will be watched with interest. Dr. Mehta has also tackled the question of suspending the examinations for the Indian Medical Service, and is raising his voice in criticism. There are several special grievances in the matter. Dr. Mehta says that from Bombay alone twenty qualified men have reached this country since last October to take part in the bi-annual examination for commissions in the I.M.S. As late as February last they were inform-

ed, while in India that the next examination would be in July. There are, too, Indian doctors who have been serving with the wounded for several months and are still without commission, though their British colleagues in the R.A.M.C. are gazetted as soon as they undertake their duties. The proposed system of nomination is likely to work out advantageously to the Briton. Dr. Mehta is asking for further information beyond the bold statement which has appeared, and it is to be hoped that at a time like this, when everyone is praising India's devotion and insisting that it must be duly rewarded, grievances will be swept away rather than increased, especially in the one service in which Indians are on an equal footing with Britons on merit, not race.

## From the Editor's Chair

### INDIA AND THE EMPIRE

THE lecture delivered before the Workers' Educational Association last week by Mr. Polak on the position of India in the British Empire no doubt to some extent brought home to the audience the increasingly important part that India must play in the affairs of the Empire. It has already been stated authoritatively that, in the settlement that is to come at the end of the war, not only Great Britain, but also the self-governing Colonies must be consulted, and not only these, but also India. We venture to hope, however, that India really will be consulted, that is to say, the acknowledged leaders of Indian opinion, and not a number of officials who are not necessarily Indians, and whose views are only too frequently not representative of Indian opinion. We remember well that on at least one occasion India was represented at the Imperial Conference by a high Anglo-Indian official who is very closely associated with commercial matters but was in no way associated with the Indian people. We earnestly hope that, when the settlement comes, no such blunder as this will be committed by the Imperial Government.

## A Jewish Tolstoy

The *Jewish World* of the 28th April has the following:—

"An American paper has unearthed a remarkable philanthropist. This is a patriarch of eighty-one—Abraham Slimmer—who leads a humble ascetic life in an 'ugly frame cottage' at Dubuque, Iowa, and who distributes the whole of his income, amounting to £10,000 a year, derived from his invested capital, among various charitable institutions. The newspaper describes in picturesque detail the suit in which Mr. Slimmer was discovered—'neat, to be sure, but new more than five years ago'; the cowboy hat he wore; the old and cheap furniture; the absence from a rich man's house of telephone and even the electric light." The rich man was actually found bending over a gas stove in the dark kitchen 'brewing himself some tea.' The reason which this Jewish Tolstoy assigned for his conduct is most interesting. 'My Capital, not I,' he explained, 'has an earning power of £10,000 a year. Whether I wish it or no it earns that much money every year. I don't need it so I give it away. I deserve no praise for it. I don't earn the money.' And the old man went on to say that he might shortly dispose of his entire capital unless he felt that the institutions he was helping still needed his assistance.

## The Cape Entry Question

As announced in our leading columns a few weeks ago, the question of the admission of South African-born Indians to the Cape Province has been satisfactorily arranged, at least for the time being. The following correspondence between Mr. Polak and the Acting Secretary for the Interior will be of interest:—

14th April, 1915.

Dear Mr. SHAW, —I have to-day received your telegram of the 13th instant, with reference to the Sisters Deane for which I am very much obliged.

May I venture to suggest that the matter would have been much simplified and inconvenience avoided had Mr. Cousins given instructions to his officers that Indians producing certificates of South African birth should be admitted without question. In any event he seems to have failed to observe the provisions of section 4 (2) (a) of Act 22 of 1913. There appears to have been no attempt in these cases to give persons coming from Natal and lawfully resident there the right of taking the education test under Act No. 30 of 1906, Cape of Good Hope.

May I take it that general instructions on these lines have now been given?

Thanking you in anticipation and with kind regards.

Yours sincerely,

(Sgd.) Hy. S. L. POLAK.

COLONEL H. B. SHAW,

Acting Secretary for the Interior,  
Cape Town.

6th May, 1915.

Sir,—With reference to your letter of the 14th ultimo, in the case of the Sisters Deane, I have the honour to point out that the question of the entry into the Cape Province of Indians born in South Africa who are able to meet the requirements of Section three (a) of Act No. 30 of 1906 (Cape of Good Hope) and section four (2) (a) of Act 22 of 1913 was fully discussed by the Indian Grievances Commission on pages 14, 15 and 16 of the Report and the policy adopted is that laid down in paragraph (3) of the letter, dated the 30th June, 1914, addressed to Mr. Gandhi. There, however, appears to have been some misunderstanding of the position at East London and the necessary steps have been taken to put the matter right.

I have, etc.,

(Sgd.) H. B. SHAW,

Acting Secretary for the Interior.

H. S. L. POLAK Esq.,

P. O. Box 522,

Johannesburg.

17th May, 1915.

The Acting Secretary for the Interior,  
Pretoria.

Sir,—I beg to acknowledge with thanks the receipt of your letter No. 9/34200 of the 6th instant.

2. I am glad to note therefrom that the position created by the restriction of the Sisters Deane has now been put right. I observe that your letter raises a question that had understood to be definitely decided by the correspondence of last year's settlement, namely, the right of South African-born Indians to enter the Cape Province upon proof of South African birth.

3. I may perhaps be allowed to speak with some authority on this question as I was closely interested in its being raised when the 1913 bill was brought forward. The basis of the claim was twofold—first, that the number of existing legal rights being so few, the Indian community would be committing a fatal error in yielding up one of these that, both in theory and in practice, had in the past proved very valuable;

secondly, that, as was clearly laid down in the dispatch dated the 7th October, 1910, from the Secretary of State for the Colonies to Lord Gladstone, no settlement of the Transvaal problem would be acceptable at the expense of the rights of Indians resident in the Coast Provinces. The question was raised in 1911 by Natal Indians—I forget, for the moment, whether by the general political organisation or by the Colonial-born Indian Association—in a public memorial, and that Mr. Gandhi omitted mention of it in 1912 must be attributed—I have it from his own lips, for it was I who reminded him, whilst in India, of the lapse—not to design or to indifference, but to the fact that he was under the impression that the matter had been otherwise disposed of. But being in Calcutta in 1912, when the text of the first draft of the Bill of that year reached the Government of India, I formally drew that Government's attention to the omission; and again in 1913, both of my own initiative and acting upon instructions, I raised this question with the Colonial Office in London, on my visit to England at the request of the late Mr. Gokhale with whom I fully consulted.

4. The legal position at the time of the 1911 settlement is definitely laid down by the Commission at the end of page 15 of its report; "as regards the Cape no test of any kind was required from Indians born in South Africa."

5. I understood, however, from you in the course of our interview shortly before your letter under reply was written, that it had been the policy of the late Cape Government, and the Union Government that succeeded it to administer the Cape Immigration Law of 1906 as though this exemption from the education test did not exist. If this were indeed so, then, first, the administration of the Act was obviously unlawful, and secondly, this method of administration was, I am convinced, entirely unknown to Mr. Gandhi, who, had he been aware of it, most certainly would not have accepted Mr. Gorges' letter of June 30th 1914, with the interpretation that I understand you to have placed upon it.

6. If I did not misinterpret your remarks, I am, I think, in a position to controvert your statement on this point. Among the deportees from the Transvaal who accompanied me to South Africa on my return from India in October, 1910, there were some men (five I believe) who landed at Cape Town simply on the strength of the fact that they were born in South Africa. I have verified this from the reports of the legal proceedings in the Supreme Court at that time. These men were granted Temporary Permits pending proof of their South African birth, and subsequently satisfied the Cape Immigration Authorities as to their claims. I submit, therefore, that the proper interpretation of the settlement on this point, should be deduced from the following facts:—

- (a) It is submitted that the Cape Immigration Law of 1906 permitted the entry into that Province of Indians born in South Africa free of any test whatsoever.
- (b) The Commission was of opinion that "by restricting the entry of Indians born in South Africa into the Cape Colony to those who can satisfy the educational requirements of Act No. 30 of 1906, there has been a departure from the provisional settlement of 1911."
- (c) Protests against this restriction were, in fact, raised in 1911, 1912 and 1913.
- (d) Mr. Gandhi and those who worked with him refrained from giving evidence before the Commission, whose conclusions on this point being unsatisfactory were not accepted as final by the Passive Resisters.
- (e) The Commission lays stress upon the fact that no serious *material* disadvantage would be suffered by the Indian community by reason of the retention of the education test for South Africa-born Indians. This fact was never in dispute. It was the so-called *sentimental* grievance, that

a legal right had been taken away, that was of such great importance to the Indian community.

- (f) This grievance was regarded as one of the primary causes of the revival of the Passive Resistance Movement in 1913, and is so set forth in Mr. Cachalia's public letter in which he announced, in September, 1913, the revival of the struggle.
- (g) At the time of the settlement in 1914, it was never intended in any way to waive this claim and I have it from Mr. Gandhi himself—and he explained the settlement in this sense to the Colonial-born Indians of Natal—that he regarded it as conceded.

7. I do not know if you are aware that in the triangular conversations between General Smuts, Mr. Gorges, and Mr. Gandhi in Cape Town last June, many matters were discussed and certain understandings arrived at outside of the submissions and recommendations of the Commission and this particular question was one of them.

8. I do not see that it can logically be held that the statement in Mr. Gorges' letter of June 30th, 1914, can refer to the policy of admitting South Africa-born Indians to the Cape subject to their passing the education test, for it appears in one of a series of paragraphs embodying a number of concessions asked for by Mr. Gandhi, and this would clearly have been no concession at all, (and, having regard especially to the last words of the paragraph, would have had no meaning); for already, by sub-section 2 of section 4 of Act 22 of 1913, this particular privilege of passing the education test was accorded by law.

9. I think that, if you will refer to Mr. Gorges, he will probably confirm my statement that the reference in his letter directly pointed to the policy clearly set forth in the Cape Law of 1906, and not to any administrative, but illegal modification of that law.

10. In conclusion, I would respectfully but strongly deprecate the re-opening of this question by the Government by requiring South Africa-born Indians entering the Cape to submit themselves to an education-test. To do so would be to review an acute controversy over a matter of no practical importance to the Government, but involving matters of vital principle to the Indian community; and I am sure that the Government have no more desire than that community to create a new state of unrest on a subject that has been regarded by Indians as finally settled in 1914 in the sense of these representations.

May I ask you kindly, therefore, to bring these circumstances to the notice of the Minister?

Thanking you in anticipation,

I have etc.,

(Sd.) H. S. L. POLAK.

25th May, 1915.

Sir,—With reference to your letter of the 17th instant, relative to the entry of South African-born Indians into the Cape of Good Hope Province, upon proof of South African birth, I have the honour to inform you that it was not clear from the previous correspondence that you were specially desirous of pressing this particular point, but in view of your further representations, instructions have been issued that once the fact of South African birth has been established by an Indian to the satisfaction of an Immigration Officer, such person should be forthwith admitted into the Cape Province; but Government reserves the right as soon as the number of entrants sensibly increases to apply the provisions of Act 22 of 1913.

I have, etc.,

(Sgd.) H. B. SHAWE,

Acting Secretary for the Interior.

H. S. L. POLAK Esq.,

P. O. Box 6522,

Johannesburg.

## Mr. Gandhi on the British Empire

In proposing the toast of "The British Empire" at the Annual Madras Law Dinner at which he was a guest, Mr. Gandhi said:—

During my three months' tour in India as also in South Africa I have so often been questioned how I, a determined opponent of modern civilization and an avowed patriot, could reconcile myself to loyalty to the British Empire, of which India was such a large part;—how it was possible for me to find it consistent that India and England could work together for mutual benefit—and it gives me the greatest pleasure this evening, at this very important gathering to re-declare my loyalty to the British Empire. And my loyalty is based, if you will, upon very selfish grounds. As a passive resister, I discovered that I could only have that free scope which I had under the British Empire.

I discovered that the British Empire had certain ideals with which I have fallen in love, and one of those ideals is that every subject of the British Empire has the freest scope possible for his energies and for whatever he thinks is due to his conscience. I think that is true of the British Empire as it is not true of any other Governments that we see. As you have perhaps known, I am no lover of any Government and I have more than once said that that Government is the best which governs the least, and I have found that it is possible for me to be governed the least under the British Empire. Hence my loyalty to this Empire.—*Indian Patriot.*

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### A Note of Dissent

The Editor of the *Indian Social Reform* evidently does not see eye to eye with Mr. Gandhi regarding the problems of India and their solution, as will be seen from the following editorial comment:—

We are glad that Mr. Gandhi in his public utterances since his return to India, has been consistently laying stress on the importance of broadening and strengthening the foundations of national life. His severe condemnation of the ways of anarchism and violence, and his abhorrence of political crime, ought to convey a salutary warning to those young men who have been misled by the example of European revolutionaries. We nevertheless feel it necessary to express our dissent from some of the doctrines which he has been proclaiming in his speeches. Readers of the *Indian Social Reformer* do not need to be told that we yield to none in our appreciation of the great work which Mr. Gandhi has done in South Africa in bringing about the settlement of some outstanding grievances of our countrymen in that Colony. He has had no opportunity of developing them fully yet, and perhaps it would be fair to him to await a detailed exposition of his views before subjecting them to serious criticism. On the other hand, these views are by no means new, as they have been held by several thinkers before Mr. Gandhi, and most of the arguments adduced or adducible in their favour are familiar to students of the history of Economics. Mr. Gandhi's objection to machine-made goods and, in fact, to all kinds of machinery, was formulated by writers like Ruskin some fifty years ago. But, although Ruskin's criticisms had the effect of calling attention to the one-sided character of much that was known as Political Economy in his time and of bringing about a fuller treatment of social and political problems, there has been no retardation of the multiplication of machinery. We ourselves are of opinion that while there are some obvious disadvantages connected with the substitution of machinery for manual labour, these are not irremediable, and the task of the social reformer is not to persuade people to discard

machines but to secure the adoption of measures which are calculated to counteract the evils arising from their use solely with a view to large dividends. It is not machinery in itself but the employment of it as a dividend-producing agency which is the root of the evil. Machinery, in itself, by saving time, increases human capacity. If Mr. Gandhi, for instance, had to do his Indian tour on foot instead of by railway it is improbable that he could have covered as much ground as he has since his return to India.

Then, again, Mr. Gandhi has been telling his audiences that that Government is the best which governs the least. As an axiom of philosophic Nihilism, there may be something to be said for this dictum, but what is the extent of its practical application at the present time? When all men have become inwardly self-controlled, there will be no need for external control, and the whole machinery of administration may be cast aside. That is what Christ meant when he said that the Kingdom of Heaven is not of this world. So far as Mr. Gandhi insists that the people of India should learn to govern themselves, each one of them, we are entirely at one with him, but when he maintains that that Government is the best which governs the least, we are constrained to point out to him that, on this principle, the Persian would be a better government than the British or the American. It is our own firm belief that a strong Central Government alone can solve these complex problems of Indian nationalism, and we are inclined to think, with the late Lord Beaconsfield, that, while a strong society might afford to have a weak government, a weak and divided society like ours can find salvation only through the means of a strong government. We must also dissent from the somewhat wholesale judgment which Mr. Gandhi seems inclined to pass, judging from the reports of some of his recent pronouncements, on Western civilisation.

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### India and the War

A meeting of the Royal Colonial Institute was held on Tuesday evening (May 11th), when Lieut.-Col. Sir Francis Younghusband, K.C.I.E., read a paper on "India and the War"

The chair was taken by Mr. C. E. HOBHOUSE, M.P., Postmaster-General, who said in his opening remarks that of all the facts connected with the inception of this war none had a greater influence with the German rulers than their profound belief that England's embarkation on a European War would be marked by the disintegration of the Empire, and more particularly of India. Germany had made no greater mistake than in her belief in the disloyalty of our Indian fellow-subjects. Perhaps we ourselves, with all our greater opportunities for knowledge, were unprepared for the unexampled outburst of loyalty which followed from the Indian princes and people.

SIR FRANCIS YOUNGHUSBAND, after discussing the conditions existing in India when the war broke out and emphasising the splendid loyalty of the Indian people which that event demonstrated, proceeded to point out that many false ideas had been current as to the fighting capacity of the Indian troops. Whether the Indian was worse or better than the British soldier, he came at a crucial moment and did a service for the Empire for which the Empire owed him gratitude. (Cheers.) With regard to the future it could safely be predicted that new conditions would arise. The old demand of Indians for commissions in the Army would be pressed; there would be demands for a more definite share in the Councils of the Empire, a larger part in the management of their own affairs, the right to bear arms and to volunteer, and a more equal social position. And the Chiefs who had stood so nobly by us might well hope to be granted a more prominent and effective part in the affairs of the Empire.—*India.*

## Municipal Franchise

We are requested by the Committee of the Natal Indian Association to give the following information regarding the Durban Municipal Burgess Roll:—

Burgesses qualified to vote for members of the Town Council must fill in an application form stating that the applicant is above the age of twenty-one years. The full name and address must be given. The applicant must have resided within the Borough for a period of three months prior to the application. Business or quality must be stated. The applicant must be able to state that he is the owner of immovable property in the Borough to the value of £50, or (as the case may be) renter of immovable property in the Borough of the yearly value of £10.

The above particulars must be filled in, on a special form, and returned to the Estates Manager, Durban Corporation, Town Hall, Durban.

We are also asked to draw special attention to the following further information:—

If the rates have not been paid before the 31st May, no person is entitled to claim a vote in respect of the property for which the rates should have been paid. If a man owns properties in more than one ward and if the rate in respect of the property in one ward is not paid, it does not affect his right in respect of any other ward in which he has paid his rates in time. This remark also applies to tenants.

## Why the Warrant was Cancelled

The *Rand Daily Mail* of the 14th instant published the following statement which the Public Prosecutor was prevented by the Magistrate from reading in the case of Chhana Rama:—

"The Attorney-General has instructed me to inform the Court that he has withdrawn the charge against the accused. He is satisfied that when Mr. Clarence, in his capacity as Commissioner holding an enquiry on behalf of the Department of the Interior, gave the accused an indemnity against prosecution and informed the accused that he need not appear in the Magistrate's Court on June 3, he was properly authorised to give such an indemnity, having been so informed by the Department of the Interior, and being justified in assuming that that Department had previously obtained the concurrence of the Attorney-General with the charge are such that the Attorney-General is prepared to act in accordance with the indemnity promised by Mr. Clarence and to withdraw the case against the accused.

"With regard to the alleged contempt of Court, the Attorney-General is of opinion that no one was committed by the accused, who, acting upon the faith of Mr. Clarence's undertaking that the charge against him would not be proceeded with and believing that it was necessary for him to appear before Mr. Clarence and not necessary to appear before the Magistrate, had no intention of showing any disrespect to the Court. As already stated, Mr. Clarence acted on the supposition that he had been rightly informed by the Department of the Interior that he might grant the accused an indemnity against prosecution.

"When the matter was before the Court on June 3, the Attorney-General instructed me to apply for a postponement in order that the circumstances might be investigated. Unfortunately it was then stated in Court that a contempt had been committed before all the facts were disclosed. Now that the circumstances have been ascertained the Attorney-General is not prepared to take any further steps in regard to the incident.

"As for the Magistrate's warrant, ordering the arrest of the accused, the Attorney-General is of opinion that it was issued in circumstances in which a magistrate has

no authority to issue a warrant of apprehension. In any event, as he had already decided to withdraw the charge against the accused, the Attorney-General could not permit the arrest of the accused for an offence in respect of which he declined to prosecute. He therefore informed the police that he had withdrawn the charge against the accused and instructed them to treat the warrant as cancelled."

## News in Brief

Mr. Polak delivered a lecture to an interested audience under the auspices of the Workers' Educational Association at the New Trades Hall, Johannesburg, on Wednesday, the 16th instant, on the position of India in the British Empire. The Rev. R. J. Hall, M.A., presided. At the end of the lecture a number of well thought-out questions were asked, and an energetic discussion took place, to which Mr. Polak also replied. The proceedings terminated with a vote of thanks to the lecturer, proposed by Mr. R. T. A. Innes, the President of the Association and Government Astronomer, seconded by Mr. B. C. Clarence, the Commissioner appointed to enquire into the affairs of the Immigration Department and supported by Mr. A. Crawford, Secretary of the Federation of Trades and one of the six deportees to England last year.

We are informed that Master P. Doraswamy Naiker, brother of Mr. Ponon Murswamy Naiker of Seaview, who proceeded to Ceylon to receive higher education, was successful in the London College of Preceptors (second-class) Examination held in Ceylon during Xmas, 1914. Master Doraswamy was an old student of the Durban Higher-Grade Indian School.

The lady members of the Southern India Brahmia Samaj presented an address of welcome to Mr. Gandhi on her visit to Madras.

London June 14th.—In the House of Commons to-day, Mr. Asquith announced that, at the request of the Government, Lord Hardinge had consented to extend his term as Viceroy of India until March 31st, 1916.—Reuter.

The Natal Indian Association has addressed the following letter to the Private Secretary to His Excellency the Viceroy:—

"We have the honour, on behalf of the Natal Indian Association, as representing the British Indian Community, to be desired to convey to His Excellency its respectful congratulations upon the extension of his Viceroyalty, gratefully remembering his efforts for the abolition of that £3 tax which drove thousands of poor defenceless men, women and children coming under Indenture Laws into misery and suffering, and for the redress of other grievances.

"British Indians pray God may grant strength to His Excellency in his difficult position.

"Hoping that His Excellency may be pleased to continue his good offices on behalf of South African Indians."

The Maharaja of Patiala has given ten thousand each of shirts, waistcloths, towels and combs for the Sikh soldiers serving at the front. He also provided sweetmeats to all the Indian soldiers at the front on the occasion of the King's birthday.