

Indian Opinion

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NOTES AND NEWS

WE have received a cablegram at this office from Mr. Andrews, stating that he was detained in hospital. He hoped, however, to be able to proceed to Natal by the *Karagola* which is expected to arrive at Durban about the 10th instant. Mr. Andrews is not physically strong, which fact makes his sacrifice on our behalf all the greater.

The Durban Indians met on Sunday last at the Royal Bldg when a reception committee was formed to welcome and assist Mr. Andrews during his stay. So far as the whole Province is concerned, we do not see how it is possible for a single committee to undertake the duty. It will be necessary for every centre to appoint its own committee. Durban will naturally take the lead and others should follow suit.

We are still in the dark as to when the Commission is to be appointed, who will be the members, and what are to be the terms of reference. Until something definite is known, no plans can very well be completed. What the community should do, however, is to be ready to resist a strong attack upon their rights by the anti-Asiatics.

We may as well disabuse our minds of any hope that the Commission will relieve us of our various disabilities. What we will have to face is a determined attempt to deprive us of the right to own or occupy land or buildings, not only in the Transvaal but in the Cape and Natal.

The Commission has been promised in order to satisfy the clamourings of the anti-Asiatics—not to free the Indian community of its burdens. The policy of segregation has been openly expounded, both in the Transvaal and Natal. We should expect to find, therefore, a strong force arrayed against us. How we as a community are to meet it is a serious question.

We heartily welcome Mr. Andrews to our shores, and we trust that he will arrive in good health. His assistance and leadership will be most valuable, especially as he is not a stranger to this country and to our affairs. It should be remembered that it is only with the hearty co-operation of the Indian community that Mr. Andrews can accomplish anything. Need we say more?

On the occasion of giving the Royal Assent to the Government of India Act, says a Reuter cablegram, the King issued a proclamation expressing confidence that all sections and races of India will display perseverance and mutual forbearance in the march towards the goal of responsible government. The proclamation announces an amnesty for all political offenders convicted under special or emergency legislation.

Everyone will be glad to hear this news. It will revive once more the faith in what is known as British justice in India. We hope we have seen the last of the acts of suppression under martial law and the

unjust sentences under the Press Act and Defence of India Act. Have the British Government at last realised that, by imitating the Kaiser's methods, they will never bring about a contented India? We hope so.

The Governor of British East Africa recently nominated two Indians as members of the Legislative Council. This the Indian community as a whole resents. Indians consider that they are justly entitled to electoral representation. These views were expressed at a mass meeting held at Nairobi some time ago when representations were made on the subject to the Governor-in-Council.

The officials and members of the Hindu Youngmen's Association, Pietermaritzburg, wish to gratefully thank their brethren in the Transvaal for the generous response made by them to an appeal by the representatives of H.Y.M.A., who have recently been there for donations. Special thanks are due to Messrs. S. V. Pillay, P. K. Naidoo, S. P. Singaravelu Pather, and others who were assisting the collections work throughout. Mr. Pillay provided board and lodging to the representatives, and showed many kind favours, which will always be remembered. Cash donations received to date amount to £136:18:4.

MR. ANDREWS' MISSION TO EAST AFRICA

Mr Andrews, with his characteristic readiness to be of service to the country of his adoption, has consented to pay a visit to East Africa (says the *Bombay Chronicle*), so that he may ascertain on the spot the nature of the grievances from which Indian traders and other settlers in that Colony are suffering. As Mr. Andrews says, the African problem, so far as Indians are concerned, is one, or threatens soon to assume a similar complexion in all the Colonies in that Continent where Indians and whites are brought together. One of the ugly signs of post-war Imperialism is the covert as well as open attempt made to keep down Indians,—even in Colonies where they are in a vast majority in comparison with the white population,—in a position of inferiority and semi-helotry, not only by denying them their just political rights as citizens of the Empire, but also by depriving them of the civil rights and privileges they have been enjoying so long. And all this after India's immense sacrifices in blood and treasure for the cause of the Empire and for making the world safe for democracy! Hardly has the din of war ended than in South Africa, East Africa, Canada and other parts of the Empire, we see the white populations up in arms against the Indian settlers and seeking to deprive the latter of the fruit of their labour. So much for the "Imperial Brotherhood" which, we are told, has been cemented as a result of war!

It is well that Mr. Andrews is to visit the Indian settlements in East Africa and report on the conditions there, for the East African Indian problem, if not tackled betimes and a proper settlement arrived at, may soon assume the proportions of the South African and may prove an additional menace to the amicable relations which we all wish to see established between

India and other members of the British Commonwealth. Already in direct contravention of the repeated assurances given by Mr. Montagu, Lord Curzon and Col. Amery, the process of despoiling long resident Indian settlers for the benefit of prospective white colonists has been begun by the East African Government. The policy of segregation is reported to be gradually making itself felt by the Indian residents, who are being dislodged for their holdings in the Uplands to make room not only for retired white soldiers, but for ordinary white colonists as well.

The resort to official nomination instead of election by the Indian community itself, in the appointment of two Indian representatives on the Legislative Council, is a move calculated to emphasise the political inferiority of Indians in that Colony and the denial to them of political franchise. This unwarranted procedure has occasioned much resentment among the Indian settlers there and a mass-meeting was held protesting against it and condemning the action of the two gentlemen who had accepted the nomination and acquiesced in the denial of electoral franchise to their countrymen. Indians are in a vast majority in East Africa in comparison with the whites and their influence with the natives of the soil is paramount. They have, moreover, shown themselves to be highly enterprising and public spirited. Indeed, it may be stated, without fear of contradiction, that East Africa is a Colony that has been built up almost entirely by Indian enterprise. To deny such a community equality of franchise with a handful of whites, is an unpardonable betrayal of their interests. The Indian public are one with their countrymen in East Africa in demanding that the Imperial Government and the Government of East Africa should take immediate steps to place the Indian settlers in that Colony on a footing of equality with the whites. Nothing short of this will reconcile the community to their lot.

INDIA'S CLAIM TO FREEDOM

GREAT DEMONSTRATION IN LONDON

PUNJAB OUTRAGES DENOUNCED

The *Daily Herald* of London publishes the following report of the great demonstration held at the Albert Hall on October 25th to demand self-determination for India:—

"That this mass meeting of British citizens, holding that the existence of the British Commonwealth is dependent upon the right of self-government being conferred on each of the nations within its boundaries, hereby declares that the Indian people are entitled to receive at the earliest opportunity the full right of self-determination."

This resolution was passed at an enthusiastic public meeting held at the Royal Albert Hall the same evening.

Mr. George Lansbury presided, supported by Mrs. Annie Besant, Sarojini Naidu, Colonel Josiah Wedgwood, D.S.O. M.P., Ben Spoor, M.P., B. G. Tilak, Jamnadas Dwarkadas, Hon. Yakub Hasan, Maung Pu, B.A., and John Scurr (hon. secretary of the Home Rule for India League).

Mr. George Lansbury, in opening the meeting, said that it was seldom that in London a meeting was called to further progress in what was called one of the dependencies of the British Empire. The time had come when the nationalities within the British Empire should be partners rather than subject races. (Applause.)

India, instead of having been ruled for the benefit of the people, had been ruled for the benefit of people who drew dividends out of a huge democracy. (Cheers.)

FAMINE AMID PLENTY

It was a well-known fact that in India multitudes of people die of famine when food produced there has been exported. The Indian people themselves would

not so mismanage affairs themselves. He did not believe there need be famines in India if the country were organised for the service of the people. As we had claimed the right of self-determination for ourselves, the people of India also had the right.

Referring to the Punjab, the chairman said that the outrages committed in the name of that great province would for ever remain an indelible stain. No greater outrage had been committed than the bombing of innocent people from the sky because they had attended a public meeting; the flogging of people because they shut their shops or did not shut their shop on a particular day.

"English people have to clear their minds of cant in connection with the Indian people," said Mr. Lansbury. "We know no more how to manage other people than we know how to manage ourselves." (Applause.)

Ben Spoor, M.P., seconded the resolution. He was glad the British people were interesting themselves in that great question. They were beginning to realise that a false step now will land the Empire in irretrievable ruin. On the other hand if we rise to the opportunity it may be that we might weld East and West together in a common purpose as they had never been welded before.

India had much to give us, and we had much to give her. We could not do without each other. Let us give to India all those institutions and forms of a democratic Government, but do not let us give her the curse of a Capitalist system, discredited by all the advanced communities of the West—a system which dehumanises and destroys all that comes within its power. (Applause.)

The resolution was supported by Mrs. Sarojini Naidu and the Hon. Yakub Hasan. The last-named speaker said that if the British Government did not rise equal to the occasion and did not make the new Indian Reform Bill worthy of Great Britain, the gulf may be too wide for it to be bridged again.

INDIA'S CHANGED OPINIONS

Mrs. Annie Besant, who was the next speaker, received a great reception on rising. She said that India was asking for Home Rule—a right which this country claims for every nation except those who were under its own sceptre. It was absurd to argue about a man's right to be free. The Government had been careless of the happiness of the prosperous Indian nation. India was the worst-educated, the poorest and the most half-starved people in this world. Half of the agricultural population never knew what it was not to be hungry.

"I have never known till now," said Mrs. Besant, "of a real hatred in India against the British. Every Indian used to love England. Indians admired English liberty."

India wanted to remain under the British Commonwealth, but British stood at the parting of the ways. Give India freedom now and she will be a sister and partner in the future. Refuse her freedom, and she would dig a gulf between Britain and India which they would not be able to bridge for many a century. It was not the English people but the autocratic Government which stood in the way. (Applause.) There was no quarrel between the people of India and the people of England, but there was a bitter quarrel between the autocratic bureaucracy. (Applause.)

WHAT INDIA TAUGHT US

Colonel Josiah Wedgwood said the new Indian Reform Bill was the most important Bill that had ever been before Parliament. The Bill affected 315 million people and every line of it ought to be known by the people in this country.

The Bill excluded women and gave a vote to the officers, but not to the soldiers. (Shame). He wanted to see that all the workers shall have a voice in the future government of India. We had learned from India the power of self-sacrifice. He looked forward to the day when we shall not regard India as a sister

nation, but as a brother nation who will lead us on in the fight for those ideas which were the only things worth fighting for. (Applause).

EDITORIAL COMMENT

The *Daily Herald* writes:—

The great meeting held in the Albert Hall on Saturday, following as it did a long campaign of propaganda in the provinces, must convince the House of Commons that there is in the country a strong body of opinion in favour of immediately granting the people of India the right of self-determination.

It is all humbug to talk about the right of all nations to self-determination if when we come to apply the principle, the opinion of everybody except those most interested is listened to. Neither the Viceroy of India nor the India Council are the right persons to decide the future of India. The All-India National Congress is at present the only body in India capable of representing the aims and aspirations of the nation. It may be divided, and may often take a wrong line; but all other similar bodies are imperfect and divided also, and it is good it should be so. Democracy does not yet mean a dead level of uniformity, and so we trust that in the House of Commons the men who hold progressive opinions, to whatever party they may belong, will unite in securing such amendments to the Bill as will enable the people of India to start on the road toward self-Governments.

Surely Britain will learn the lesson Ireland is daily teaching us. What agony and bloody sweat could have been saved had our rulers done justly in 1886!

To-day India, Egypt, Persia, South Africa, are all knocking at our gates, all with the same appeal—"Give us freedom; allow us to become equal partners in a great commonwealth of free peoples!"

If our nation welcomes and aids these movements, if our British Labour movements will stand by all there rightly struggling to be free, our children and their children will be saved the shame which to-day is ours in regard to Ireland; and instead we shall see coming into actual being the commonwealth of nations which is the Federation of the world.

MR. GANDHI AT DELHI

ENTHUSIASTIC RECEPTION BY HOME RULE VOLUNTEERS

Delhi, Nov. 1.—This evening the Home Rule League Volunteers gave a reception in honour of Mahatma Gandhi at Moti Bazaar. The gathering on the occasion was thoroughly representative of the elite among Indians in Delhi and all classes and professions were fully represented. All the leaders of Delhi were present, including Swami Shradhdhanand, Hakim Ajmal Khan, Dr. Ansari, Rai Bahadur Sultan Singh, Mr. Pyarelal, Dr. Sen, Mr. Andrews, Principal Rudra and a large number of others. There was a heavy throng of people eager to see Mr. Gandhi and it was rendered more notable still by the number of Indian ladies, who formed a very considerable part of spectators. On Mr. Gandhi's arrival shouts of "Gandhi Maharaj-ki-jai" rent the air and flowers rained on Mr. Gandhi in great abundance. To the man in the street to-day at Imperial Delhi, Mr. Gandhi seems to matter more than all the elite of Indian aristocracy or the elect of Anglo-Indian bureaucracy. Pandit Malaviya was to have also been the guest of honour at the party, but he was unavoidably absent from Delhi. After refreshments were served up, Dr. Ansari, as the president of the League, expressed their sense of pleasure and gratitude to Mr. Gandhi, whose presence was to them a source of great inspiration. He wished Mr. Gandhi long life. Mr. Gandhi left amidst renewed outbursts of "Gandhi Maharaj-ki-jai" and people were so keenly enthusiastic that they surrounded the motor car he was in. It was with great difficulty and after many minutes that it could extricate itself and proceed outward.—*Bombay Chronicle*.

THE ANTI-ASIATICS

PROTEST MEETING AT VOLKSRUST

A public meeting of citizens to form a local branch of the South Africans' League, to oppose the Asiatic menace, was held in the Kitchener Hall on Friday afternoon. The hour was unsuitable, and the attendance meagre. Nevertheless, the tone of the meeting was excellent. Mr. J. Hunter (organising secretary of the League) and Mr. König were present. The mayor, Councillor J. A. B. Joubert, occupied the chair.

"We have a hard fight in this anti-Asiatic campaign," said the Mayor. The Indians did not care what money they spent in the law courts. The Indians, said a celebrated Judge, were laughing at the legislature. Referring to the recent purchases of property by Indians in Volksrust, the Mayor said he would propose to the Town Council to contest in the law courts these transfers of property. (Applause.) There were in Volksrust three Indian limited liability companies who held land; a big block had been sold by a European, and also another one. On the other hand, there were gentlemen present in that hall who, to their eternal credit, he it said, had refused to sell to Indians, though offered a handsome profit on their purchase. If we all acted like that we should beat the coolie; but if the Indians were to be allowed to spread themselves over the country in the way they had been doing, we were done for. The League embraced all South Africans who were opposed to the Asiatic menace, without regard to politics. He called upon the citizens to support the League. No town had more need to fight the menace than Volksrust.

Mr. Hunter refuted the idea that this was a commercial movement. It was a far greater question than that of L.s.d. The question was: Were we to have in South Africa a white civilisation or a bastard civilisation? Our past history justified the hope that we should remain white. He was proud of South Africa. After a reference to our brave forefathers, who had endured hardships to make this land what it now is, a smiling and prosperous country, the speaker said there was a tremendous future in store for us, a great industrial expansion, provided we maintained our position as a white race. The possibilities for South Africa were beyond the dreams of avarice. But we must set our faces sternly in opposition to Asiatic encroachment, which was a parasitical growth, alien and unnatural. He pictured South Africa overrun by hordes of Asiatics, coolie storekeepers, with no opportunities for our children to engage in trade except they served behind coolie counters. "But, what was far worse, the intermarrying of Indian and white, resulting in a bastard South African race. Speaking of the Government, he said the history of South Africa during recent years, as far as the Indian question was concerned, was one of surrender after surrender. The League must have behind it a great solid body, determined that the Indians who were now knocking at our doors, demanding equal rights with Europeans, shall not be permitted to drag South Africa down. "Organise and compel Parliament to drive the Indian out of our towns and into their own locations. Boycott, if necessary, those who persist in trading with Indians." (Applause.)

Mr. Michael König, farmer, Potchefstroom, traced the history of the Indian question in the Free State, pointing out that the Free State Government gave the Indians 12 months to sell out, and out they had to go, quick and lively. Twelve years ago a deputation waited on Lord Selborne, asking him to have the Indians deported from the Transvaal. This his Lordship declined to do. Thirty years ago, when the Free State passed a certain law, the Home Government cabled them asking them not to enforce it. President Brand replied, with all civility, that the Free State was master in its own house, and would enforce their laws. (Applause.) General Smuts had told us that we could pass any law we liked in this country without inter-

ference from the Home Government. Mr. Lloyed George had said the same thing; therefore, the way was clear for us to advance along the path to our goal and settle, once and for all, this vexed Indian question. We should adopt now the Free State policy of 30 years ago. Parliament should pass a law prohibiting any Indian or Indian company from owning or leasing any land whatsoever. They should be placed in a bazaar. In Potchefstroom every registered voter was being asked to sign a mandate to their Parliamentary representative to vote for the Free State policy. Should the M. L. A. refuse to carry out the wishes of his constituents he should be sent about his business. (Applause.) A branch of the League was afterwards formed.—*Natal Mercury*.

INDIA'S AWAKENING

PASSIVELY OBEDIENT NO LONGER

The time has come for associating the people of India with the Government in a much greater degree, said Sir T. Holderness, Permanent Under-Secretary for India, in evidence before the Joint Committee on the Reform Bill

Since his time he saw a very noticeable increase of political activity among the educated classes, a strong disposition to question the policy and contest the decisions of the Government, and an impatience at exclusion from the Government machine.

The population of India, though still uneducated and inexperienced in politics, was awakening to a sense of national consciousness, and was no longer content to render a passive and unquestioning obedience to its rulers.

The confidence that formerly subsisted between the autocratic Government and the people seemed to be disappearing.—*Daily Herald*.

THE PUNJAB INQUIRY

INDIAN LEADERS REFUSE TO CO-OPERATE UNLESS POLITICAL PRISONERS RELEASED

The special correspondent of the *Bombay Chronicle*, writing from Lahore on the 13th November, says:—

The Disorders Enquiry Committee met to-day, at the Town Hall long before the proceedings began. The Hall was filled with a large number of visitors, who soon after the examination of witnesses commenced left the Hall. The first row of seats for the public seemed to be reserved for Europeans only. On the seats provided for Counsel were seen the Hon. Mr. Thompson, Mr. Herbert, Government Advocate, Mr. Abdul Kadir, Public Prosecutor, and Mr. Kitchin, Commissioner, Lahore Division. In consonance with the decision of the Sub-Committee, the peoples' side was altogether unrepresented:—Mr. C. R. Das, Pandit Nehru, Pandit Malaviya, Mr. Gandhi, Mr. Andrews and others concerned were all absent. A row of seats was occupied by Barristers and other members of the Lahore bar. Some of these also left the Hall soon after the commencement of the proceedings.

There was some amount of mild excitement as regards to-day's sitting of the Disorders Enquiry Committee at Lahore. It was not at first widely known that the Congress Sub-committee had resolved to boycott the Committee—to use an official phrase—in view of the Government's determined refusal in accordance to the public demand for release of the Punjab leaders for the period of enquiry, but as the resolution became clearer and clearer by the continued absence of familiar figures in Indian public life the note of suspense was turned into one of deep disappointment—that even the Hunter Committee was not disposed to recommend a most necessary act for fair and impartial enquiry. This

accounts for the fact that many people who had anxiously repaired to the Town Hall long before the Committee assembled left the Hall almost immediately, after the proceedings commenced. There were a number of Europeans including some ladies among the visitors. The local official conclave was well represented in the Hou. Mr. Thompson, Mr. Kitchin and others. The local Government is represented by the Government Advocate and the Public Prosecutor, Messrs. Herbert and Abdul Kadir.

"IMPOSSIBLE TO CO-OPERATE WITH COMMITTEE"

The following letter was sent by the Hon. Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya, as Chairman of the Punjab Enquiry Sub-Committee of the All-India Congress Committee to the Private Secretary to the Lieut.-Governor of the Punjab.

Dear Colouel Bayley,—I acknowledge with thanks the receipt of your letter of the 10th instant in reply to my wire of the 2nd instant submitting certain requests to his Honour the Lieut.-Governor. The letter was placed this afternoon before the Sub Committee of the All-India Congress Committee and the following resolution was passed by the Sub-Committee:—

"Resolved that in view of the situation created by refusal of Government to accede to the request for the temporary release on adequate security of the principal Punjab leaders at present undergoing imprisonment this Committee regrets that it finds it impossible to co-operate with the Disorders Enquiry Committee by appearing before it and tendering evidence on behalf of the people."

I might here express my deep personal disappointment that his honour could not see his way to accede to the request for the temporary release of leaders for the purpose of enquiry. I beg to thank his honour for the appointment of a Judge from outside the Punjab on the Revision Tribunal. I take it that the prisoners will have the opportunity of producing fresh evidence where insufficient records have been kept or where evidence was shut out by summary courts.

LETTER TO LORD HUNTER

The following letter was sent to Lord Hunter by the Hon. Pandit Malaviya:—

Dear Lord Hunter,—I regret to inform you that after deep and serious consideration the Punjab Enquiry Sub-Committee of the All-India Congress Committee recorded the following resolution this afternoon:—

"Resolved that in view of the situation, created by the refusal of the Government to accede to the request for the temporary release on the adequate security of the principal Punjab leaders at present undergoing imprisonment the Committee regrets that it finds it impossible for it to co-operate with the Disorders Enquiry Committee by appearing before it and tendering evidence on behalf of the people."

It is due to your Lordship's Committee and to my Committee that I should state the reasons in support of the request for the release of the leaders. After having fully weighed the situation my Committee realize that

(1) though we have collected a great deal of evidence, it was not possible to present to your Committee the case for the people satisfactorily or fully without free and unrestricted assistance of those Punjab leaders who are at present undergoing imprisonment and who possess personal knowledge of many important facts and could throw light on many obscure points that must arise in course of the enquiry;

(2) the release of leaders would hearten those who are afraid to give evidence and;

(3) their release alone could inspire confidence in the good faith of Government.

I venture to think that it is still possible to remove the impasse if your Lordship's Committee could see its way to recommend the release for the period of enquiry of the principal leaders under such security as appear

adequate to Government. I take the liberty of drawing your attention to the fact that on a similar occasion principal leaders were on the recommendation, of the Solomon Committee unconditionally released by the South African Government in 1913. I hope my suggestion will commend itself to your Lordship's Committee.

MR. ANDREWS' VISIT

The Delhi correspondent of the *Bombay Chronicle* writes:—

In order to help the Indians in South Africa in preparing their case for the Commission, Mr. C. F. Andrews is leaving for South Africa about the 20th instant. Mr. Andrews goes on behalf of, and as representative of the Imperial Citizenship Association. It will be remembered that Mr. Andrews together with Mr. Pearson has been already in South Africa and done valuable work there. He then came in close touch with the late General Botha and General Smuts and other leading members of the Union Parliament. He is therefore quite conversant with the situation there. Mr. Andrews expects to stay in South Africa for over two months.

In an editorial note the *Chronicle* writes:—

Mr. Andrews' decision to go to South Africa to help the Indian community in preparing their case for the Commission, now said to be postponed, will be hailed with gratitude by the people of this country. As he is familiar with the situation in the colony, he will be able to do valuable service to the cause of Indians. On the last occasion when Mr. Andrews visited the colony he was an ordained minister of religion; he has retained it as the cardinal principle of his life to reach every scene of suffering, and a better illustration of practical christianity it would be almost difficult to recall. Not through lack of talent but through choice, Mr. Andrews has been avoiding the role of the politician. Whether in South Africa, in Australia, in Fiji, or in Ceylon, or in Punjab, his mission has been that of the real evangelist whose message consists of deeds worthy of the gospel of which he is, in spite of the misgivings of professed Christians, still the exponent; for, faith without works is dead. We are glad that Mr. Andrews is being deputed by the Imperial Citizenship Association to help the cause of Indians in South Africa. With saintly character he combines the virtue of sound and balanced judgment. Considering the word of caution recently uttered by Mr. Gandhi on the need of patient co-operation with the best elements in South Africa, Mr. Andrews would be the ideal envoy from India. We wish him all success.

THE VICEROY SPEAKS
INTERESTS OF INDIANS ABROAD

In the course of his reply to the Joint Addresses from Madras, his Excellency the Viceroy speaking on Nov. 24th, said:—

More than one address has alluded to the interests of Indians abroad. I may assure you my Government have done and will do all that lies in their power to protect these interests. Difficulties have arisen in many parts of the world sometimes within the British Empire and sometimes outside it. The difficulty, however, which is most before your eyes, is that which has recently arisen in South Africa, and here I must refer to the great loss which we have all suffered by the death of General Botha. India as well as the rest of the Empire is poorer by his death. He has been succeeded by General Smuts as Prime Minister, and I feel that we can rely on his broad-mindedness to secure a careful consideration of the Indian grievances. We have heard from him that the proposed Commission will sit

early in the new year. India, as you have learnt from the message we have recently received from Mr. Montagu, will be represented before and not on the Commission, and our case will be powerfully presented by Sir Benjamin Robertson, and I trust also that the Union Government of South Africa will agree to the inclusion of an Indian Public leader in the deputation. We have been pressing for this strongly, and I have every reason to believe that we shall succeed.

INDIANS IN FIJI

Reference has also been made to Indians in Fiji and the conditions of labour. During the last few years the conditions of labour have no doubt been improved but not, I am afraid, to the extent which we have demanded. Consequently, I pressed for the cancellation of all outstanding indentures by the end of the present year. The Secretary of State for the Colonies has agreed to the cancellation of all indentures on all estates on which the principal reforms recommended by Mr. Andrews, have not been carried out, on the 1st January, 1920. But I am not satisfied with this and I have asked the Secretary of State to ascertain what would be the cost of commuting the remaining indentures and freeing every Indian labourer in Fiji on the 1st of January next. The interests of Indians in the former colonies of German Empire will, I hope, be safeguarded by Article 22 of the Treaty of Peace, which provides that the mandatory powers responsible for the administration of such territory must observe conditions which will secure equal opportunities for the trade and commerce of other members of the League of Nations of which, I may remind you, India is an original member.

In regard to Armistice anniversary celebrations in India, Mr. Gandhi addressed the following letter to the Press:—

"Several friends have enquired what should be the position regarding the forthcoming Peace celebrations. On the Khilafat day, I know that resolutions were passed at some meetings to the effect that the Mahomedans could not participate in the celebrations if the Khilafat question was not satisfactorily settled, as there can be no peace in Indian estimation. So long as the great question remains unsolved and the Mahomedan sentiment is in danger of being lacerated and millions of Mahomedans remaining in suspense or grief, it is hardly possible for the Hindus, Parsis, Christians, Jews and others for whom India is the land of their adoption or birth, to take part in the forthcoming rejoicings. I venture to think that his Excellency the Viceroy can, if he will, tell His Majesty's Ministers that Indians cannot participate in the celebrations so long as the Khilafat question remains unsettled, and I do hope that His Majesty's Ministers will recognise the necessity of securing and publishing an honourable settlement of the question before asking us to take part in the Peace celebrations."

BOOKS FOR SALE

To be obtained from the *Indian Opinion Press*, Phoenix, Natal. Postal Orders to be made payable at Durban.

We have just received the following books from India. The prices given include cost of postage:—

	Price post free s. d.
Mr. Gandhi's Speeches and Writings—1896 to 1917	3 3
Mrs. Annie Besant — A Sketch of her Life	0 7
Tales of Mariada Raman	0 7
The Son-in-Law Abroad	0 7
Maitreyi	0 7
Tales of Raja Birbal	0 7
Essentials of Hinduism	1 1½
Aspects of the Vedanta	1 8

Printed and Published by Manilal M. Gandhi at Phoenix Settlement, Phoenix, Natal.