

# Indian Opinion

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## NOTES AND NEWS

BY the time these lines are read, Mr. Andrews will have left Durban for India. All appeals to prolong his stay in South Africa have failed. Mr. Andrews feels that he has given the utmost time possible to the investigation of our position. His work in India is far too important to allow of any extension of the already very long absence.

At the time of writing, a farewell reception is being arranged to give a "send off" to our guest. We hope to give a report in our next issue.

We understand that Mr. Andrews has been permitted to present a written statement to the Asiatic Commission. This will largely compensate for his absence and will constitute a valuable contribution towards a reasonable and just settlement.

Mr. Nadirsha Cama and son with Mr. Sorabji Rustomjee returned from India this week by the *Karagola*. Mr. Cama says that there is a marked change for the better in the public spirit prevailing throughout India.

We understand that the matter of the revised rentals at the Durban Indian Market has again been postponed and that the stallholders are sending another deputation to meet the Markets Committee.

The following significant paragraph appears in the Durban Council Minutes (though omitted from the newspapers) regarding the sanitary workers' barracks in Brickhill Road:—

These Corporation barracks are in a very bad state of repair, and the drivers of the Sanitary Carts have threatened to strike on account of the condition of their dwellings. We have directed that the Borough Engineer be instructed to proceed with the work of repairing these Barracks at once.

Evidently the Corporation Indian employees are beginning to realise their needs. Good luck to them!

One of the Labour candidates at Pietermaritzburg, Mr. T. Strachan, in reply to a question, stated that he was in favour of coloured female franchise, basing this upon the party's adhesion to the equality of women. The answer (says the *Natal Mercury*) created some little surprise, especially among the conservative element and it remains to be seen how far this doctrine of equality all round will work out at the polls.

It is an indubitable fact (says the writer of "Ecclesiastical Notes" in the *Natal Mercury*) that the Indians have been changed in one marked particular by their residence in Natal. In India the amount of liquor consumed, and the number of cases of drunkenness is comparatively trivial, compared with relative statistics

in Natal. There is no competent observer who will challenge the statement that the Natal Indians are a marked contrast to their countrymen at Home in regard to this particular vice. The prosperity of our sugar industry has, as a by-product, the debauching of scores of Indians by cane spirit.

Whilst at Kampala, Uganda, Mr. Andrews obtained the following testimonial from Dr. Cook:—"It is my deliberate opinion that the Indians are less prone to immorality than any other community in East Africa." Sir Apollo Kagwa, the minister, declared without a moment's hesitation that the settlement of Indians is always welcome to Uganda which is indebted to the Indians for its fertility and prosperity.

— From the figures published by the *Times*, which it says, "have the sanction of official authority", it appears that the contribution of India in men during the war almost equalled the contributions made by Canada, Australia, New Zealand and South Africa put together. India supplied 1,401,305 men as compared with Canada, 640,886; Australia, 416,809; New Zealand 220,099; and South Africa, 136,070. The total of the self-governing colonies came to 1,413,864. Truly has India more than vindicated her imperial loyalty.—*Leader*, Allahabad.

A correspondent signing herself "British-woman" writes to the "*Pioneer*" as follows.—Sir,—It may interest English women to know that a memorial has been raised to General Dyer by the Sikhs in the form of a shrine in the Golden Temple close to that General John Nicholson. While the scurrilous abuse of a few is given a great prominence, this grateful and graceful action on the part of one of the finest races in India should not be allowed to pass unnoticed.

Enquiries made by the Associated Press on the spot from the *Granthies* and *Pujaries* of the Golden Temple and responsible Sikh citizens of Amritsar shows that there is no truth in the statement that has appeared in the *Pioneer* and other papers that a memorial has been raised to General Dyer by the Sikhs in the form of a shrine in the Golden Temple close to that of General Nicholson. No memorial has up to this time been erected to General Dyer in the Golden Temple and none exists for General Nicholson either. Sardar Gur-bux-Singh Giani, bar-at-law, Amritsar, secretary of the Sikh League and manager in charge of the buildings of the Golden Temple has sent the following telegram to the *Tribune* and the *C. & M. Gazette* Lahore: 'In reply to the Associated Press personal enquiries I wire on behalf of Amritsar Sikhs that no memorial has been erected in memory of General Dyer in the Golden Temple and none exists for General Nicholson either.'

The hon. Mr. Srinivasa Sastri delivered a speech at Madura on 'The coming political situation.' The Rajah of Ramnad was in the chair. We take the following passage from the *Hindu's* report:—

"The hon. Mr. Sastri, who on rising was received

with applause, started his lecture with the words 'Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen' and before he could even begin his first sentence, shouts of Tamil, Tamil were heard. Mr. Sastriar wanted to make an explanation, but he was not allowed. The Chairman intervened and said that the lecture was advertised to be in English and it was not right to ask the lecturer to speak in Tamil. Again, some among the audience shouted Tamil, Tamil, and they were not inclined to hear the words of the Chairman. Mr. Sastriar attempted to make headway but it was impossible for him to proceed amidst the considerable noise raised by the young men at the extreme end of the hall who persisted in interrupting every one that stood on the platform to speak in English. Mr. Sastriar next explained in Tamil that it was more convenient for him to address in English and in the meeting notice it was definitely stated that his lecture would be in English. Even this explanation would not satisfy the people for whom it was intended and still they went on creating disturbance, crying Tamil, Tamil. Mr. K. R. Venkatarama Aiyer, the principal organiser of the meeting, at this stage stepped on the platform and warned the obstructionist against their ill-conceived behaviour. More than ten minutes having thus been spent in interruptions, explanations and warnings, Mr. Sastriar was allowed to go on with his speech in English."

#### FAREWELL!

**D**URING the five or six weeks Mr. Andrews has been in South Africa he has had a most strenuous time. Every moment has been most unselfishly devoted to the study of our difficult problems. He has lost no opportunity of meeting both Indians and Europeans of all shades of opinion. His considered views will, therefore, be of the utmost value. We are glad that he has been given permission to present a written statement to the Commission. Many of our people have felt that, in view of our disappointment in not having the Hon. Mr. Sastri or other Indian leader to co-operate with Sir Benjamin Robertson, Mr. Andrews should stay to give evidence. This he has found impossible to do. Mr. Andrews has been away from India for many months, and during that time the great work he is engaged in at Shantiniketan in co-operation with our national poet, Rabindranath Tagore—the work of building up a great national university—has been neglected. This we ought to recognise. If we are only far-seeing enough we shall realise that the work of education, to which Mr. Andrews has devoted his life, is far more vital than the question of whether we shall be able to do business of our own land in South Africa, serious as these matters are to us. If we go deep down into the causes of our troubles in this country we cannot come to any other conclusion than that they have their source in a general lack of education. This is not the fault of the Indian people in South Africa. It is their misfortune. But the blame will undoubtedly rest upon the present generation if the children who are born here are not better educated and more fully equipped to hold their position as respected citizens of South Africa. Those who have been in close touch with Mr. Andrews have been impressed with his earnestness and fair dealing. We are sure that the many Europeans with whom he has associated have also been impressed in the same way. Nothing can be gained by bolstering up a bad case or shutting one's eyes to faults on either side. If, therefore, Mr. Andrews tells us and the Commission what our faults are, we must be grateful. For it is only

by admitting our weaknesses and being determined to overcome them that we shall be strong to withstand the forces which would destroy us.

Mr. Andrews' visit has been an inspiration to us, and we offer to him our heartfelt thanks for his selfless devotion to our cause. We are sure that the influence of his visit will remain with us after his departure. Mr. Andrews, amid all the distracting disturbances inevitable under the circumstances, has completed his series of articles on the Indian question, and these, together with the statement he will address to the Commission, will be a permanent and solid demonstration of his great gift of investigating, in a fair and unbiased manner, one of the most vital questions affecting the British Empire. In saying "farewell" to Mr. Andrews, we lose his presence, but we know that, in all our future struggles towards a better life, we shall have with us in spirit our dear friend and well-wisher. May God's blessing go with him and enrich his labours on behalf of our Motherland—which he has also made his own—with an abundant harvest!

#### THE VICEROY'S SPEECH

In the course of his speech at the opening of the Indian Legislative Council last January the Viceroy dealt thus on the African Question:—

##### INDIANS IN AFRICA

Since we met last September anxieties regarding the future of our Indian fellow-subjects in South Africa have increased rather than diminished. As you have read in the papers a recent decision of the Transvaal Provincial Court endangers rights which we hoped had been secured beyond dispute by the Act of last summer, I would however renew most earnestly my plea for calmness. In a few weeks probably South Africa will be in the throes of a general election. It will only injure those whom we desire to help if agitation here forces the Indian question to the front as an election issue. Already I think by steady and moderate representations we have done much to ensure a friendly hearing for our case. We have now been informed that the long awaited Commission will probably assemble about the end of February. The personnel of the Commission and the terms of reference have not yet been announced. But we understand that the Chairman will be a high judicial officer and that the enquiry will be limited to the right to trade and to own fixed property in the four provinces of the Union. Sir B. Robertson sailed yesterday for South Africa to represent our case before the Commission and we earnestly hope that his skill and experience will avail to effect an honourable settlement. Meanwhile fresh difficulties are rising in the British East African Protectorate. As yet we know no more than what has appeared in the press regarding the report of the East African Economic Commission. I need not assure you that my Government will do everything in its power to defend Indian interests against this new attack. I may remind you, however, that this report as Col. Amery has already declared in the House of Commons, must not be regarded as representing the views of the Government of East Africa, still less of the Imperial Government with whom the final decision will lie. British East Africa is not a self-governing dominion and the position of the Government of India is and always will be that there is no justification in a Crown Colony or Protectorate for assigning to British Indians a status in any way inferior to that of any other class of His Majesty's subjects. With the support of the Secretary of State we have steadily pressed this view on the Colonial Office and we have asked the Secretary of State to see to it that Indian interests are fully represented at the forthcoming

discussions in London between Lord Milner and the Governot of East Africa.

#### Fiji and BRITISH GUIANA

While in some parts of the Empire we have these difficulties, other parts are eager to attract Indian settlers. There are now two deputations in India one from British Guiana and one from Fiji who have come here to persuade us to re-open emigration to these colonies on a new basis. The British Guiana deputation have put forward a scheme of free emigration with State assistance which deserves, I think, our careful consideration. The Fiji Government have also given proof of their desire to enter on new and happier relations with this country by cancelling unconditionally all the outstanding indentures and by declaring their intention of introducing at an early date measures to provide for the representation of the Indian community in the Legislative Council of Fiji on an elective basis. I wish, however, to make it clear that the position which was taken up by Lord Hardinge's Government still holds good. It is not the duty of India to provide labour for British Colonies. But if the Colonies offer Indians a wider and more prosperous career than that which they can look for in their own homes, then we should not stand in the way. Our duty then will be to protect the ignorant Indian emigrant against misrepresentations and to see that such guarantees are given as will safeguard his interests as a free settler in the country to which he goes. We propose that a Committee of this Council should meet the deputations, discuss with them the conditions on which it would be possible to re-open emigration and report their conclusions to the Government. Sir George Barnes will move a resolution to this effect. I would suggest that the Committee should be in a large measure if not entirely composed of unofficial Indian members, for the question is one which concerns Indians alone and we intended to be guided by the findings of the committee. I think Hon'ble Members would wish me to express our appreciation of the success which Sir George Barnes has achieved by his untiring efforts in this matter of indentured labour.

#### IS MR. GANDHI ANTI-BRITISH?

##### A PUBLIC STATEMENT BY HIMSELF

In reply to an article appearing in an Anglo-Indian paper, Mr. Gandhi writes as follows:—

I thank you too for putting me the question, you have put. They enable me to explain my position more fully than, perhaps it has been done by my writings and speeches. As to your first question I don't wish and have never wished to embarrass Government and I have never worked up an anti-British campaign for any cause whatsoever. My personal religion would forbid me to do either one or the other, but sometime one's right conduct does embarrass those who do not for the moment appreciate it and in that sense, I admit, that my conduct like that of any reformer has embarrassed the people, but I cannot be accused of partiality. The relentless pursuit of Truth and conduct flowing from it have embarrassed the dearest ones, not excluding my wife and children but I was no more anti-the dear-ones than I am anti-British. I have the privilege of friendship or goodwill of hundreds of Englishmen and English women and I would be unworthy of their friendship or goodwill if I harboured anti-British feelings. My stubborn opposition to some acts of the British Government must not be mistaken for un-friendliness. Such peculiar notions are entertained about friendliness and loyalty in India that any strong expression of displeasure in regard to acts of Government passes for disloyalty. You will agree with me that he who dares to utter unpalatable truths must in such an atmosphere be as rare as virtue.

As to your second question, I confess that my regard

for the claims of Turks is derived totally from my regard for my fellow-countrymen the Mahomedans. I should forfeit the right to call them fellow-countrymen if I did not feel for them in everything vitally affecting them, provided that their cause was just. The peace of my country is likely to be placed in jeopardy not by my earnest efforts to guide the Mahomedan feeling in the right channel, but it certainly will be jeopardised by any thoughtless or ignorant action of the British Ministers, and I venture to claim that I have rendered a service of the highest order by advising the Mahomedans of India to express their sentiments in a restrained manner and by advising the Hindus to make a common cause with them. You are right, however, in questioning the wisdom of my going against the opinions of men like Gladstone, Morley and Bryce, for whom I certainly entertain high regard, but the necessity for the question really arises from your not knowing Mahomedan claim for Turkey. I invite you to study their viewpoint. They ask for nothing that has not been granted to the other Powers or that was not vouchsafed to them by British Ministers themselves. Their claim, as you may be aware, has been backed by a majority of ex-Governors and other distinguished Anglo-Indians. What has the treatment or ill-treatment of the subject races by the Turks to do with the Khalifat question. Is the integrity of Turkey or the Turks' custody of the Holy Places of Islam to be wrenched from the Turks in order to safeguard the rights of subject races? If you, as a journalist and an Englishman, would preserve the peace of India, and would have India to celebrate Peace in a true manner, you would ask Englishmen living in India to make common cause with the Mahomedans and thus let the British Ministers know the real feeling of India, so that justice might be done whilst there is time.

#### FAREWELL TO MR. C. F. ANDREWS AT MARITZBURG

On Sunday, March 7th, 1920, on his return from Capetown, Mr. C. F. Andrews paid his second and farewell visit to Maritzburg, arriving there at 3.45 p.m. and staying till the following morning. He was again the guest of Mr. C. Nullich, and was received at the station by a large body of leading Indians. A gathering had been called in the Hall of the Hindu Young Men's Association, the Tamil Community acting as hosts, a teaparty had been arranged. In spite of the bad weather, the Hall was very full and every leading Indian was present. A large number of speeches were made by Mahomedan and Hindu leaders, and the whole meeting lasted for more than three hours. Mr. Andrews, in returning thanks for all the kindness he had received during his visit to South Africa, mentioned specially the depth of his feeling of sympathy and affection towards the poorer Indians of the labouring class, who were so numerous in Natal. He had greatly hoped, that, after the £3 tax had been repealed, and the indenture system had been abolished, there would have been a very great improvement in the state of the Indian labourers on the sugar plantations. But what he had seen with his own eyes, during his visits to the country districts of Natal, had not fulfilled those expectations. He had been greatly disappointed, and he was certain from what he had seen that the sugar plantation labourers as a whole were being underpaid and badly housed and that a great deal of profiteering had been going on unchecked. The Indian appeared to be 'played off' against the native labourer in order to keep down the rise in wages. Mr. Andrews doubted very much whether the wages had gone up in proportion to the prices. As far as he could judge, the general state of the Indian labourers was worse than what he had seen in 1914. The housing was, in very many cases, inferior to anything that he had seen in Fiji, Malaya, Ceylon, or on estates in India itself. He had

come to the convinced conclusion, that labourers of this type, who could not 'make good,' would be much better off in India itself. He intended to propose definitely, on his return to India, that inducements should be offered to the poorest class among them,—who showed no signs of bettering themselves and rising into independence,—to return to India and start afresh in their own home surroundings. It was remarkable how many were eagerly seeking to obtain return passages and were going by any ship they could find. If the shipping difficulty had not been so very great, owing to the shortage due to the war, many thousands more would by this time have returned. The return to India of these Indian labourers,—who had been crushed down by the indenture system of the past and not been able to rise again afterwards,—would not weaken the Indian position in Natal, but would rather strengthen it. Mr. Andrews went on to tell his audience that, on his return, he would do his utmost to obtain some rice, other than Rangoon rice, which might be used by the poorer Indians in Natal. He would also see if anything could be done with regard to remittances on the part of poorer Indians to India, which at present were ruinously expensive, owing to the rate of the exchange of the rupee.

There was a large gathering of Indians at the station next morning to wish Mr. Andrews farewell and a safe journey back to India.

#### CAPETOWN WELCOMES MR. C. F. ANDREWS

The visit of Mr. C. F. Andrews to Capetown had been delayed owing to many causes, but on February 27th he arrived by way of Harrismith after spending three nights and three days in the train, without halting anywhere on the way. During his stay in Capetown he was the guest of Dr. Gool and his sisters at 7 Buitencingle at the same house where he had stopped with Mr. and Mrs. Gandhi on his earlier visit to South Africa.

Various gatherings were arranged on each evening of the week during which Mr. Andrews stayed in Capetown and Indians belonging to all sections of the community were present on these occasions. A noticeable feature of Mr. Andrews' visit was the way in which any minor differences were laid aside and a complete unity was established. The coming Commission was discussed and every question concerning it was carefully gone into. It was decided to appear before the Commission in order to answer any attack which might be made on Indian rights and privileges.

During his visit Mr. C. F. Andrews was granted an interview with the Governor General, Lord Buxton. He also saw Mr. Merriman, Mr. Alexander and others. He gained permission to leave behind him a statement to be laid before the Commission in his absence. A great deal of Mr. Andrews' time was taken up with seeing officials connected with different departments, and also in preparing the way among the Indians themselves for the Commission. He was able, in addition, to prepare his statement for the Commission and to finish a series of articles which will be published in the newspapers after the elections are over. An article by him will also appear in the *South African Quarterly Review*, entitled "India and Africa."

#### MR. C. F. ANDREWS VISIT TO LADYSMITH

On his way back from Capetown, Mr. C. F. Andrews halted for a few hours at Ladysmith on Sunday morning, March 7th. He was received by the Headmaster of the Indian School, Mr. Thomas, and also by Mr. Raghunath Singh and other Indian friends. A Conference of Indian Headmasters from different parts of Natal had been held on the previous evening at Ladysmith, and Mr. Andrews met the Conference after

his arrival and discussed with them Indian educational questions in detail. He then went to inspect the Ladysmith Indian School. This school had a special interest, because Mr. Andrews himself had been asked by the Indians of Ladysmith to open it six years ago, in February 1914. He was much struck by the rapid growth of the school since then, and also by the perfect cleanliness of everything and the orderly arrangement. After inspecting the school, Mr. Andrews went to the Church to attend the Sunday evening service. He afterwards visited several Indian homes including those of Mr. Raghunath Singh, and also of Mr. Gopal Narain, the Court Interpreter. The whole visit was compressed into a short space of time and ended very happily. The Indians of Ladysmith were glad to have the opportunity of offering their welcome.

#### HOW FREEDOM CAME TO SOUTH AFRICA

BY AN OLD SOLDIER

The following issued by the International Socialist League, will be read with interest:—

Scene: A country, sub-tropical; inhabitants heathen—of course; climate—ideal for cotton, rubber, etc.

The natives have lived content for thousands of years, starvation and syphilitic (Syphilitised) society are unknown.

A narrow-pated Curate (with visions of himself wearing a Bishop's tall hat at some future date) is selected and duly lauded, with his oughts and crosses, and other tricks of the profession, and gets to work with his Balsam and Bunkham, confusing and muddling the mind of the native. We leave him at it.

Hot upon his heels comes the "White Trader" (?)—(we will query him)—he introduces the dop bottle, which further mixes the native's brain.

A Shandy between the gas of the Curate and bad dop produces the effect desired. Somebody gets hurt. Reports are cabled through that the white inhabitants are being massacred—(the usual journalistic trimmings function here).—

Troops are rushed to the scene, and a few thousand natives of the country are swept off the earth by machinery. Order is restored, and a garrison of troops remain while the future rulers of the country take up a Constitution to suit themselves.

A Fossilised Parasite is selected from the privileged class and elected (or appointed) as Governor.

An official banquet is held, terminating with the usual septic speeches. The military band plays "God save the king," accompanied by the wheezy voices from overlaid stomachs.

The Union Jack is hoisted over a building, and another spasm from the band, and the natives are free—free to do what is allowed by the law, with a law always in reserve—i.e. Martial Law—under which any insane official in temporary command can annihilate and mutilate the people by stating that the occasion called for drastic action (a la General Dyer in India), and so from fear, through force, the native has become civilised (i.e. syphilitised), and the stranglehold of Capitalism leads him off to work the rubber plantations, cotton fields, etc.

The General Officer is made K.C.M.G. Other officers, according to seniority, get all the letters in the alphabet between them.

The Curate gets his funny hat. The Traders snatch up with soft jobs that are going, and become permanent parasites on the community.

The Tommy, he gets a medal worth about 2s. 3d., and walks about coaking a chest, when he is not down with ague and fever; and the Native—he is presented with the Order of the British Empire, of the umpteenth class, which carries with it the privilege of working either outside or inside of a jail. But under the Union Jack he is Free. As Pat ses, "Yes, by Jaysus."

## A FAREWELL MESSAGE

By MR. C. F. ANDREWS

If it were at all possible for me to stay over the Commission, I would gladly do so, but it is out of the question. I have already remained away from my work in India for longer than I expected; and I have had very serious warnings, with regard to health, that the strain I have been through cannot be continued indefinitely. The doctor, when I consulted in British East Africa, urged me some months ago to take a complete rest, in order to avoid a break down; and, not once, but many times over, since then, I have felt the danger. Apart from any other reasons, it would not be right for me to stay at such a time, and risk a complete break down in health, as well as break my engagement to return to India.

I know the very great disappointment that it has been to all, to know that the Hon. Srinivasa Sastri has not been able to come out along with Sir Benjamin Robertson. It was natural, therefore, that the request which has come to me from all sides, that I should stay and take his place,—however difficult, say impossible, such a thing would be,—should be very urgently made. I have felt the full force of it, and, as I have said, if it were possible I would gladly stay, but it is not.

Moreover, there is a positive reason for my going, as well as a negative one. I have been allowed to make my statement before the Commission in writing and therefore as far as that one important point is concerned my absence will not be felt. My opinions will be fully known. I am also publishing in the Press, and in pamphlet form, a series of articles which will give my position more fully even than the statement. This will be all actually accomplished, as far as the present Commission is concerned. But far beyond this Commission in importance, is the much longer issue as to what will be done by legislation after the Commission, when the new Parliament sits. By the time that this article is published, the election results will be known. The new Parliament is not likely to be more favourable to the Indian cause than the last Parliament. The most that we can hope for is that it will not be less favourable. After the Commission, legislation is certain and legislation will not long be delayed. In East Africa, also, the issues are most critical and they are immediate. During this month and next month very grave questions in East Africa are to be decided. So then, whether we regard South Africa or East Africa the problem is one problem, the issue is one issue, and it will be decided very soon.

Now, this is the positive point I wish to make clear. At present, there is no one at all in India, whether Indian or European, who has covered the whole ground of the Indian position in Africa. Sir George Barnes has stayed a short time in South Africa but he has not been to East Africa. Sir Benjamin Robertson will stay in East Africa on his return, but that return cannot be for some months. There is needed in India someone now, who has studied the whole subject. The future struggle, both in South Africa and East Africa, has to be prepared for, and this cannot be done without information given at first hand.

My very dear friends and companions, with whom I have been living and working all these weeks in so many different places, I must go. The call has come to me now as clearly to go back to India, as it came to me many months ago to come out to Africa. As I have told you so many times, I am not a politician, but from first to last my heart has been given to religion, and it is on that account, and on that account alone, that I have come out. I have felt the call to go back to India and you must not seek to dissuade me from it; for the voice that calls me is not my own, but a higher voice within.

What I have been trying all these months to do, is to tell you,—in deeds rather than in words,—not to trust too much to human affairs or to man's cleverness or to the power of money, in order to accomplish what is

true and just and right, but rather to listen to the inner voice within the heart and to follow its directions. And just as I have asked you silently to be true to that inner voice, even so I must be true to it also and you must joyfully let me go back, with the certainty that I shall be able to help the cause of what is true and just and right far more by going back than by staying on in South Africa.

My love will always be with you, and I trust that I shall never cease to pray and work for you in India, even when other duties may take up most of my time. For this second visit has made me feel, far more deeply than before, the greatness of your need. May God be with you.

## INDIANS IN UGANDA

LETTER TO MR. ANDREWS

Delhi, Jan. 24.—Mr. C. F. Andrews before leaving Mombassa received the following letter from the Prime Minister and Chief Justice of Native Parliament dated Lukiko Mengo, Uganda, 22nd December:—

Dear Sir,—With reference to our meeting with you in our Native Parliament this morning we beg to confirm in writing our opinion we expressed on the following two points which came out, namely (a) We do want the Indians to remain in our country as we consider that their being here would improve our country and would do us a lot of good and would do no harm to the country. Besides, we find them moral people. We would of course like better Indians. (b) We do not want our country to be united to any other Protectorate for we consider that if this was done, it would greatly interfere with our Uganda treaty of 1900, and our customs. We have other reasons besides. Therefore we would very much like this Protectorate to remain as it is.

We thank you for your coming to see us and our Native Parliament and we wish you a pleasant voyage.—Yours truly, Apolo Kagwa, Prime Minister, Staisles Enganya, Chief Justice, Ministers of the Native Parliament.

The *Nation* (London) writes as follows about the Jhallianwala Bagh, massacre at Amritsar:—

What indeed can be clearer than that the notion of Empire needs revision? The concept of force, based in its turn on that of Government by pro-consuls, and an imported and highly trained officialism, has got into the heads of a rude soldiery and played sad havoc there. These men are Roman in their ideas (so far as they have any ideas at all) and have an inflated belief in the power of military science to keep liberty down. With tanks and aeroplanes and machine guns, think these wisecracks, an army of occupation can do anything. The military view is certainly nonsense, as the Indian border warfare has shown; the political one is simply poison in our State. Somehow the liberal idea of Empire must be restored, and harmonized with the later movement of "self-determination," or we shall become the bullies of the world, hating the races we "govern" and hated by them in return. That is one of the many reasons why the call for a new governing class is so urgent. The men who are soiling the name of the governing Englishman must be made to feel that they have new masters, who will be just to them, but will tolerate no such horrible pranks as those of Lahore and Amritsar.

The following telegram has been sent by Advocate Gabriel, Newcastle to the Prime Minister, Pretoria:—

"Mass Meeting Indians Newcastle District emphatically protests against action Government appointing Commission inquire Land and Trading Questions only when Parliament was assured that whole Indian Question will be dealt with by Commission. Same announced by you in Durban and also understood by

Imperial and Indian Governments. Respectfully urge terms of reference include all grievances tabulated recently by South African Indian Congress."

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