

# Indian Opinion

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## NOTES AND NEWS

**I**NTEREST in the Amritsar case has been revived by the return of General Dyer from India (says the Natal Advertiser London Correspondent.) Interviewed by The Daily Mail, General Dyer said:—"I shot to save the British Raj, to preserve India for the Empire and to protect English men and English women, who looked to me for protection, and now I am told to go for doing my duty—my horrible, dirty duty." General Dyer contends that if he did anything wrong he should have been court-martialed.

Capetown, May 4, (Reuter).—At a meeting of the Moslem community in the City Hall on Sunday, at which Dr. Abdurahman, M.P.C., presided, a resolution was unanimously adopted to the following effect: "That Moslems express their loyalty to the King and British Empire; that they learn with deep regret and much apprehension of the contemplated partition of Turkey, and emphatically protest against the proposed dismemberment, and that they express deep devotion to Khalifa as spiritual head of Islam; that they view with indignation and enter a solemn protest against the attempted impairment of the status of the Khalifat; that sacred places and shrines in Arabia should remain under the direct control of the Khalifa; they respectfully remind the British Prime Minister of the declaration of Jan. 5, 1918, that the Allies were not fighting to deprive Turkey of her Capital or rich lands in Asia Minor. That they respectfully and earnestly beseech the British Government to fulfil the above pledge given in the name of the British Empire and Allies to the Moslem word."

The foregoing has been telegraphed to Mr. Lloyd George.

It is understood that a strike of the Indian waiters at the Kenilworth Tea Rooms on the Beach, had taken place last week. It appears that the Indians were perturbed at the employment of temporary help in the shape of natives, but matters were soon arranged, and no further trouble anticipated.

It is notified by the Durban Postmaster, that on and after the 10th inst., the following alterations in post and telegraph rates and charges come into operation:—

Letter postage rates 1½ per oz. in case where charge was formerly 1d per ½ oz. Postcards one penny; reply post cards, twopence.

Private Post Boxes.—An additional charge of 5s. in each case, not retrospective.

Telegraph Tariff.—Telegraph tariff, 1d. per word, with minimum 1s. 3d. for 12 words. Night letter telegrams, minimum charge 1s. 3d. for 24 words, 3d. for every additional six words or portion thereof. On telegrams accepted on Sundays, Good Friday and Christmas Day, 50 per cent. additional to tariff charged on week days.

It is understood that the report of the Hunter Commission of inquiry is in the hands of the Secretary of India, and may be published before the middle of the month.

London, May 5.—An appeal was made to-day in the remarkable case in which Bank of England prosecuted seven persons under the Defence of the Realm Act, which prohibits the melting down of gold coin. The case resulted in all the mail defendants, including a barrister and two Hatton Garden merchants, being found guilty, and sentenced to six months' imprisonment in the second class. A woman defendant, wife of the barrister, was bound over. The appeal was dismissed, but the sentences were altered to a fine of £500 in each case.—Reuter.

We learn that the Asiatic Commission has now completed its inquiries and has proceeded to Capetown last Tuesday.

Owing to short space and time we have not been able to give in this issue, the reports of the evidences given at Maritzburg and Dundee. We hope to do so in our next.

### THE ASIATIC COMMISSION

#### MORE EVIDENCES IN DURBAN

##### ASSISTANT TOWN CLERK

H. H. Kemp, Assistant Town Clerk, Durban, put in a statement before the Commission in which he summarised his views on the Asiatic question, in which he stated that he was absolutely opposed to Asiatics as traders and settlers in this country for social and economic reasons as distinct from grounds of colour or race, and his only remedy for the thorny question was the complete repatriation of all Indians, lock, stock and barrel, with expropriation of their property, subject to reasonable compensation.

Several questions were asked the witness as to the possibility or justice of deporting Colonial-born Indians, whose home was in this country, and also how the enormous expense of expropriation was to be met, especially the justice of expecting a Province like the Free State, where Indians are few, to pay for the repatriation of Indians whom Natal had introduced, or helped to introduce, into the country. Mr. Kemp, however, regarded the question as a national one, the expense of which had to be faced by the State, especially as all the Provinces had pooled their assets when they went into Union.

##### MR. LEON RENAUD GIVES EVIDENCE

Mr. Leon Renaud, advocate, Durban, and also a member of the Durban Town Council, in giving evidence before the Asiatic Commission said that he had been watching the Asiatic question for the past 35 years, and gave an interesting historical account of its progress during that time, showing how, in his opinion, the Indians had played a very important part in the making of Natal and the coast sugar industry, as well as the railway development which had taken place in the coastal areas. If, as Mr. Moor, Mr. Lloyd George, Mr. Millerand and others had said, we must consume less and produce more, he contended that the Indian had done much in the way of production, so far as

Natal was concerned. He expressed himself as absolutely against compulsory repatriation, but in view of the known shortage of labour and the good opening for Indians in India, he was of opinion that if arrangements were made between the two Governments and a proper permanent official appointed here, who would be able to offset inducements to South African Indians to proceed to India, many Indians in this country would be found willing to go voluntarily.

#### NATAL FARMERS' GRIEVANCES

A deputation of farmers appointed by the Natal Agricultural Union at a conference held in Maritzburg last month, submitted at the final sitting of the Commission in Durban the following resolution embodying the views of the Conference in relation to the ownership of land, etc., by Asiatics, viz: "This Conference records its considered opinion that the Asiatic problem presents a serious menace to the Union of South Africa, and recommends: (a) While recognising that the existing tenure of land by Asiatics should not be interfered with, no further acquisition of land by purchase, lease, or other means by Asiatics should be allowed.

(b) No new licences shall under any circumstances be issued to Asiatics.

(c) No transfer of any existing licences to any Asiatics shall be permitted, but at the expiry of any licences held by an Asiatic by death of the holder, reasonable compensation for land and trading stocks shall be paid.

(d) That the Government shall legislate on most drastic lines against the holding, by any European or other person, of a licence on behalf of any Asiatic.

(e) At such future date as shall be fixed by legislation, all Asiatic licences now held by companies shall expire, and compensation shall be paid to such holders.

(f) The urgency for this matter calls for immediate settlement by legislation.

The deputation consisted of Messrs. C. E. Hancock, Ixopo; L. D. Gilson, Kokstad; G. T. Van Rooyen, Krantzkop; and W. Stejn, Dundee. All the members of the deputation spoke and freely ventilated their views in regard to the Asiatic menace, which they said had formed the subject of very considerable discussion at the recent Agricultural Conference, and was one of the most important matters on the agenda. Mr. Hancock explained that the Union consisted of some 4,000 farmers belonging to the various Agricultural Societies throughout Natal and Zululand, including sugar farmers, who felt as a class that the continued presence of Asiatics in South Africa was fraught with danger to the welfare of the country so far as the European was concerned, both agriculturally, socially, and economically. He spoke to the manner in which Asiatics had been buying farms, for which for various reasons they were able to give higher prices than the European. Properties were being purchased by these people right in the centre of the European community, and it was only a question of time, and that not so very remote, when practically the whole of Natal would belong to Asiatics. Another point he emphasised was that where property was purchased in this way by the Asiatic, the adjoining properties were depreciated in value. As one of the direct descendants of the settlers of 1820, he viewed with considerable apprehension the prospect of the land on which their fathers had toiled so hard and brought to such a state of perfection, should pass away from themselves and their children into the hands of an alien race. The speaker also dwelt on the store-keeping activities of the Asiatic, and pointed out that in the nature of things his standard of living being lower than the European's, he was able to undersell him in almost every branch of industry. He considered it was necessary that the European farming community should be protected by some legislation on the lines embodied in the resolution submitted.

Mr. Stejn dwelt more on the inefficiency of an Asiatic as an agriculturist, and gave examples from his own district, where farms on which the Indian farmer had been a failure had come into European hands and

were now some of the finest properties in the district. He also gave statistics showing the Asiatic encroachment in the matter of licences, pointing out that he himself was the only survivor of about nine European store-keepers who had business there 30 years ago, all others having been frozen out by the Asiatic trader, and if it were not for his farm he himself would have succumbed long before now. He also referred to the degeneration of the Indian race which was going on, both physical and morally. He mentioned an instance where an Indian living on one farm was married to a white woman, while his brother on the neighbouring property was married to a native. He asked if the progeny of these two brothers married what nationality their offspring was likely to be. He also spoke on the necessity of curtailing the Asiatic privileges in the matter of licences.

Mr. Van Rooyen devoted himself chiefly to the licensing question pointing out that practically every country store in Umvoti County outside the Native locations was in the hands of the Asiatic, and the farmers were practically powerless. There was valuable land in the county, and with the peaceful penetration of the Asiatic that land was bound to depreciate in value.

Mr. Gilson also dwelt on the enormous strides made by the Asiatic as a trader during the past 25 years, which was proved by the fact that in several districts of Natal to-day not a single European existed or could exist. He considered that the country had a serious enough problem in the Native one, without also having the Asiatic in competition with them as well. If the growth of the Asiatic trader was not checked by legislation, it was clear that the European trader had got to go.

The members of the deputation were closely questioned by the Chairman, Col. Wylie and other members of the Commission, as to what suggestions they had to bring before the Commission whereby the terms of the resolution they had submitted could be carried into effect in a just and humane manner towards the Asiatics, and particularly such as were Colonial-born, but they stated that they had merely come forward to tell the Commission what the views of the farming community were, and they did not think that it was their province to make suggestions as to how these should be given effect to. That, they considered could be left to Parliament. They admitted that they had not given any instructions to their Parliamentary representatives as regards any definite line of policy. The matter had been mooted during the recent election, but had not been pressed very strongly, as they were informed that this Commission was about to sit to investigate such matters.

The Chairman and others cited cases of hardship which might arise if their suggestion that all Asiatic licences should terminate with the life of the existing holders, as for instance, where the breadwinner died and left a widow and young family. The members of the deputation admitted that they had not sufficiently considered the matter to be able to discuss such points in detail, although they emphasised the wish of the farming community that the claims of justice as well as humanity must have due consideration in any suggested reforms, and that proper compensation should be given where any expropriation of property or repatriation of individuals took place. One member thought that many Asiatics would help to solve the difficulty by voluntarily migrating elsewhere (which was what their ancestors, the European settlers of 1820, had had to do in order to meet economic necessity), when they (the Asiatics) saw that their position in this county was imperilled.

#### STANGER MAGISTRATE'S VIEWS

Mr. A. J. S. Maritz, magistrate at Stanger, stated that he had known the Indian intimately for 30 years, and nine of these in Stanger, where he had a district of some 460 square miles in extent with a Indian

population of between 19,000 and 20,000, and a white population of about 1,200. He had always found the Indians a law abiding, hard working community, employed in various industries, but being the mainstay of the sugar and tea industries. They were also engaged as small farmers on farms ranging from five to 50 or more acres. One farmer, Boda Singh, who had died not long ago, leaving estate worth £100,000, had a farm of 5,000 acres which was all under cane. This man came to South Africa originally as an indentured Indian. Witness instanced another case where an Indian had a farm of 1,000 acres. He also referred to the storekeeping Indians as always willing to help Natives or the poorer Europeans with supplies in times of famine, and allowing them long credit. True, they charged high prices, but the witness said they were not alone in that respect, as Europeans did the same, while they did not allow such long credit. To repatriate these people, he maintained, would be a gross injustice, for they had established themselves here acquired land, and vested rights, and to talk of repatriation was monstrous. He mentioned that Indians were particularly useful as labourers in the tea and cotton industries, being nimble fingered, and much more suitable in picking operations than the Native. Segregation, he thought, would be also most unfair. The only solution he offered was to educate the Indians up to the European standard of living, in other words to try to Europeanise them, and thus to make of them more loyal, law-abiding, and useful citizens. They saw this even now, for the younger generation they found were living on a much better scale than their father ever did. As regards the ousting of the small European trader, witness blamed the European himself for this, for when the Indians arrived in this country they found that the European storekeeper made little or no attempt to supply them with their own particular requirements in the way of food, and so on, and then the Indian trader came into the field to meet an undoubted want, and gradually extended their operations to Natives as well. If the European trader had been sharp enough to grasp the opportunity that was offered, this would probably never have happened—at least to such a large extent. Witness was quite in favour of allowing Indians to continue purchasing land. In many cases they had acted as true pioneers for the European by taking up and reclaiming or improving pieces of waste land, which after being brought into cultivation were sold to the Europeans.

Witness was asking a number of questions by Mr. Wylie and Mr. Helmeyr as well as the chairman, as to the value of land and cane in his district per acre. He considered that about 20,000 acres of land in his district were in the hands of Indians.

Two other witnesses appeared unexpectedly, one of them being an old induna from a kraal near Ndwedwe, who told the Commission, through Mr. Maritz, acting as interpreter, that the chief had sent him down in case the commission might wish to hear Native evidence. The witness said that the message his chief wished to give the Commission was that he appreciated the presence of the Indian trader in his district, and did not wish to see them removed or done away with, for the reason that Natives got all their supplies from them, and always assisted Natives with food, etc., in time of famine or drought.

In reply to questions by the chairman the witness said that there were no European traders there, and never had been any so far as he knew. Previous to the coming of the Indians they had got their supplies from Durban or Maritzburg.

#### MR. ROOKNOODEEN'S EVIDENCE

Mr. Rooknoodeen, a commercial broker and general agent in Durban, said he bought and sold for Indians, and sometimes for Europeans. He had been here since 1902. He was a married man with a son. When

he came here, 18 years ago, the feeling was very strong against Indians, but the position had since considerably improved. The wholesale merchants supplied Indian retailers with goods, and they, in turn, dealt with Europeans as well as Indians. It was better for India, better for South Africa, and for the people that indentured immigration should stop—a fact Indians out here fully realised. He thought many of the Indians would like to leave the country, but not traders already established here. The difficulty arose when cheap labourers were brought into the country. They were uneducated, but it was a significant fact that their children were being educated. Descendants of the labouring people were born in the country, but they would be better citizens if they received better education. The store-keepers commenced with a small capital. The tendency was to leave the business premises, if the work was commercially a success, and buy a house. There was also a tendency for recreation. It all depended upon the state to see Indians had proper and reasonable liberty. "What is good enough for me is not good enough for my boy," remarked the witness. "He wants better collars, better socks, and the State must encourage us in that direction." (Laughter.) There was not necessarily a desire on the part of Indians to live alongside Europeans. When first they did so in Durban there was an outcry in the Press, but now the Indians got on well with their European neighbours. The Indian, as soon as he bought a property, improved it. One of his friends engaged a European to furnish his house with taste, and a gardener to beautify the property.

#### COLONIAL-BORN INDIANS' DEPUTATION

A deputation of Colonial-born Indians consisting of Messrs. J. M. Francis, A. Christopher, V. S. C. Pather, L. Panday, and J. Hoover appeared on behalf of the Colonial-born Indian League, and put in a lengthy statement of their views, which was read by Mr. Christopher who acted as spokesman. In subsequent remarks the speaker elaborated the views of the League as embodied in that statement, emphasising the right of the Colonial-born Indian to live in the country of their birth, for which many of them fought in East Africa and other theatres during the late Great War. He also urged that the numerous statements made as to the insanitary habits of the Indians had no foundation in fact, and quoted extensively from reports by the police, Medical Officer of Health, and Inspector of Nuisances to show that certain diseases which were in themselves an indication of insanitation, were those from which the Indian community were remarkably free. The speaker also pointed out that the Indian localities were the last to have their streets curbed or channelled, and if disease was engendered by stagnant water after rain, he maintained that the Corporation might be blamed for contributory negligence in that respect.

One of the deputationists was a fruit farmer, and Col. Wylie was able to extract a good deal of useful information and data from him as to Indian agriculturists at Malvern and other districts abutting on the main line.

#### MR. WEST'S SUGGESTIONS

The following are the suggestions placed before the Commission by Mr. A. H. West:—

Believing, as I do, that it would be unjust to attempt to repatriate Indians from South Africa, even if such a thing were possible (which, in my opinion, it is not); and that a policy of segregation would be harmful not only to the Indians themselves but to the European population which enforced and tolerated such a policy; the solution lies in adopting the following suggestions:—

#### LAND

1. That there should be no restriction placed upon the ownership of land on racial grounds.
2. That in view of the high cost of living, the

Government and municipal bodies should set an example to others by offering, on lease, all available land to Indians or others for the purpose of cultivation.

3. That landowners when letting bush land for cultivation, should be compelled to give a lease of at least ten years, and for open land at least five years.

4. That all waste land should be taxed so as to bring it under cultivation.

5. That Indian and other farmers should be assisted by the Agricultural Department to improve the output of the soil by better methods of cultivation, the use of fertilisers, irrigation, etc., and that they should receive financial assistance from the Government for this purpose.

6. That in the Coast Belt, sugar planters of whatever race should have facilities offered for the milling of cane grown by them, either by private millers or by the Government.

#### REPATRIATION

That further inducements should be offered to indigent Indians to voluntarily return to India by giving a grant of £10 per head, free of exchange charges, payable through the District Magistrate in India.

#### TRADING

1. That there should be a general test for the granting, renewal and transfer of trading licences based upon

- (a) The suitability of the premises;
- (b) Their sanitary condition;
- (c) The character of the applicant;
- (d) necessity.

2. That there should be an appeal not to the Town Council or Local Board, but to the Magistrate against the decision of the Licensing Officer and thence to the Supreme and Appellate Court as in other matters.

3. That if the question of necessity arises, the Licensing Officer should be guided by popular opinion and desire, which might be expressed by means of petitions for or against as is the case in regard to liquor licences.

4. That there should be four grades of traders recognised, namely, the wholesale merchant, and the first, second and third retailer.

5. That there should be a minimum standard of wages for clerks and shop assistants in each grade.

#### EDUCATION

1. That the policy of free compulsory education should be extended to Indians.

2. That Indians should be encouraged to learn skilled trades and serve apprenticeship on the same terms as Europeans, so that they may demand, and employers be obliged to pay, the same wages as Europeans.

Mr. West then proceeded to elaborate his views in regard to the suggestions made. On the general question of the passing of legislation discriminating against unrepresented peoples, he said that, in his opinion, it was most unfair—he might say cowardly—for Europeans who had votes and therefore a voice in public affairs, to pass laws to the detriment of those who were not consulted at all. He was against segregation on moral and other grounds. Besides, he considered that it would be no remedy to the complaints made against Indians as they would still work in the same places in town and travel to and fro as at present. He was sure that relegating Indians to special areas would mean that, from a sanitary point of view, they would be left to "stew in their own juice."

In regard to land, Mr. West gave instances where Indian agriculturists beneficially occupied the plots of ground under their charge. Indians cultivated the waste places, the swamps and rocky hillsides of Natal and produced a large amount of valuable foodstuff, which otherwise could not have been raised. They endangered their lives by cultivating the dangerous Springfield Flats from which the bulk of vegetables consumed in Durban were produced. In his opinion,

Indians were not a menace as agriculturists; they were benefactors to the whole population.

He considered it a shameful thing that wealthy planters and land-owners should let bush land without leases to poor Indian farmers; and then, when people had cleared the bush, dug out the stumps and got the land into apple-pie order, turn them out. These lands were then planted with sugar cane or other crops. In this way the owners got their land thoroughly prepared, free of cost and, in addition, received rent. In reply to Col. Wylie, who asked who got the timber from these lands, Mr. West instanced a case where Indians cleared the ground and were made to stalk the mood which the owner sold.

It was true that the Indian, who had no lease of his land, was inclined to exhaust the soil and not to make improvements, but the remedy was for him to own his land. The Government Departments of Agriculture should help Indian farmers to do better. It was, to his mind, a scandal that the sugar mills, after enjoying the fruits of Indian labour, should refuse, as they had done in the past, to crush the cane grown by independent Indian planters. This was done for the purpose of squeezing out the free Indian cultivator of sugar cane. Mr. Wylie said that he could not take Mr. West's statement as correct, but Mr. West declared that it was true and he could prove it, and so could Mr. Wylie if he cared to make inquiries.

In regard to his suggestion for inducing poor Indians to return to India, Mr. West said that the Government had not lifted a finger to make known widely the provisions of the Relief Act. Tales were spread abroad, by people interested in keeping Indians under servile conditions, in order to frighten them and so prevent their leaving the country. He himself had found it necessary in 1917 to issue a circular in the Indian vernaculars, to allay the fears of the people and inform them what their rights and privileges were. At that time Indians were made to wait at the Immigration Depot for five and six months for a boat. It often happened that, their slender resources becoming exhausted, they were an easy prey to the recruiter, and they eventually returned to work again under indenture. He also said that the Protector of Indian Immigrants showed more eagerness to assist the employers than the Indians to return to India. In fact the official had issued a circular to employers which was calculated to frustrate the objects of the Relief Act.

(To be Continued.)

#### WHAT IS A CREOLE?

##### MARITZBURG MAGISTRATE'S DECISION

Maritzburg, May 5.—John Bell, charged as a Native with being in possession of liquor and whose case presented many points of interest, was a subject of a considered judgment by the Borough Magistrate this morning. Mr. St. Pol said: The accused is charged with being found in possession of liquor, he being a Native. The possession of the liquor is not denied by the accused, who contends that he is not a Native, but a Mauritius creole and as such entitled to liquor. The accused has, I think, satisfied the Court that he is a Mauritius creole, his father being a Mauritius creole who married by Christian rites his mother, who is a Native of this country. The Prosecutor now asks the Court definitely to say whether Mauritius creoles do not fall under the definition of "Native" in the liquor law. I do so with some misgivings, as I feel this is a question of status, and one which, in my opinion, ought to be decided by a higher Court. On the other hand, I do not see how I can do otherwise, seeing that this arises out of a charge which it is well within my jurisdiction to try.

After an interesting disquisition into the history of Mauritius, the Magistrate, in finding that the accused was not a Native, but a creole, observed: On grounds of equity alone it would be grave injustice to put

these people on the same footings as Natives and Indians. I say nothing of the offspring of unions between whites and their quondam slaves. They form a class by themselves, highly respectable, for the most part well educated, and many with manners of the "grand monde." They are far superior to the mulattoes of the American Continent. Some of them have risen to very high positions in Mauritius, and not a few have received the honour of knighthood at the hands of the reigning sovereigns of England. I do not know that it is necessary for me to go very far into the question of their status. Whatever they may have been in the origin, the disability under which they have laboured have, I submit, been wiped off both by the gradual process of law and evolution, and they might almost be locked up as a race *sui generis*. It is inconceivable that by migrating to Natal they should lose their status and lapse into an equality with the semi-barbaric Natives of this country. It would be contrary to law and justice, and I come to that conclusion after a perusal of the text books and decisions on the question of status and domicile. I am therefore, of opinion that the Mauritian creole is not a Native within the meaning of the Liquor Law, 1896, Natal.—  
*Natal Mercury.*

## THE ASIATIC QUESTION

### ANALYSIS OF VITAL PROBLEM

(By C. F. ANDREWS)

#### IV

I wish now to return, once more, to the actual Indian statistics for South Africa, and, by examining them carefully, to see in what direction they really point. Is South Africa, or any province of South Africa, likely, in the near future, to be so over-run by Asiatics as to make it impossible for Europeans to hold their own?

I wish to recall the very important fact, which I have already mentioned, that there is a distinct religious prejudice, which is in the very blood of the Indians, as one of their strongest traditional instincts against foreign domicile. We shall see later how this works.

I have stated that, on a rough calculation, there must have been not far short of one hundred and fifty thousand indentured Indian immigrants landed in Natal. This immigration, at the rate of some thousands per annum, went steadily forward, year after year, for nearly sixty years. These artificial additions, due to the indenture system, have now ceased, and we may review the net results. Having regard to the large numbers who came in each year under indenture, and the numerous children resulting therefrom, we might well have expected an Indian population of 400,000 to 500,000. But, instead of this, the total number of Asiatics in the whole South African Union, at the last census, in 1911, was 152,309.

#### THE DRIFT BACK TO INDIA

We know, by the experience of our own eyesight in Natal, that the Indentured Indian is prolific. We know, also, that Indian life, as a whole, is fairly healthy in Natal. During all these years, for generation after generation, very many Indian children have been born. These children in their turn, have married and brought up large families. How is it, then, that, inspite of thousands of fresh Indian immigrants coming over every year, and inspite of the high birth-rate (coupled with a comparatively low birth-rate) the net result, after so many years of immigration, is only an Indian population, for the whole South African Union, of 152,309? The one answer that really meets the question is this, that the drift back to India has been incessant. The longing to return is in the blood. Sooner or later it comes out, and then the drift back to India is inevitable. Sometimes, even, it takes hold of Indians

who are of the second or third generation of the colonial-born and sends them back to a country which they have never seen and in which they have no home ties. A further and by no means subsidiary, answer is this, that the number of women has been always low in proportion to the male population.

Let us now take the separate figures of the census for 1904 side by side with that of 1911. It must be borne in mind that the increase in Natal during these years was largely due to the yearly indentured immigration. The Indian figures are as follows, for the years 1904 and 1911 respectively:—

	1904.	1911.
Natal.....	100,918	133,439
Transvaal.....	11,321	11,972
Cape Colony.....	10,242	7,690
Free State.....	253	108

I do not mean to imply, by quoting these figures, that, wherever Indian immigration is not artificially stimulated (as it was in Natal by the indenture system), there will always be a diminishing ratio, due to the drift back to India. For there are other factors which may have to be taken into account. But I do mean this, that there is always a drain on the Indian population going on, and that drain is back to India.

#### INDIANS IN EAST AFRICA

The figures in respect to East Africa are even still more striking. East Africa itself is only a few days' journey from India. Passenger steamers are frequent, and the cost of passages, per head, for Indians, before the War was £2. Emigration was free, and for a series of years, directly encouraged by offers of free grants of land. At one time, for the purpose of building the Uganda Railway, over 30,000 Indians were brought over under indenture, with full permission to settle and hold land after the indenture had expired. There has also been a continual recruitment from India for Railway and Government service. Yet, inspite of all these things, the Government Economic Commission's Report of March, 1919, gives the total Indian population in British East Africa as 12,500; and in evidence, given on oath, the Chief Commissioner of Police has stated that more Indians have left British East Africa in 1917 and 1918 than those who entered. The continual drift back to India is apparent.

We may take another series of figures which can only be approximate. The estimated number of Indians in each Province in East Africa is as follows:

Zanzibar.....	10,000
Tanganyika.....	3,000
Uganda.....	2,500
Nyassaland.....	2,000
Portuguese E. Africa...	2,000
Rhodesia.....	3,200

It must be remembered that the door for Indians into these territories has been left open. Actual inducements of various kinds have been offered, again and again, apart from all indenture, for Indians to come and settle on any favourable terms. In certain cases, equal privileges with European settlers have been granted. Yet, inspite of all these attractions, combined with a short, cheap, and comfortable sea-voyage, how extraordinarily small to-day is the resident Indian population! Before I came out to Africa I had been travelling on the Bombay side, through the plains of India. There, the land is cultivated up to the extreme limit and the population on the land is densely overcrowded. Since then, I have been travelling through the fertile coast lands of British East Africa and Tanganyika, through the inland areas also of Portuguese East Africa and Uganda. I have seen their vast open spaces, ready for cultivation, but altogether unoccupied, and the contrast has been bewildering. On the one side are 330,000,000 people, mainly agriculturalists, the majority of whom are on the verge of want, and even of famine, because of their overcrowded condition. On the other side, across the sea, are broad alluvial plains and fertile inland valleys,

all untenanted. But, though the door is wide open, no one cares to come across, except a handful of merchants and traders. Such is the age-long religious and domestic conservatism of India.

#### INDIANS IN BRITISH GUIANA AND FIJI

Other countries, to which Indians have gone, tell the same tale of the drift homewards. Just now, British Guiana is feverishly seeking to populate its immensely fertile delta lands with Indian immigrants. It is offering all kinds of privileges, entirely free from any sort of indenture (including grants of land, equal citizenship, compulsory free education, and state-aided agriculture). Yet, in the past review of the Colony, which the Government has recently issued, the plain fact has been stated, with convincing figures, that British Guiana has not been able to retain its Indian citizens. Where a population, to-day, of 400,000 Indians might have been reasonably expected, on account of the yearly increments from immigration under indenture (which went on till the year 1917), hardly more than a quarter of that number of Indians are now residing in the Colony. The rest have gone back to India; and an empty, fertile land is now crying for more agricultural settlers.

The record of Fiji has been nearly similar to that of British Guiana. The drainage back to India had been continuous, and it was only stopped because of the lack of shipping during the War. When I was in Fiji in the year 1917, the cry of Indians for ships, to carry them home, was pitiful. They would flock round me at every station, asking me when the next ship could be expected. The sight of their pleading, as they implored me to take them back to India, recalled to me forcibly the famous scene in the Sixth Aeneid, where the shades implore Aeneas to ferry them across the river of the dead:—

Tendebant que manus ripae ulterioris amore.  
(stretching out their hands with longing for the further shore).

There was the same insatiable longing to get back to the home-land which, among Indians of all classes, is like a passion or a fever in the blood.

In the next article, I shall continue this subject, and try to show what bearing it has upon the South African Asiatic problem, especially in Natal.

(To be Continued)

## ABOLISHING INDENTURED LABOUR

### APPOINTMENTS FROM DOMINIONS

In continuing the debate of the Colonial Office Vote, Major-General Seely (Coalition Liberal, Ilkeston, formerly Secretary for the Colonies) wanted a declaration of policy that all indentured labour would be abolished; further, that the object of British presence in all the Colonies was for the benefit of the whole of the inhabitants, even if the majority were non-European. He also urged greater facilities for applications from the Dominions for Colonial Office appointments.

Mr. Jison (Coalition, National Democratic Party, Walthamstow) emphasised the difficulties of the colour question, and pointed out that Australian workers had decided to have a white Australia.

Lieut. Col. Amery said that Government's policy was unchanged. The Colonies were governed, not in the interests of this country, or of one section of the white population, but in the interests of every section. All people living in the Colonies could develop their own well-being, and were equally entitled to the considerate care of the Colonial Office.

As regards indentured labour Lieut. Col. Amery said that not only was the Government's policy unchanged, but considerable progress had been made; indentured labour was abolished last year in Fiji, and recently in British Guiana. At present it existed

only in one or two of the West Indian Colonies, where it was doomed to automatic extinction in a few months, when there would be no form of indentured labour throughout the Empire.

They had tried to see how far it was possible to get young ex-officers from the Dominions into the Colonial Office service, and they got every good young officer in that way.—Reuter.

## INDIANS IN EAST AFRICA

LETTER FROM MR. C. F. ANDREWS

II.

(Continued from page 140)

Fortunately, when these accusations of immorality brought against the Indians in East Africa were brought to the test of fact, the evidence was forthcoming and it was conclusive. During a whole month I carried on my enquiries from every possible source—from doctors, from hospital returns, from Indians themselves, from trustworthy unprejudiced Europeans who had had experience of Indian life at first hand,—and the evidence in my possession accumulated, showing most convincingly that this supreme reason which was given by the Economic Commission for excluding Indians from the whole of Africa was nothing but a false accusation.

### AUTHORITATIVE EVIDENCE

But the greatest proof of all came to me when I was lying ill in the hospital in Kampala, Uganda. I had gone there and had been taken suddenly ill and at first I was greatly distressed because my illness meant a complete upset of my own programme and I had to cancel many engagements. But I found that Providence had been guiding me all the while for when I asked from Dr. Albert Cook,—who has had the largest and widest experience of any Doctor in East Africa, and whose reputation is greatest of all,—whether the Indians were a moral or an immoral people, he told me at once that he had found them most moral. He then gave me a signed document stating that it was his deliberate opinion after more than twenty years' experience in East Africa, that there was less disease among the Indians, owing to immoral causes, than among the people belonging to any other community. I also received from the Prime Minister of Uganda, Sir Afolo Kagwa, on behalf of the Uganda Parliament and People a testimonial signed and registered to the like effect.

### UNWARRANTED CALUMNY

I had endeavoured all along to obtain copy of the evidence on which the Economic Commission (appointed by Govt.) had based their conclusions. I could not obtain a copy anywhere. At last a European whom I visited lent me his own copy. On receiving it, I looked up all the passages under the heads of "Indians" or "Asiatics". To my amazement I found, when I had read them all through very carefully, that there was not a word of substantiating evidence in any of them. This gross calumny had been signed and published and circulated by the Economic Commission without any proof whatever.

This was the fixed test that had been wanting. I completed the case I had to show. I published at once in the papers the whole of the facts gathered together and after they had appeared, I waited for some days expecting some answer to my statements. But, up to the time of my departure, no reply whatever had been given.

### A CHAPTER CLOSED

Most happily the whole issue has now been settled in Parliament itself. When Mr. T. J. Bennett M.P. asked the Colonial Secretary whether the charges brought against Indians had been noticed by the

Colonial Office and whether the Colonial Secretary agreed with them, the answer was given that the charges and the conclusions of the Economic Commission Report had been noticed, but that neither the Imperial Government nor the East African Protectorate Government agreed with them.

This reply may be regarded as closing a very important chapter in East African Indian History.—*Bombay Chronicle.*

London, May 6.—The "Daily Mail" forecasts the majority report of the Hunter Committee, which, it states, finds that the Amritsar disturbances were caused by Gandhi's agitation and passive resistance, which rapidly became open hostility to the Government, causing serious rioting, leading to rebellion, and which might have led to a revolution. The proclamation of martial law was therefore justified. It was not extended to the larger areas, and was not maintained longer than was necessary in view of the Afghan war. The report condemns General Dyer's so-called "crawling order" at Amritsar, as also certain punishments. The report expresses the hope that, in the event of any future martial law, certain civil control should be maintained. The minority report severely condemns General Dyer, and also criticises General O'Dwyer.—*Reuter.*

બેઇએ છે

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