

# Indian Opinion

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## NOTES AND NEWS

**W**E congratulate Mr. V. A. Pillay, of Port Elizabeth, on his plucky attempt to gain a seat on the City Council. The fact that he lost by 43 votes shows the possibilities for the future. With a more perfect organisation of the Indian and coloured voter there is a very good chance of Mr. Pillay being elected next time.

People are asking why there should not be Indian Councillors in Durban. In wards IV and VI the Indian vote is considerable, and, with organisation, the number of voters on the roll might be considerably augmented. What are the Indian Ratepayers' Associations doing in the matter?

We need not be an unrepresented people so far as municipal matters are concerned. In Ward IV, at least, it only remains for some public spirited Indian to come forward as candidate and for the Indian voters to unite in their efforts to secure his election, and success is almost certain. Why not try?

The sudden death of Mr. G. D. Lalla, of Sydenham leaves the Community very much the poorer. The late Mr. Lalla was a willing helper in all public affairs. In matters educational he was particularly active and useful, and he will be missed very much by the Indian Educational Advisory Committee of which he was a prominent member. As a writer he was always practical in his suggestions, and we have taken up several matters brought to light by him in our columns. Lately he was associated with the weekly newspaper, *Swaraj*. To his surrounding relatives we extend heartfelt sympathy.

At the Meerut Provincial Khilafat Conference recently Mr. Gandhi announced the Delhi Leaders' plan of action in case of an unfavourable Turkish Settlement as consisting of three steps, firstly, renouncing all Government Titles and civil employments; secondly, giving up all police and military employments; thirdly refusing payment of taxes and other Government dues. In his speech (says the *Leader* Correspondent, Allahabad), Mr. Gandhi showed that the firmness and co-operation between Hindus and Mahomedans in carrying out the programme was bound to achieve the desired object.

Capetown, May 18 (Reuter).—In the House of Assembly to-day, Sir Abe Bailey (Krugersdorp) brought up a petition from the Congress of the South African League, municipalities, chambers of commerce, public bodies, and other white inhabitants. The petition, he said, pointed out how Asiatics in the Transvaal had evaded the law and were proving a menace to the white races throughout South Africa. The House was asked to take the petition into consideration, and to grant such relief as it might think fit. The petition was signed by Mr. Phillips, Mr. Hunter, Mr. Munnik, and 80,431 others. It was carried up to the table in four substantial volumes.

On behalf of the Pretoria Chamber of Commerce (says the *Natal Advertiser*), the following recommendations were made to the Asiatic Commission:—

(1) The total exclusion of further Asiatics from the Union.

(2) That all Indians who have come into the country since 1912 should be repatriated and the licences granted since 1912 be cancelled, subject to compensation.

(3) That all land purchased by Indians and registered in the name of companies be expropriated, and that the purchasers be compensated at cost value.

(4) That the licences issued, previous to 1912 be allowed to remain, but on the death of the holder that they be no longer renewed under compensation to the heirs of the holders born in this country.

(5) That Indians should be removed to locations outside of the town and not be allowed to reside on properties adjoining those inhabited by the white community.

On the 14th inst, the Hon. Mr. Sirdar Sayed Ali el Edroos, of Surat, an elected member of the Bombay Provincial Legislative Council, arrived at Durban by the ss. *Karoo*, and a very large number of Indians assembled to receive him at the Point.

On the evening of the 16th inst. The Hon. Mr. Edroos was entertained to dinner in the Madrassa Hall, Pine Street, by Indians who were previously resident of Surat. About 400 people attended. Afterwards a meeting was held in his honour and a large number of Indians took part. Molvi Fateh Mahomed thanked him for his Natal visit, and Mr. M. M. Meer paid an excellent tribute to his public work, and welcomed him, and wished him a happy journey. In reply, he thanked his countrymen for the warm reception they had given him, and expressed the hope that in the near future Indians' educational and social condition will be much improved.

The Indian Khalifat delegation to Paris (says the *Natal Advertiser* London Correspondent), has telegraphed to the Sultan of Turkey appealing to him to uphold the dignity of Islam and not sign the Peace Treaty, and mentioning that the British Government has been warned that there will be a revolution in India if the Khalifat is violated.

We regret to learn of the sad death in India, after a very long illness, of the widow of the late Mr. Dada-bhai the brother of Mr. Parsee Rustomjee, which took place on the 18th instant. Our heartfelt sympathy goes out to Mr. Rustomjee and members of his family in their sad bereavement.

Mr. Justice Shadi Lal has been appointed Chief Justice of the Punjab High Court. It is stated that this is the first time an Indian has been permanently nominated to the post, though there have been several instances of Indians acting as Chief Justice in the absence on leave of the permanent incumbent.

## AN INDIAN HOSTEL

**A**BOUT two months ago we placed before our readers the necessity of a home or hostel for Indian youths desiring to attend the classes now being conducted in Durban for higher education. What brought the matter directly to our notice was a letter from an Indian parent residing in an up-country town who desired to send his son to Durban if he could find a suitable home for him. At the same time the question of opening a hostel for country students was being discussed by a few who had for some considerable time seen the urgent necessity of such an institution. We are now delighted to know that what was then merely an idea has now developed almost in reality. The Durban and District Indian Educational Advisory Committee, whose activity brought about the inauguration of the Higher Education classes now being held at the Carlisle Street Government Indian School, have tackled the question of a Hostel, believing that there was a great need, and knowing that the success of higher education movement depended on the number of students being augmented from the country districts. A well-known gentleman has come forward with the offer of a house, practically rent free; and the services of a European lady, equally well-known to the Indian community, have been secured as Matron. All that is needed now is for the parents, guardians, and friends, including school teachers, to respond to the offer made by the Committee. We reproduce in another column a circular letter addressed "To Parents and all those interested in Education" which gives details of the scheme. Owing to the abnormally high cost of food, the charges have had to be fixed somewhat high. This may prevent many poor parents sending their children to the Hostel. But this is just where the opportunity occurs for well-to-do people to assist their poorer brethren. This help may be given individually or by means of village committees who may give grants for the purpose. We cannot conceive of a better way of creating harmony and brotherly feeling amongst Indians than for the people to combine for this laudable object. We do hope, therefore, that the movement will receive the utmost help and encouragement. We understand that, in order to make all arrangements to open after the holidays, it is necessary to at once have the information as to the number of students desiring to enter the Hostel. And as the accommodation to start with is limited, we should advise parents and others to lose no time in communicating with the Secretary.

## THE ASIATIC COMMISSION

## MR. WEST'S EVIDENCE

(Continued from page 154)

On the question of trading, Mr. West contended that it was of benefit to the consumer that trade should be unrestricted. But the question of a minimum wage for clerks and assistants should be settled. As for the statement that Europeans had been unable to retain the Native trade in the country districts, he admitted that such was the case. But there was a reason for that. He knew most of the villages of Natal and had made a study of the methods of the European and Asiatic trader respectively. He was satisfied that the European was not, as a rule, fitted for this petty store-keeping. He would not take the necessary trouble.

A Native, who might have walked twenty miles to make his purchases, did not want to be asked peremptorily what it was he required. He wanted to sit down and leisurely view the surroundings; carry on a conversation with others who, like himself, had travelled long distances; and, when he felt inclined, ask to be shown the articles he required. The average white man had not sufficient patience for this kind of trading. On the other hand, the Indian entered into the spirit of it, and opened his shop to his customers in a way that suited them. In other words, he laid himself out to please his customers, and this he did by showing them patiently the goods; and then, if they did not buy, he would not grumble. Mr. West had seen a European holding a monopoly, slowly starve himself out of business through lack of enterprise and the necessary patience to carry on; and then, when the same store was sold to an Indian, the place at once became a flourishing concern, where Natives, Indians and Europeans could obtain their every requirement at town prices. The fact was, Indians created business where hitherto there was none.

## LICENCES

In regard to the granting of licences, Mr. West considered that a body like a Town Council was prejudiced and therefore unfit to judge whether a person was entitled to a licence. He thought the Magistrate should decide on appeals, and that there should be an appeal to the highest court. The test of whether a licence was necessary was not to be decided according to the wishes of rival traders but of the public.

In order to make things more equitable in regard to the alleged unfair competition Mr. West suggested a minimum wage for assistants, but not one only. He would place wholesalers in one class, and clerks, storemen, and book-keepers of whatever race should be paid the minimum wage. To illustrate what he meant by first, second and third grade retailers he would take the town of Durban. The up-to-date stores in Central West Street were undoubtedly "first class"; east of Aliwal Street and west of Grey Street, and in Field Street, Commercial Road and Pine Street the stores might be roughly classed "second grade"; whilst in Grey Street, Umgeni road and other similar streets they could be considered "third" grade. There was no such thing as equality. It was not fair to say that a third-rate store-keeper must keep up the same standard of expense as the first-class trader. When the purchaser entered the "shrine of fashion" or the temple of extravagance in West Street, he or she knew well enough who paid for the plate glass, the magnificent architecture, the splendid fittings of those stores. The purchaser, of course, paid for it all. Could it be expected that the poor Indian earning £2 a month, who enters a Grey Street shop to purchase half a dozen articles for two shillings, should pay for such useless display? It was impossible. Therefore he said there should be different grades and different standards of wages. The first-grade assistant was well-educated and was expected to appear expensively dressed. The employer demanded a high standard and so did the customers. Let them pay for it. In the second grade stores, such a high standard of expense was not expected nor was the assistant so efficient. The purchaser should get the benefit in reduced prices. The second-grade assistant would not be worth so much as the first-grade assistant, and his needs would generally be less. Likewise is the third-grade. The whole get-up of the third-grade store was simple and inexpensive, the assistants were also simple in dress and standard of living. In these stores the poorest people were supplied with bare necessities. They could not afford any polish. There would be no difficulty in grading. The first-grade store-keeper would never attempt to make out that he belonged to the second-grade. In the same way the second-grade trader would boldly maintain his standard. The minimums should be fixed in each grade and strictly enforced. He thought that would solve the problem of unfair competition.

## LICENSING APPEALS

Durban Town Council met in the Council Chambers on May 14 the Mayor (Mr. T. Burman) presiding. Those present were the Deputy Mayor (Mr. Fleming Johnston) and Councillors Barton, Davis, Wadley, Gilbert, Williamson, Buchanan, Atkinson, Holdeo, Mitchell, Renaud, C. W. Lennox, Dr. Francois, and Canon Hodson.

Seven appeals against the decisions of the Licensing Officer (Col. Molyneux) came before the Council. The first was that of M. N. Mahomed for a retail licence in respect of premises at 1072, Queen Street. The Council adjourned to consider the matter, and after due deliberation the decision of the Licensing Officer was upheld. Mr. Henochsberg, of Messrs. Goodricke and Sons, appeared for the appellant.

Mahomed Amod Jeewa applied for a license in respect of premises at 85, Berea Road. Mr. G. A. F. Brett appeared on his behalf. By a majority of three, the Licensing Officer's decision was upheld.

Mr. E. H. Clemmans appeared on behalf of J. M. Mitchelow, a returned soldier, whose application for a license in respect of premises at the corner of Williams and Moore Roads had been refused. After discussion, the matter was referred back to the Licensing Officer.

Bernard Gordon appealed against the decision not to grant him a license for a native eating-house. The Council adjourned to discuss the question and returned with a majority in favour of the Licensing Officer, Mr. R. L. Goulding appeared for Gordon and also for H. Avrich whose appeal was not upheld.

On behalf of V. N. Naik, Mr. Wm. Barile appeared for a license in respect of premises at 222, Grey Street. After deliberation, the license was granted. The appeal of M. M. Paruk was adjourned. —*Natal Advertiser*.

## A HOSTEL FOR INDIAN STUDENTS

The Durban and District Indian Educational Advisory Committee have issued the following public circular:—

P. O. Box 760,  
Durban,  
May 17, 1920.

TO PARENTS AND ALL THOSE INTERESTED IN  
EDUCATION

Gentlemen,—In order that fuller advantage may be taken of the opportunity granted us by the Government for Higher education in Durban, and in view of the limited facilities existing in the schools in the country districts of Natal and other parts of the Union, this Committee has decided to establish a Hostel in Durban, so that boys who may wish to prosecute their studies as far as the Junior Certificate examination and Matriculation, or beyond the 4th Standard, may do so by coming into the Hostel.

The services of a capable European Matron to take charge of this Institution have been secured. A Committee of Management has been appointed, consisting of the following gentlemen:—Messrs. Phseer Rustonjee, Omar Haji Amud Jhaveri, A. H. West, R. B. Chetty, R. Rajcoomar, B. L. E. Sigamoney, H. I. Joshi, V. Lawrence (Chairman), S. Etmamally (Treasurer), Suchit Maharaj (Secretary).

The charges will be as under, subject to revision after six months:—

£4 per mensem per boy.  
£7 " " for two brothers.  
£10 " " for three brothers.

Payable at least monthly in advance.

The charges may appear to be high, but such is due to the abnormal high cost of the commodities of life. The charges are much below the actual figure that it is estimated it will cost the Institution. To make up the deficiency it may be necessary to enlist the sympathy and co-operation of the Indian community. It

is, however, expected that the cost of foodstuffs will come down. If that happens, it is the intention of the Commission to reduce the charges proportionately. These charges include Board, Lodging and Washing, but not books, clothing or school fees, the latter being 5/- per mensem.

The building to be used as a Hostel is situated in a very healthy locality, with spacious grounds, almost at the corner of Berea and Old Dutch Roads.

Commencement is to be made from 1st August, 1920. In regard to the supervision of the boys, we beg to give assurance that the strictest discipline will be maintained. The institution will be conducted on non-sectarian lines, and therefore no partiality will be shown to any class or creed. The utmost care will be taken to ensure that no religious principles in regard to food, etc., will be violated.

Parents who wish to send their children to the Hostel are requested to communicate with the undersigned at once.

Yours faithfully,  
SUCHIT MAHARAJ,  
Hon. Secretary.

[NOTE: We refer to the above in our leading article. —Ed. I. O.]

## Original Correspondence

The Editor, INDIAN OPINION.

## ASIATIC COMMISSION

Sir,—The pen is mightier than the sword, but often in directions anything but fair. In your issue of the 16th April, commenting upon my evidence before the Asiatic Commission, you assign me a place among the "unbalanced." Perhaps it is happy for "Indian Opinion" that I am so accounted of you, for if in my state of unstable equilibrium I can ruffle you in your peaceful contemplation of the decidedly unwholesome state of our affairs as presently obtaining in this land, it would be interesting to know the degree and extent of your agitation when perchance, having recovered my mental balance, I throw aside the veil completely and expose to the view the inherent rottenness of our public affairs. Time was when honesty was counted the best policy, but in the exigencies of the hour when conflicting interests have to be reconciled and the white-wash brush brought into almost daily requisition, the time honoured saying makes room for a war time necessity, "hypocrisy is the best policy." By the evident complacency of your remarks, you would appear to be more than assured of the immaculate condition of our public life. If such be the delusion, I am glad to be "unbalanced" in good company.

My evidence before the Commission was confined to the enunciation of a few plain truths. I pointed out categorically that Indian trade and commerce in South Africa from times past and presently was, in the hands of one particular section of the Indian community constituted as a class. That truth almost axiomatic, naturally provoked the question, "Shall the condition go on for ever?" The question at once brought one face to face with an impossible state of affairs. A large body of European opinion throughout the land is now of the feeling that not a single trade licence or a square inch of land shall be further obtainable by Indians. Presuming the government in concession to the clamour, declares for such policy, it ought not be difficult to see who are the people to suffer as with one fell swoop of the sword by legislative action to that end. The people constituting the overwhelming majority of the population, that is, the labouring population, free of indentured, and their progeny who had not been wise in their generation as to make good the rights in time, will be those to stand

condemned for ever. These will then for all time automatically become "hewers of wood and drawers of water" to their own minority of countrymen who, with commendable foresight, had already made good the rights. I therefore contended before the Commission that whatever government action might be, and you can never tell what egrigious form that might take in the existing European unanimity, total annihilation of further Indian rights would be inconceivable and that therefore something, however little, must be saved to that larger population, who had hitherto, for what reasons no matter, been unconcerned respecting such rights. Was not that, Sir, the rock-bottom principle for which I served many terms of imprisonment? I asked that the permanent population at least might be saved. In the days of "definitions," the expression "permanent population" had to be defined. And I defined it to mean, "such Indians as have a residential qualification of at least 25 years, being of the labouring population or their extraction and who have permanently abandoned their Indian domicile." The definition applies only to trading rights and not to real property rights.

Here let me state unequivocally that I have throughout my life been on the side of the labouring population and all who know me know that truth. I have always regarded that population to be the first entitled to any benefits that may come in the way of the Indians in South Africa. But I have not therefore any time been antagonistic to the more leisured classes attaining to any rights by the best means in their power. But when however the situation is reached where the final question is, shall the Indians who already possess the rights hold and have them in perpetuity to the permanent exclusion, because of such previous possession, of all such as have not yet attained to them, I am compelled to insist for that "special treatment" for the vast silent population which hitherto never concerned itself about land or trading privileges, but which to-day through no fault of its own stands to bid a long farewell to the last dim prospect that may have lingered for it upon the horizon. And if that prospect should perchance vanish, history could hardly furnish a chapter more tragic.

Respecting the "land reserves" for Indians, I am complained against as having applied to the Commission for, let me say for the benefit of hasty critics who have sent me telegrams in the connection that the term "reserve" was not employed by me in the sense of appropriation, delimitation, or demarkation but in its ordinary meaning that land shall be available to Indians. By what stretch of the critic's license so unequivocal a term has been read to mean "segregation" is beyond me. In effect my evidence on this point was that land should be reserved at least for the population as have permanently settled in South Africa. Is there any suggestion of segregation in the statement? I think I can lay claim to sufficient race-pride to treat with unalloyed contempt the demand for the segregation of Indians in South Africa.

J. ROYEPPE

Raine's Bldgs,  
Eloff St.,  
Johannesburg.

[ED. NOTE: We may be very dense, but we entirely fail to see that Mr. Royeppe has improved matters in the least by his lengthy letter.—Ed. I. O.]

#### THE TRANSVAAL REPRESENTATIVE IN LONDON

TO THE EDITOR, INDIAN OPINION

Sir,—In accordance with the wishes of the Transvaal British Indian Association, in appointing me as a Representative of the same, at the time of my departure to India via England, in order to acquaint the British authorities and sympathisers of India of the recent disabilities and grievances of Indians in South Africa, I have lost no time, as my responsibilities demanded, in approaching them with Mr. H. S. L. Polak whose

services have proved of considerable value in furthering our cause.

Unfortunately some of the most highly-placed officials concerned, such as Mr. Montagu, Lord Sinha, H. H. the Aga Khan and Sir Mancherji Bhowanagare happen to be temporarily out of London and could not be interviewed.

Amongst many others whom we have approached are Sir William Duke of the Colonial Office, Sir Sanjivan Nair of India Council, Mr. Bennett M. P., Col. Wedgewood M. P., Lord Clyde, Miss. Normanton, Editor of *India*, Mr. Mahomed Ali, Head of Khilafat Delegation, British Committee of the Indian National Congress, and Reuter Agency. We have thoroughly acquainted them of the recent disabilities imposed on us.

Their general opinion was that during the sittings of the Commission recently appointed to go into the Indian question, it is rather premature to move in the matter now.

Yours sincerely,

CASSIM ADAM.

Regent Palace,  
London,

31st March, 1920.

#### RACE PROBLEM IN SOUTH AFRICA

MR. R. J. HALL'S LECTURE

The first of a series of monthly lectures arranged by the Parkhill branch of the Labour Party was given recently by Mr. R. J. Hall M. A., in the Masonic Hall, Redhill, near Durban.

Mr. Hall, in his opening remarks, stated that if they were to keep the country from disaster, they must find and apply a clear-cut policy in relation to the Native and Indian races. Were we aiming at segregation or repatriation or assimilation? The problem presented four aspects, the economic, the national or political, the social, and the religious. In Natal the difficulty was with the Indian as an economic competitor who accepted a lower standard of life. In the furniture trades, the tailoring trades, the boot and shoe repairing, and other callings where organisation was a difficult matter, the entry of Indian or native labour at a lower wage rate; and the exit of white labour, was apparent. He felt that the community was unlikely ever to give its consent to the lowering of the white standard to the level of the cheapest labour in the market. It did not desire to manufacture "poor whites." The influx of poor whites on the Rand had brought about the acceptance of a lower white standard, and had also caused murmuring amongst the mine natives. He concluded that, in so far as the community as a whole could express and enforce conclusions, it would resist any lowering of the white standard of life. That resistance, however, would be weakened by those whose interest it was to secure cheaper labour regardless of colour and by the fact that in the Indian and the "poor white" cheap labour was forthcoming.

Regarding the raising of the standard of life of these people to that of the European in the same economic market, he thought they could conclude that so long as the various races lived together in a state of industrial competition, the tendency would be towards a common standard by the raising of the level of the Indian and the black and the lowering of the standard of the white through the creation of a poor white. His conclusion was that the competition as between cheap and dear labour would produce a segregation of those who refused to accept the lower standard from those who did accept it. He instanced Durban, for example, as a place which unless a plan was involved and applied would become largely an Asiatic town within less than 50 years.

## POSITION IN NATAL

At present Natal was an Indian colony more than a white man's colony, and segregation was an economic fact proved by the whites being segregated from the others. The remedy was a scientific one, and if only the community would give to the scientists the freedom to apply their science, the solution would be found. Some climates favoured the development of one race and hindered the development of another.

Africa, generally speaking, could be divided into three areas: Those most suited because of climatic or health reasons for white occupation; those most suited for Indian occupation; and those which ought to be occupied mainly by blacks with no whites save those who acted as intermediaries between the two types of civilisation. Frankly, he would place the racial map-drawing of Africa in the hands of those experts in the matter of the influence of climate and soil upon racial characteristics. Let a Commission be appointed to consist of representatives of geology, geography, meteorology, ethnology and medical research. Let these colour-mark the map of Africa in accordance with their judgment as to which race would do most and prosper best in particular areas, then let legislation be based on their recommendations. (Applause)

## INDIANS IN EAST AFRICA

LETTERS BY MR. C. F. ANDREWS

## III.

*(Continued from page 156)*

Though the final refutation was given to the Economic Commission Report by the Imperial Government, through Colonel Amery's announcement in the House of Commons, it must not be thought for a single moment that the struggle is over. Rather, it is certain that the European Associations, which are still largely influenced by their South African settler members, will begin once more to build up an offensive with more thorough preparation and with a greater quantity of high explosive ammunition behind it. We cannot tell from what direction the new attack will come, but come, it certainly will.

## INDIAN DEFENSIVE FORCES

What then are our defensive forces? First of all, we must never be caught sleeping again. The serious acts of the danger, when this last attack was made was never understood in India at all. There was some news about the denial of franchise to heinous and about some land grievances, but here was an accusation so fundamental that nothing could be more deadly, here was a policy so radical that it meant if carried out not merely denial of franchise but total exclusion from the country—here was an offensive on such a sweeping scale as that, and yet we in India knew next to nothing about it! As I have said, we must never in a similar manner be caught napping again.

## WORK IN INDIA

What is needed is a modern equipped office in Bombay with a Secretary and staff which shall keep the Indian public thoroughly informed about East Africa and all its provinces. It should work in connexion with the Imperial Indian Citizenship Association, but should have its own independent staff. I hope that this will soon be accomplished.

Then, secondly, what is needed is that two or three thoroughly able and reliable men of the "Servant of India" type should take up the vacant post of paid secretaries in the different provinces of East Africa. There should be at least three—one for Zanzibar, one for Nairobi and one for Darressalam. If a fourth can be found for Kampala, in Uganda, so much the better.

## NEED OF DOCTORS AND TEACHERS

Then, there is the immediate need of more Indian Doctors, men who love their country and desire above all to serve their country. When I return to India I hope to put this scheme of providing good Indian Doctors on a thoroughly sound financial basis. I believe it is quite easy to do so. There will also be needed some first rate school masters, whose mother tongue is Gujarati.

Fourthly, the Indian Overseas Association in London must be kept closely and intimately in touch with the African situation. India has been deprived of the right of permanent residence in two vast continental areas, namely, those of Australia and Canada. It must never be allowed that one of the greatest and most vacant areas on the surface of the globe, which needs Indians, which is mainly tropical, which is close to India itself, which is connected with India by centuries of intercommunication, should be finally closed to Indians, simply to satisfy the inordinate greed and selfishness and racial prejudice of a few thousand Europeans.

AN INDIAN CANDIDATE AT  
PORT ELIZABETH

MR. V. A. PILLAYS' PLUKY ATTEMPT

We are gratified to learn this Mr. Pillay stood as a Candidate for the Port Elizabeth Town Council. He came a good second amongst six Candidates seeking election, polling 286 as against 329 by his successful opponent.

Speaking at an election meeting, Mr. Pillays prefaced his remarks with the observation that it was high time that the people of that Ward obtained direct representation upon the Council by one of their own people. This ambition had been in the minds of a number of people for a long time and now that the opportunity had arrived they meant to do their utmost to achieve it. It might be said that he was too young to be a member of the Council but he would remind the meeting that he had lived in Port Elizabeth all his life—for twenty-five years—and had received his education in that very ward. He had heard it said that if elected he would represent one section of the people only but he could give the assurance that he would do his duty fairly and fully, irrespective of class, creed, nationality or sect. It would be his aim to work for the welfare of the City as a whole and for justice and British fair play.

At the declaration of the pole Mr. Pillay thanked those who had worked and voted for him, expressing his gratification at the confidence in him as revealed by the number of votes he had received. In conclusion he said he intended to try again.

## OBITUARY

MR. G. D. LALLA

It is with profound regret that we have to record the sudden and untimely death of Mr. G. Durga Lalla, of Overport, Natal. A young man, to all appearances in robust health, and only 35 years of age, he died of heart failure at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, May 11.

Mr. G. D. Lalla was born in the Colony, and was a most popular young man. He received his English education in Durban, and was for a number of years in the employ of St Aidan's Mission as a teacher at the Sydenham College. He held the teacher's certificate. A most popular and public-spirited man was he, and there was no Indian institution of which he was not a member. The deceased took a keen interest in education, and was a member and founder of the Indian Educational Advisory Committee, which

was established about two years ago to assist boys in acquiring higher education. All his spare time was devoted to the general upliftment of his countrymen. Belonging to the Kayastha (writer) caste in India, he hereditarily possessed the gift of writing, and in consequence held the position of sub-editor of the "Swaraj," through which paper he rendered invaluable services to the community. He occupied the post of managing director of the "Swaraj" also. The late Mr. G. D. Lalla was not only a literary man, but a keen sportsman. The deceased was the founder of the Hindu Young Men's Society, Sydenham, of which he was trustee and chairman. In the recent South African Conference, which was held in Johannesburg, he was one of the chosen delegates of Natal. He represented Natal at the last Cape Indian Conference. The charitable institution in which he took interest will sincerely feel their loss. The deceased was not only an upright business man, but most sociable in private affairs. By the Hindi community his loss will be deeply felt.

The mortal remains of the deceased, were cremated at the Hindu Crematorium at Umgeni in accordance with the Hindu rites on the following day. He leaves a wife, four sons, three daughters, and his father to mourn their irreparable loss.

## THE ASIATIC QUESTION

### ANALYSIS OF VITAL PROBLEM

(By C. F. ANDREWS)

V

In my earlier articles I have pointed out, by means of statistics, how continuous has been the drift of Indians, who have gone out to foreign countries, back to their motherland. There is one striking feature in early Indian History, which tells us much about the Indian mental temperament in this direction. Though we have signal examples, in the golden age of India's past, of the spread of Indian culture combined with the frequent attempts at colonisation, we find that, while the culture remained, the colonisation almost entirely died away. It appears to me certain that the home-sickness for India itself, which we still witnessed, drew back from these foreign lands those early Indian colonists. For there is something in the very soil of India which makes it sacred to everyone who is an Indian by birth. This partakes of a religious devotion, difficult for an outsider to understand, and going far beyond mere patriotism. I have never seen so deep a religious worship of one's country in any other race of men.

### INDIANS IN MALAYA AND CEYLON

The large annual emigration of indentured Indians to Ceylon and the Federated Malay States may appear at first sight, to contradict the statistics and facts which I have narrated. Roughly speaking, about 100,000 Tamil labourers go backwards and forwards every year. But two things have to be remembered:—

1. This emigration is all due to highly-paid recruiters. If left to himself, the Indian peasant would not be inclined to emigrate even as far as these places.
2. Ceylon and Malaya both lie so close to India that the emigrants can easily return. I have been recently asked by the Planters' Associations in both countries to give them expert evidence as to the means to be taken to induce Indians to stay on as settlers and not to return at all. But, with a large proportion of Indians, this can never be expected. For the home-longing, even among these villagers, is so strong that they will be certain to go back to India.

### THE MYTH OF AN ASIATIC INVASION

As far, therefore, as India is concerned, the picture of a horde of hungry Asiatics waiting to enter Africa is a pure myth. The truth is—I repeat it again and

again in order to drive it home—the masses of India, with an acquiescence which is hard for the forceful and practical spirit of the West to understand, will prefer to suffer and die on Indian soil, rather than go abroad to a foreign land across the seas. That "swarming" habit, which some nations possess to a remarkable degree when they become overcrowded, is almost absent from the Indian population. Even under the last compulsion of all, death by famine, there is no overpowering migratory impulse. Indeed, the instinct is all the other way. For when, through any artificial pressure of recruitment, Indians do actually go out in ship-loads to foreign lands, then, not frequently, the home-sickness becomes so great that the burden of life is almost unendurable. One of the most painful and persistent features of Indian indentured emigration, which I was called upon to investigate, was the high death-rate owing to suicide. In Fiji, as I have already mentioned, the suicide rate, taken over a long series of years, was twenty times as that of India. I have pointed out that sexual jealousy owing to the shortage of women, was the chief cause. Yet my enquiry made it abundantly clear that the dispondency caused by home-sickness was a second predisposing factor of no slight importance.

### INDIAN PSYCHOLOGY

The people of India are most conservative in the world—the most religious and the most domestic. There are only a certain proportion who can bear separation from India for long. I have studied this side of Indian psychology now for many years, and every year of further study and research makes the truth of all that I have written above more self-evident and convincing to me. I cannot, however, expect rapidly to convince others of psychological facts, of a somewhat unique nature, which I myself have been very slow to understand.

### THE FUTURE

Looking over future, now that Indian immigration into South Africa has practically ceased, I regard it as quite possible that the drift back to India will continue for many years to come, until at last, only the old-established families remain in South Africa; Indians, that is to say, who have made South Africa in every sense of the word their second home.

I do not look forward, unless a reactionary and repressive policy is adopted, to any large natural increase of births over deaths among Indians throughout the Union. On the contrary, I fully expect the great initial numerical superiority of Europeans to be indefinitely increased. To show what is really happening, we have only to take note of the fact that Natal (where the Indian population is largest) has increased its European population by 25 per cent. in seven years—i.e., from the year 1911 to the year 1918. The Transvaal Europeans have increased in the same interval by 17 per cent.

### THE TRANSVAAL AND CAPE PROVINCE

I think that it could be safely prophesied that, if the present Immigrants Regulation Act were vigorously enforced during the next twenty years, the Indian population in the Transvaal and Cape Province would, for all practical purposes disappear. Let me explain this in detail. There are three concurrent factors which are all making in this direction:

- (1) The older people are dying off.
- (2) There are very few children being born, because of the extremely low proportion of women to men.
- (3) The drift back to India is continuous.

Take, first of all, the Cape Province. There are only 7,000 Indians in the whole Province, and the proportion of Indian married couples living in the Province is very small indeed. Here four factors instead of three, are at work:

- (a) Some Indians are certain to be merged in the mass of the "coloured."

(b) Others will as certainly, return to India.  
(c) Others will die off in the course of the next twenty years.

(d) There are no more Indians coming in.

Is not the result quite self-evident that, in the year 1940, the Indian population in the Cape Province will be hardly appreciable?

Let me take an analogy. In 1904, strict laws were passed prohibiting Chinese immigration. At that time, there were about 3,500 Chinese in Cape Colony. To-day they scarcely number 700.

Let us work out, in the same way, the figures of the Transvaal. I have received, since writing my first article, the most recent reliable statistics. These show that, in 1918, there were, in round figures, 10,000 Indian males and 2,000 Indian females resident in the Transvaal. It is likely that these figures are slightly below the actual numbers, but the difference, if any, will not affect the argument. It is quite certain that a considerable number of these Indians will return to India for good, and never come back. It is quite certain that very many will die in the next twenty years. It is equally certain that, with only twenty per cent. of the female sex, the natural increase will be small. Is not the result, again, quite self-evident? Is it not certain that, in twenty years' time, the Indian problem in the Transvaal will have ceased to exist, owing to the decline of the Indian population?

#### THE CASE OF NATAL

The case of Natal is different. There, the bulk of the Indian population belongs to the poor labouring classes, which at present are living under more or less slum conditions. There are also a much greater number of Indian women. The birth-rate of this population, if the present conditions go on unchanged, is certain to be very high. The death-rate will not be proportionately high.

If, therefore, in Natal, it is desired and desirable to reduce, by voluntary and natural means, without using any compulsion, the increase of the Indian population in comparison with the European, it will be necessary to consider most carefully the points I have mentioned with regard to the methods of recruitment and the actual prevention of embarkation, which has too often occurred in the past.

I have thought over the whole matter while I have been residing in Natal; and I should be prepared, in the interest of the Indians themselves of this poorer class (who are not "making good" and never will "make good"), to bring before the Indian Government the proposal that it would be wise, on their part, to offer some inducement, which would add a further incentive to the free passage now offered by the Union Government, to bring about their return to India. This inducement might take the form of a small bonus for settling in India, which could be given on landing at Bombay. From what I have seen of the condition of these Indians in the shums of Durban and on the sugar estates, I feel quite certain that they are, literally, thousands who would eagerly accept such an offer. But, as I have repeated over and over again, they would have to be saved from the ubiquitous and unscrupulous recruiter.

I shall consider, from the standpoint of the new science of Eugenics, the Natal situation still further in future articles. Natal appears to me to be the crux of the whole position, looking towards the future, just as it has been the root of all the mischief in the past through the indenture system.

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૩૨૬, પોસ્ટ રોડ, દરબન.

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