

Indian Opinion

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NOTES AND NEWS

THE members of the Asiatic Inquiry Commission have returned to Capetown, (says a Reuter telegram dated May 21), after going through the country and taking evidence at Capetown, Kimberley, Johannesburg, Pretoria, Potchefstroom, Rustenburg, Durban, Maritzburg, and Dundee, and also visiting Vereeniging and Krugersdorp.

The Commission has completed the hearing of evidence, but, a sub-committee will shortly proceed to the Transvaal for the purpose of collecting more definite facts in regard to the exact extent of the increase in the Asiatic population and Asiatic trading in small townships. There is a great mass of evidence to be digested before the Commission's report can be framed.

This almost appears as if the Commission, having failed to find the evidence sufficient to make a strong recommendation on the question of Asiatic penetration, has now decided to search for it.

The Government have introduced a Bill into the Union Parliament, dealing with the matter of Native Administration. It brings into existence a Native Affairs Commission which will examine all legislation affecting the Natives and will submit its report to the Minister of Native Affairs. The members of this Commission, however, will be Europeans,

Under this Bill, Native Local Councils are to be created. The last clause deals with the convening of an assembly of chiefs, members of the Native Councils or Local Councils and prominent Natives, together with Native delegates invited from any association or union purporting to represent any Native political or economic views. Such assembly is to be assisted in its deliberations by officials designated by the Minister of Native Affairs, who is empowered to authorise expenditure in this connection.

Mr. St. Pol Magistrate at Maritzburg, in giving his decision regarding the status of a man whose father was a Mauritius creole and his mother a Native of this country, said, that it would be a grave injustice to put these people on the same footing with Natives and Indians. He went on to describe the standard of respectability, manners and customs of a creole. He then stated that, whatever their status may have been in the origin, the disabilities under which they had laboured had been wiped off by the gradual process of law and evolution.

We do not begrudge this descendant of an Indian and a Native his acquired status; but why, we should like to know, "it would be a grave injustice to put these people on the same footing as Natives and Indians?"

We take the following from the daily press:—

A Mahomedan walked briskly into the witness-box at the Criminal Sessions yesterday, booted and wearing his fez.

"Take off your hat," ordered Mr. Justice Carter, a command the man promptly obeyed.

"They get into the habit of walking into the Court with their hats and their boots on," commented his Lordship. "There must be some sort of order in these things, and witnesses must conform to it. Soon, I expect, they will walk into Court with an umbrella and a sword in their hand."

There is nothing new or unusual about an Indian entering the witness-box or the Court with a hat and boots on. But if we must assume that the person in question omitted to make the usual salute to the bench we should then have no excuse for him. But if, on the other hand, the remarks of his Lordship indicate a new policy in the administration of the Law Courts, we must take strong exception to it.

In order to clear away any doubt on the question we would suggest that representation be made by a public or religious body to the Minister of Justice.

A Reuter telegram from London states.—Field Marshal Sir Henry Wilson, speaking at the annual meeting of the Union Jack Club, said: "We have been told that we went into the last war to end war. We did not; we went in to save our skins. We were told after the recent war that we should have peace, but we have not got it. There are at present between 20 and 30 wars going on. The war did not and could not end war."

Continuing, the Field-Marshal said: "I hope you men will keep fit and ready, for the time which is coming. Except in August, 1914, the country and Empire never wanted you more. We are living in tawdry and dangerous times. Our command of the sea, land, and air is being challenged in various parts of the world."

A gentleman who has just returned from Natal, where he has been preparing evidence on the anti-Asiatic question, (says the *Natal Advertiser* Johannesburg correspondent), was asked if there was any chance of absorbing the unskilled Randites in the event of the closure of the low grade mines. His reply was:—"The curious thing about Natal is that, though it is claimed that the cost of living is as high there as it is on the Rand, wages are generally lower. Why? Because of the competition of the Indian and Asiatic. They fill up clerical posts and the unskilled labour market."

The various Municipalities in the Transvaal have for some time been refusing trading licences to Asiatics on the grounds, among others, that their standard of living is different to Europeans, and that they pay smaller wages to their employes. Appeals to the Magistrates have proved unavailing, and under the law the Magistrates' decision is final. It is now understood by the Durban morning paper, that an application is shortly to be made to the Supreme Court asking for a mandamus

directing Magistrates to grant licences to Asiatics, the argument being that the Magistrates' decisions involve class distinction to the prejudice of Asiatics.

The Viceroy of India, in a message to the people in regard to the terms of peace with Turkey, says:—"The Supreme Council was actuated by the same motives in imposing them on Turkey as they were in the case of the other enemy countries." He admits (says the *Natal Advertiser* London correspondent), that some of the terms would be against the Mussulmans but he exhorts all to have confidence in the justice of the British Empire.

A *Times* Bombay telegram states that the Turkish treaty has produced a painful feeling among the Mahomedans.

A "SCIENTIFIC" REMEDY

IN our last week's issue, we gave the substance of a lecture delivered by Mr. R. J. Hall, M. A., at Red Hill, on the Race Problem in South Africa. Mr. Hall is the lecturer in History and Economics at the Durban Technical College. His utterances, therefore, carry weight. Mr. Hall referred to the Indian as an economic competitor who accepted a lower standard of life and was therefore a danger to the white community. He thought 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," and would bring about a segregation of those who refused to accept the lower standard from those who did accept it. Evidently the lecturer did not regard this as a satisfactory state of affairs, for he suggested as a remedy—a scientific remedy. He would allow a committee of scientists to 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. This may be an ideal proposition, and, if it were to apply to a new country, would have a good deal to be said in its favour. But it is quite a different matter to apply it to the Union of South Africa. The lecturer, however, did not hesitate so to apply it. He instanced the town of Durban itself which, he said, would, within less than 50 years, become an Asiatic town unless a plan was evolved and applied. This plan of colouring the map of Africa on scientific lines sounds simple enough, but how is it going to solve the racial and economic problem as it is presented to us in Durban is a mystery to us. Let us assume that the scheme is complete and the necessary legislation passed. Europeans will be ordered to vacate certain places and remove to other areas. Natives and Indians will likewise be separated as sheep from the goats. Each area would be self-contained. Europeans, for instance, would have to find domestic servants, labourers and scavengers amongst themselves. If we know anything of the life of South Africa, this fact alone will at once show the whole scheme. Then, again, supposing that the scientists, in their wisdom, decide that the Natal Coast belt, including Durban, is, "on geographical, geological, ethnological and medical grounds," a suitable area for Indians; will the Europeans gracefully retire? If not, the scheme fails. But does Mr. Hall really mean what he is reported to have

said? Would he not find it more practical and feasible to paint certain areas of Durban white, brown and black respectively? We are afraid that is about what any such "scientific" segregation would amount to. Surely Mr. Hall must know that it is too late to talk about painting the map of Africa! It is impossible to make out areas for each race. Europeans would, we are quite sure, be the first to break bounds and trespass on other areas. The solution lies, we think, in recognising right of every intelligent person to progress along the line he or she is most fitted for. Instead of getting into a funk at the prospect of the creation of a class of poor whites (who come into existence not because of the economic competition of Natives or Indians but owing to their own lack of education) would it not be wiser to aim at the total elimination of all colour-bars, thus doing away with the fear of being swamped by superior coloured faces who would be paid on the same footing as Europeans?

A MONSTER PETITION

The *Natal Advertiser* dated May 19, has the following leading article on the Anti-Asiatic petition laid before the Parliament by Sir Abe Bailey:—

Yesterday a "monster anti-Asiatic petition" signed by over eighty thousand Europeans was presented to Parliament by Sir Abe Bailey. Doubtless a great deal more will be heard of the Indian menace before the session ends; and we do not for this reason, propose discussing fully at this stage so controversial an issue. It is well, however, that some of the first principles of the problem should be kept in view, if the field is not to be handed over to those excitable people with whom race of colour prejudice is the only thing that counts. In yesterday's issue of *The Advertiser* there appeared the views of a well-known citizen interested in the Durban property market, in the course of which it was stated that Indians were unquestionably buying up much property in the town area from Pine Street in the direction of Greyville. The extent to which this penetration is being carried out may be gauged from the following figures. In 1888-9, Indians in Durban owned property valued at £28,280. In 1898-99 they owned property worth £200,880. In 1908-09 the total had risen to £501,750, while in 1918-19 it had increased to £652,880. The value of property sold and transferred by Europeans to Indians in the past ten years is yet more significant, as the following table shows:

1-8-'08 to 31-7-'09.....	£1,900
1-8-'09 to 31-7-'10.....	£3,170
1-8-'10 to 31-7-'11.....	£185
1-8-'11 to 31-7-'12.....	£20,445
1-8-'12 to 31-7-'13.....	£9,200
1-8-'13 to 31-7-'14.....	£22,630
1-8-'14 to 31-7-'15.....	£4,862
1-8-'15 to 31-7-'16.....	£20,660
1-8-'16 to 31-7-'17.....	£33,455
1-8-'17 to 31-7-'18.....	£102,338

"More significant" of what? Of this fact, surely, above all others. That a great deal of the local agitation regarding the Indian springs not so much from any high-souled disdain for men of an inferior type, as from hatred of a possible economic rival. At one and the same time the European in Durban is fulminating against the Asiatic and is selling him property so that his roots may be yet more firmly established in our midst. We do not want our readers to be under any misapprehension. We regret as much as anyone the entire Asiatic experiment which has left this generation with a very questionable legacy in the shape of an Indian problem. But when you find Europeans selling a hundred thousand pounds' worth of Durban property to Indians in one year, who

can have the effrontery to claim that the European wish to have neither part nor lot with the Easterner in our midst? Men who sell property are not as a rule men of no account. The possession of lands and buildings usually postulates some measure of civic status and responsibility on the part of the fortunate owner. What conclusion, then, can be derived from this transfer of property from the white man to the brown man in Durban other than that *the Indian is a good enough neighbour when he is willing to buy from us but an undesirable one when he wants to sell to us.* We are not prepared to say that it is not probably a bad thing the Indian should be encouraged to settle in the white man's communities, though with safeguards it is a better thing than compelling him to live in ghettos and breed in squalor. But this is not now the point at issue. The point is that, in face of figures such as those quoted above, there is a great deal of humbug and not a little hypocrisy in the average European protest against the Indian in our midst. The poor European buys from the Indian because his price is cheap. The rich European sells to the Indian because he can get a better price than from the poor European. Yet rich and poor Europeans join forces in loudly cursing the alien so essential at times to them both. No doubt the problem will have to be solved sooner or later, and the sooner the better. In the mean-time to take old Sam Johnson's advice, let us in this matter "rid our minds of cant."

THE SOUTH AFRICAN INDIAN DELEGATION IN LONDON

The following (says *India*), is a brief statement of the facts which the South African Indian Delegation have come to place before the British Government and people:—

The three critical problems immediately affecting the Transvaal Indian community, which will come up for consideration in South Africa, are the ownership of fixed property, trading licences, and residence in gold-mining areas. As regards the first, Law 3 of 1885, a piece of antiquated republican legislation, deprives all Asiatics of that right to own fixed or landed property in the Transvaal, though their countrymen in the Cape Colony and Natal have complete freedom to acquire land. It is essential that Indians in the Transvaal, who are mostly engaged in trade, should be free to acquire their own business and residential premises, having regard to the strong prejudice against them that prevails in the province, and accordingly two methods were devised for acquiring indirectly the ownership of fixed property. The first, recognised by the courts and the Government, was the registration of the property in the name of some trusted European, who ordinarily gave to the Indian virtual owner a mortgage bond. Thus in law the Indian was merely the owner of the mortgage, but in fact he controlled the property. A later and second method was the transfer of fixed property to a small private limited liability company, whose membership was entirely Indian. For several years these transactions were duly registered by the Government departments concerned. Lately, however, the validity of the ownership of fixed property by Asiatic companies has been tested in the Courts, which have so far decided against the Indians. The matter is probably coming up for adjudication in the Privy Council. Last year, upon the initiative of the Minister of the Interior, the matter was referred by the Union Parliament to a Select Committee, which made adverse recommendations, resulting in the passing of a law taking effect on May 1 last, prohibiting in future the acquisition, by an Indian, of a mortgage in the circumstances above referred to, and further prohibiting the acquisition of fixed property by Indian companies. The result of this legislation is practically to throw Indians into the power of grasping and prejudiced Eu-

ropean landlords, who will either rack-rent them or create such conditions as to make it impossible for Indians to live respectably and carry on their trade.

So far as the Transvaal is concerned, it is essential to get back to the actual position before the new legislation was passed last year, and before the recent adverse decisions of the Court. In so far as the Indian communities in the other two provinces are concerned, no change is called for, since any change would be to their detriment.

With regard to the issue of Trading Licences, it may be said that practically all Indians in the Transvaal are traders or employed by traders. The Indian fixed property in land acquired for the purposes of trade probably amounts to the value of some £600,000. The issue of Trading or General Dealers' Licences is, for revenue purposes, entirely in the hands of the Union Government. Until 1912 there was no difference on this score in the Transvaal, but in 1912 the Transvaal Local Government Ordinance enabled municipalities to issue grocery licences on certain conditions; practically all Indian traders in the Transvaal are general dealers, and unless they are able to sell groceries it is almost impossible in most cases to conduct any business at all. Ministers have exercised their powers ostensibly on sanitary grounds, but really with the object of ruining the Indian trader by refusing to issue new grocery licences to Indians, and in some cases by making the issue of renewals of existing licences dependent on the acceptance of humiliating and impossible conditions. So serious has the position become that in Potchefstroom, one of the principal anti-Asiatic centres, renewals of Indian licences have been refused wholesale, solely on the ground that the applicant is undesirable because Asiatic, although he is able to prove business stability and sanitary habits beyond dispute. Here again, anti-Indian legislation came to a head last year and by the same enactment the issue of all further trading licences of any kind whatsoever to Indians residing in gold-mining areas, which included most of the prosperous parts of the province, was prohibited.

As to residence, for many years even before the Boer War attempts have unsuccessfully made, in what are euphemistically described as bizzars, to establish locations often of a highly unsanitary character. This is in the alleged interests of European sanitation. The net effect of all these prohibitions and disabilities is to make life unlivable for Indians in the Transvaal and to compel their withdrawal from the Province in the case of material ruin.

Naturally, if the anti-Indian agitation succeeds in the Transvaal, it will succeed in the other Provinces of South Africa where Indian interests, particularly in Natal, whose Indian population greatly exceeds that of Europeans and includes a large proportion of South African-born Indians, whereas in the Transvaal the Indian community represents only a small proportion of the population—say one in sixteen.

One has to realize also that if the anti-Indian movement in South Africa succeeds, the example is too valuable to be lost upon the anti-Indian Europeans of the East African Protectorate, where Indians were the pioneer settlers three centuries ago, and where vast Indian capital is invested.

A Commission is about to sit in South Africa whose deliberations will be attended by Sir Benjamin Robertson on behalf of the Government of India, with the object of examining the whole question of Indian ownership and fixed property and trading in South Africa. From the point of view of the Transvaal, there can be no satisfaction unless something at least approximately attaining to the conditions prevailing before last year's legislation be reached. That will merely be a *status quo* which was in itself unsatisfactory, and on the question of the ownership of fixed property at the Cape or in Natal would be even detrimental to the local Indian community.

The modesty of these Indian claims should lead to their very serious consideration by all well-wishers of an honest and industrious community.

THE ASIATIC COMMISSION.

IN NORTHERN NATAL.

The South African Indian National Congress (Natal Northern District Indian Association), presented two statements to the Commission.

Mr. Godfrey gave evidence in support of the petitions, and Mr. Gabriel, on behalf of Newcastle, also presented a statement. Messrs. Shaik Ameer of Dannhauser, Mr. Bhaba of Wessels Nek, Mr. Chuty of Ladysmith, Mr. Osman Alarakhia of Dundee and Mr. Raghoonathsingh of Ladysmith, gave evidence. Mr. Godfrey put in a number of petitions, largely signed by the European farmers and residents of the Northern Towns and Districts. Dr. Galbraith also gave evidence to the effect that, in his long experience, he found the average Indians to be clean and sanitary, but there was a very low class of Indian of the labouring type whose conditions however showed tendencies towards improvement. He stated that no cases of immorality between the Asiatics and the natives had come under his notice, and he enjoyed an extensive practice both in the Town and District as well as Hospitals. The Venereal diseases amongst Indians here may be said to be nil.

Messrs. A. J. Oldacre, Cornforth and Mortimer gave evidence on behalf of the Chamber of Commerce, but, beyond making the usual general allegation against the Indians' trading and insanitation, no actual proofs of these allegations were presented, and it was freely admitted that there was none. Mr. Mortimer, however, said that the value of the land depreciated if Indians bought in any particular locality, and said there were two properties in Smith Street which, because of Asiatic proximity, had become very much reduced in value because they recently changed hands at very much less than what the Borough valuation showed. Mr. Clarence, on behalf of the Ladysmith chamber of commerce, gave the Indians an excellent character, but said he was acting on behalf of the Chamber of Commerce and desired the restrictions of Asiatic licences. Both he and Mr. Treadwell, acting for the Ladysmith Town Council and Licensing officer, were unable to inform the Commissioners what their respective bodies had really sent them for, and, upon the suggestion of the Commissioners, they are to obtain concrete resolutions and forward same to the Commissioners. Other witnesses also gave evidence to the effect that the Asiatic Trader was a menace, and some suggested that no new licences be granted and that present licences should cease within a given time, while, one witness was of opinion that compensation and compulsory repatriation was the only remedy.

The Commission sat all day, and there was a representative attendance of both Asiatics and Europeans.

The following are the recommendations contained in the statement of the Dundee and District Indians:—

In Dundee Township there were 26 Indian stores during 1902 and in or about that year the then Town Board notified all Indian store-keepers to substitute the wood and iron buildings by brick buildings. Only 6 Indians were able to get their landlords to meet the Board's requirements with the result that all the then stores had to close down. Since 1902 only 4 new retail store licences have been granted in Dundee Township; one was granted in or about 1904 to J. Christopher now transferred to Aryan Stores, and during 1919 a licence each to G. H. Meer and Cassim Meer. All these stores are in Ladysmith Road and entirely away from the business portion of the town. The other remaining store was carried on for a while and then lapsed. In all, the Indians to-day possess

only nine wholesale and retail store licences in Dundee Township as against thirt-nine granted to Europeans.

The population for Dundee as given by Braby's Natal Directory for the year 1920 is European 1254, Natives 1233, and Indians 680—totals 3167.

Dundee does not only rely upon the population of the town alone for support but caters largely for the population in the district. The Indians in the District are principally those engaged upon the Mines and the figures given by the Mines Department as appearing in the current Provincial Gazette this month are:—

Dundee Coal Company.....	746.....	(4 Mines)
Natal Navigation.....	357	
South African Collieries.....	239.....	(2 Mines)
Wallsend Collieries.....	108.	
Glencoe Collieries.....	124	

1574.

Added to this may be about 500 Indians in the District engaged in various minor pursuits in life. Total 2274 which together with the 680 living in the township totals 2950.

In the District of Dundee there are the following licences:—

Europeans	Indians Asiatics	
Retail.....	21.	26.
Butchers.....	12.	5.
Malt.....	10.	1.
	7 }	5.
Native Eating House }		
Millers.....	22.	3.
Manufacturers... 1.		5.

The Indians here feel that on the whole the Licensing Laws in Natal require amendment so as to—

(a) Give right of appeal to Higher Courts direct from Licensing Officers, as appeal to Town Council is a mere farce as they are rival traders.

(b) That such Licensing Officers in Municipalities should be an independent person.

The present experience is that the Municipal Licensing Officer is an employee of the Town Council and hence his saying in his judgment in re Karodia that although he grants the application viz:—"As I understand certain other properties in this vicinity will in all probability be shortly offered for sale, I wish it to be distinctly understood that no further applications for Asiatic Trading Licences or transfers of licences of a similar nature to this in Victoria Street will be sympathetically considered by me for the reason given in this decision."

(c) Transfers or change in the constitution of the business should not be looked upon as new licences. The community has already suffered adverse decisions under this heading.

Transfer Soojat Khan to Amodjee Bemat refused by Licensing Officer and Board.

Ismail Dadabhay & Bros. took partner M. I. Bodia-Licence considered as a new one and refused by Licensing Officer and Board. Result, store had to be closed.

(d) Suggested death of owner should not mean cessation of business.

In 1919 Karodia wanted transfer from rented premises in European Quarter to his property costing £23,000 sterling in Indian Quarters—refused; made 3 applications—2 refused by Licensing Officer and upheld by Board. Third application granted by Licensing Officer and refused by Board.

Appeal by Karodia to Supreme Court upheld but the decision set aside by Appellate Court on the ground that the Town Council was not cited as party to the proceeding.

The Fourth Application was granted by the Licensing Officer and the Chamber of Commerce appealed against the decision but the Town Council was, by a series of peculiar circumstances, impelled to grant the application and dismiss the appeal. The whole of these applications took over three years and Karodia

had to pay rent for that period whilst his own property stood vacant. It cost applicant quite two thousand pounds because of the difficulty he experienced in obtaining his transfer which should have been granted to him for the mere asking.

The Statement of the Indian Community of Lady-smith, Dundee, Newcastle, Dannhouser and Charles-town, Contained the following suggestions:—

There are numerous cases in the Supreme Court which go to prove that the discretion granted to licensing officers to refuse licences has been exercised detrimentally to the Indians. To correct this, legislation is necessary to.

(a) Compel Licensing officers to give full and complete reasons for refusal.

(b) Right of appeal to Supreme Court and Higher Courts upon the law and merits.

The Community feels that greater facilities than at present existing should be granted to the Asiatic for trading purposes in the District for the following reasons namely:—

(a) The Asiatic opens his store in that part of the District where no European cares to or has opened a store, or sufficiently caters for the public.

(b) He brings articles of civilisation and supplies same at the very door of the ignorant natives and supplies the needs of the natives and such European farmers as may be resident here.

(c) The Indian is satisfied with a fair profit and consequently sells his article at a smaller price than perhaps the European.

(d) The selling of articles at a smaller profit is a distinct gain to the purchasing public.

(e) The allowing of credits for shorter or longer periods as the Europeans also do is clearly a disadvantage to the store-keeper but on the other hand is a great advantage to the poorer members of the Community and more often than not it will be found that assignments or insolvencies are largely due to inability to collect these outstanding debts the benefit of which the public receive.

(f) It only rarely occurs in Natal that an Asiatic figures in the Criminal Courts charged with fraudulent insolvencies.

As regards licences in Municipalities. It is felt that in Municipal licences that the Licensing Officer should not be the Town Clerk or any employee of the Town Council and suggests that the Licensing Officer should be an independent person and that appeals should not be to the Town Council who are in the great majority of cases trade rivals, but the appeal should be direct from the Licensing Officer to the Supreme Court, etc., and that such appeals should be both upon the law and the merits.

The Community experiences insurmountable difficulty in Municipalities in obtaining transfers of licences and suggests that transfers ought not to be looked upon as new licences but that all transfers either to a new person or a new place should be granted without difficulty providing the new person or place complies with the Law.

It is also a ground for complaint that when a new partner is taken in, the licence is looked upon and treated as a new one subject to any and all objections applying to new licence. It is also urged that this should not be so, because in effect and practice it is only the Asiatic whose change in the constitution of the firm becomes an impediment to his continuing business and further it savours strongly of interfering with existing and acquired rights.

The suggestion that the death of an owner of a business should mean the cessation of that business, is manifestly unjust and unfair and we claim that the business should be allowed to be carried on by the Heirs, Executors or Trustees as also any new Purchaser to whom such business may be sold.

All that has been said in regard to licences generally in Districts also applies to licences in Municipalities, but further grounds for the needs and necessity of the Asiatic trader in Municipalities may be stated to be:—

(a) That the Asiatic trade is a distinct blessing to the poor white men and Indians and Natives and coloured persons who form the major portion of such towns.

(b) The Asiatic trader is naturally civil and his desire to satisfy his customers needs even to his whims and fancies, is in a great measure the reason why the white customer patronises him.

(c) The Asiatic trader is not intrusive upon the susceptibilities of the European and would strenuously oppose any idea, suggestion or legislation with regard to segregation upon the grounds of no necessity and as being against the dignity of a self-respecting community.

(d) The cost of living of the Indians will be found upon investigation, to be almost equal, if not more than the European.

(e) The allegation that the Indian shop assistants are paid low wages is equally misleading because when it is remembered he is, apart from wages paid, also supplied with food, board, laundry, washing, barber, medicines and sometimes clothing, then the total approximates to or exceeds that paid to the European assistants as wages.

(f) The Asiatic trader is law-abiding and sanitary. The Court records are available to show that there are hardly any prosecutions for infringing the sanitary or health regulations.

It is desired to point out that in the Districts of Vryheid, Paulpietersburg and Utrecht since becoming part of Natal, the Asiatics have not been permitted to obtain licences and trade in those Districts and whereas prior to such annexation any Indian having domiciliary or other rights entitling to remain in those Districts could obtain licences upon the mere application.

It is submitted that there are now a fair number of Indians in those Districts employed upon the mines who at present have to come 30 and 40 miles away in order to purchase their special Indian requirements.

THE MYSTERY OF MR. SASTRI'S NON-APPEARANCE

The London correspondent of the *Servant of India*, writing on the 26th February last, writes:—

I hear from South Africa the greatest disappointment expressed at the inability of Mr. Sastri to accompany Sir Benjamin Robertson. So much had been built upon his visit, and I can fully enter into the feelings of the Indian community. Knowing him as I do, however, I am sure that only the most important and urgent public business would have prevented his departure on so vital and necessary a mission. But how is it that no one else among all the public men of India has been nominated by the Government of India to take his place?

Writing on the 11th March, the same correspondent says:—

Mr. Bennet has not left alone the question of the South African Commission, and the determination of Mr. Srinivasa Sastri to remain in India, for yesterday he put another question to the Secretary of State for India, based, I believe, upon a statement appearing in the "Indian Social Reformer," inquiring whether the the South African Government, while expressing their willingness to receive an Indian delegate in association with Sir Benjamin Robertson to represent Indian interests before the Commission that is now sitting, coupled their offer with impossible conditions, and whether the absence of an Indian delegate from the

inquiry would be due to this circumstance. Mr. Fisher's reply was highly circumspect. He said that the South African Government, in agreeing to this arrangement, had laid down no conditions which the gentlemen in question was not prepared to accept. There were, however, other conditions, not within the control of the South African Government, which had led him, to their common regret, to refuse the invitation at a very late stage. It was inadvisable to delay indefinitely the setting up of the Commission, and the circumstances made it impracticable for the Government of India to replace him. Those who know Mr. Sastri will be able to read between the lines of Mr. Fisher's reply without difficulty, and will realise that, where he felt obliged to refuse, no other patriotic and self-respecting Indian would have felt inclined to accept. South Africa has thus one more sin to answer for.

THE ASIATIC QUESTION

ANALYSIS OF VITAL PROBLEM

(By C. F. ANDREWS)

VI

If statesmanship could be relied on to do its beneficent work instead of race-prejudice, then, undoubtedly, the best solution of the Asiatic problem would be the gradual absorption of the comparatively small remaining Indian population (now that the door is definitely closed) into the whole social organism.

THE EFFECTS OF ASSIMILATION

The method would be the same as that which the United States has employed with its own immigrants—that is to say, the immediate working out of a full and complete system of English education for the children who are born in the country. In the case of South Africa, there are no fresh immigrants from India; and, therefore, the whole question is simpler than that of America, where the door is still open. The education in South Africa would be given, in an ever increasing proportion of cases, to the children of those who were themselves, "Colonial-born," and who, therefore, had inherited, from their birth, South African traditions.

Sanitary problems—problems of different standards of living, problems of underselling in trade—all these would find their solution, if the education of Indian children were made universal and compulsory and thorough in character. The present high Indian birth-rate would also decline. For the marriage age would be postponed and the standard of living would advance. The raising of the intellectual level itself has always a tendency to reduce excessive fertility. The more I have thought over the matter, the more safe it appears to me to anticipate that, with a high educational advance, a greater reduction in the Indian birth-rate would follow.

THE EFFECTS OF SEGREGATION

But, just as I can safely anticipate this result, if a liberal policy is pursued, so it is easy to predict an exactly opposite effect from a policy of segregation. For every known biological law, and every lesson of past history, warn us sternly that, whenever a subject race has been segregated and kept permanently in a dependent condition, it has always multiplied faster than the ruling race. The Biblical story of the multiplication of the children of Israel in Egypt, which so greatly alarmed Pharaoh, is a typical instance. The treatment of the Jews in Europe by the Christians in the Middle Ages is another example. They multiplied in their Ghettos beyond all counting. The subjection of the Poles under the Prussians, and their rapid increase, is a third historical analogy. The subject race, in its depression, invariably produces far more children than the race which keeps it in subjection.

THE GALTON LECTURE

Dean Inge, of Westminster, who was chosen, on account of his scientific studies in Eugenics, to deliver the Galton Lecture in London last year, took for his subject, "The future of the English Race." In that Lecture, he has gone so far as to make this theory of population, which I have mentioned, universal. He writes as follows:

"I know of no instance in History in which a ruling race had not been ultimately ousted or absorbed by its subjects."

The purport of the Lecture is to show, that only the intellectual levelling up of the depressed classes, or the subject races, can ever bring down their excessive birth-rates to normal, and thus prevent the overflow of these populations until they swamp, by sheer weight of numbers, the aristocratic classes. "Dame Nature," the lecturer says, "cares nothing for the babble of politicians and trade-union regulations. She says to us, what Plotinus, in a remarkable passage, makes her to say: 'You should not ask questions: you should try to understand. I am not in the habit of talking.' In Nature's school it is a word and a blow, and the blow first."

In this connection, the Galton Lecturer looks upon the English race in South Africa as fighting against Nature and Science. Meanwhile, Nature holds all the best cards in her hands and is certain to win the game in the end.

The Dean writes:

"The Eugenist, the prospects of the English race in South Africa is very dubious. The white man is there as an aristocrat, directing semi-servile labour."

He sees inevitable Nemesis approaching with silent steps, to overtake the white aristocratic race. The tide of the subject population flows forward like the flood of the great sea. Meanwhile the birth-rate of the conquerors perpetually declines. The end comes at last—

"Large tracts of country," he states, "in South Africa, may at last, be occupied only by Kaffirs."

AN INDIAN LOCATION

I stayed, a short time ago, in the segregated area, set apart, side by side with the African coloured people, as a location for Indians in Pretoria. The picture that continually came before my mind was that of a London slum in the East End, in which I had worked as a clergyman many years ago. The parallel was exactly the same. There, in the Indian location, was the same prolific human life, pulling all around me. The streets and houses and vacant spaces swarmed with children. The squalor and depression were the same also.

I went back from thence into the European part of Pretoria, and the whole scene was different—as different as the West of London differs from the East. There was no overcrowding of child life there. Nature was performing her silent work of re-adjustment, by minimising the fertility of the more comfortable and prosperous race.

The words spoken by Mr. G. Heaton Nichols, of Natal, are bold words:

"Our rule in South Africa," he says, "is an Aristocracy—the Aristocratic rule of the White Race. Anything which tends to destroy this rule is suicide."

SEGREGATION SUICIDAL

But what if this very step of "segregation" which is now put forward on the ground that it will preserve the white race—what if this very policy is the most certain means of bringing the white race to destruction? What if the tendency of the present Rule itself, in so far as it advocates segregation, is inevitably and persistently towards suicide? To quote the remarkable saying from Plotinus once more: Nature is always silently teaching and saying to us, "You should try to understand. I am not in the habit of talking."

But we, on our side, go on blindly, obstinately,

stupidly, persuading ourselves that we are right. We refuse to listen to her admonitions. She can show us, by historical examples, how race or class segregation has always failed in the past, just because it is unnatural. Like a knife which turns backward in the hand, segregation cuts the person who tries to use it as a weapon. Though it may injure the segregated race, yet, in the long run, its deepest wounds will be inflicted on the segregators themselves. This is the Law of Nature.

THE LAW OF RACE SURVIVAL

Furthermore, Nature can tell us, if we will but listen closely and understand her silences, how in no case can a ruling race hold another race in subjection by mere force, or what is the equivalent of force, namely, class legislation.

To quote again the words of the Galton Lecturer:—"I know," he says, "of no instance in history in which a ruling race has not ultimately been ousted or absorbed by its subjects..... It is a law which hardly admits of exceptions, that aristocracies do not maintain their numbers. The ruling race rules itself out."

SIR JOHN SEELEY'S AXIOM

The same truth of history has been put in a still more emphatic manner by Sir John Seeley, in his "Expansion of England." He writes as follows:—

"There is no greater cause of moral degradation than that of permanent subjection to a foreign rule."

The context of the passage shows, as clearly as possible, that the writer was thinking of the degradation of the ruler, and not merely that of the ruled.

Whenever we think of insulting our fellow-men by treating them with permanent contempt, as unfit for our daily contact; whenever we regard them as only bearable at a distance, in remote locations, the Nature sets to work, silently and slowly, in order to carry out her rectifying processes. She increases the fertility of the depressed race, she makes sterile the contemptuous oppressor. She demoralises with luxury the prosperous and the proud, she goads to greater industry the outcast and despised.

The great words of the Magnificent find their own fulfilment:—

"He hath put down the mighty from their seats
And hath exalted the humble and meek.
He hath filled the hungry with good things
And the rich He hath sent empty away."

The mills of God grind slowly, but they grind with exact repayment for every insult and injustice done by man to his fellow-man.

INDIANS IN EAST AFRICA

LETTERS BY MR. G. F. ANDREWS

IV.

(Continued from page 163)

When we turn from British East Africa to Uganda the difference in the treatment of Indians is altogether marked. In Uganda the European element is, up to the present, much smaller owing to malaria and black water fever and a somewhat enervating climate. But the soil is so fertile and the cotton area is so productive, that there can be little doubt that the European traders and settlers will soon be coming into Uganda in far greater numbers. And every Indian in Uganda fears this invasion—not because of trade competition, but because of the selfishness which makes the policy of Indian exclusion profitable to the European when ruthlessly applied at a certain stage of development. While the Indian is opening up a country and in the process is ready to face disease which no European would face with impunity,—so long as the Indian is engaged in this work the rivalry and race prejudice are not serious. But when the country has been opened up to trade, when the

African has learnt to trade by dealing with the Indian, then, as the country becomes more settled and less unhealthy, the European begins to wish to have everything his own way. If the Indian stands in the road he must be turned out.

I have put rather brutally and perhaps also one-sidedly the general trend of politics. What I have said needs qualification in many directions, but as a rough sketch of what happens it is fairly correct.

IN UGANDA

In Uganda to-day the second stage—i. e. when the Indian stands in the way of the European,—has not yet been reached. On every side the Europeans told me that they were glad of the presence of the Indian; that he, was a most useful person; that they did not agree with the Economic Commission findings to the effect that the Indian kept the African Native back; indeed—so the Europeans told me,—it was just the other way. There was no one who was civilising the African quicker than the Indian.

SITUATION HOPEFUL

In Uganda I sat down to a common dinner at which European and Indian sat and ate together at the same table. Such a thing would be very difficult to contemplate in British East Africa.

In Uganda my great fear was that the Indian children were growing up without any education and therefore that they would be unable to take their true and proper place in the future. I am thankful to say that a very large proportion of husbands have brought their wives out with them. There are a very large number of bright-eyed intelligent little Gujarati children, boys and girls, everywhere present. But schools are practically nil.

I have done my utmost to get this defect remedied at the earliest possible moment both by appealing with all earnestness to the Indian community itself and also by appealing for direct Government action.

The situation in Uganda to-day is hopeful. The Indians are prosperous on the whole and they are not oppressed.

BOOKS FOR SALE

To be obtained from the *Indian Opinion Press, Phoenix, Natal*. Postal Orders to be made payable at Durban. We have just received the following books from India. The prices given include cost of postage:—

	Price post free s. d.
A Study in Indian Economics by P. Banerji	4 4
The Hon. Mr. Gokhale's Tour in South Africa : Special INDIAN OPINION Souvenir.	1 0
A Letter to a Hindu, or the Subjection of India, its Cause and Cure, by Leo Tolstoy	2 6
Fields, Factories and Workshops, by Prince Kropotkin	1 9
Unto this Last, " "	1 10
English Traits and Representative Men, by Emerson	1 10
Society and Solitude and other Essays, by Emerson	1 10
War and Peace, Vols 1, 2, and 3, by Tolstoy, each	1 10
Reflections on the French Revolution, by Burke	1 10
A Book—and its Misnomer	7
Bhagavad Gita. Mrs. Besant's Translation	7