

# Indian Opinion

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## NOTES AND NEWS

IN the House of Commons on the 22nd instant, says Reuter, Mr. Montagu, Secretary of State for India, was questioned, and admitted that Mr. Gandhi proposed to boycott the Prince of Wales' visit to India. He said that the disloyal project found but little favour, and he was confident the Prince would receive a welcome in India equal, if not more than equal, in the enthusiasm of the reception given to him in other parts of the Empire. Mr. Montagu did not reply when asked if Mr. Gandhi was the same man who stirred up sedition in South Africa until he was expelled. The *Natal Advertiser* correspondent adds that Mr. Montagu expressed his readiness to support any steps the Government of India thought necessary as regards Mr. Gandhi's actions.

We do not think it necessary to refute the ignorant insinuations of this Member of Parliament. In South Africa, everyone, from the Prime Minister downwards, knows the character of Mr. Gandhi and the nature of his public work. Sedition was and still is the last thing he could be capable of.

The *South African Sugar Journal* (Durban), the official organ of the South African planters' union, in its latest issue referring to the voluntary repatriation of Indian says:—

In view of the Government's desire to repatriate at least 20,000 Indians, a special effort might be made at this juncture to induce the Government to permit recruiting north of Latitude 22, and to bring down an experimental lot of boys for working on the sugar estates. A practical demonstration would soon show the suitability of those boys for Coast work, and this would, no doubt, go very far to ameliorate the extremely serious labour position which now confronts the sugar industry. We cannot help expressing the hope, however, at the same time, that the Government will not be successful in removing any large number of Indians from the Coast Areas, and there is no other labour which can satisfactorily replace them. No doubt the offer of free passages will be a great inducement to many Indians. The Government is taking a mean advantage in attempting to lure them from the country, and the sugar industry will be perfectly justified in putting forward all the opposition possible to prevent them achieving their purpose.

A correspondent writes from Suva (Fiji), to the *Bombay Chronicle*:—

"Indians in Fiji who come under indenture—lost their caste and sacrificed everything of their home and family life that was sacred—are faced with the prospect of being deprived by the Fiji Government of the gold sovereigns they may have hoarded on embarkation for return to India. Many have paid heavy premium for obtaining this gold and further we consider that even those who hold currency notes of the Fiji Government should be given corresponding cash in gold if the Fiji Government will be fair to them. Let those poor ex-indentured slaves carry their gold from Fiji to India, without any hindrance from any law or otherwise, and they will take their chance of

getting rupees in exchange or converting the gold into articles of jewellery for their women and children. Any other course would be down-right robbery."

We regret to chronicle the demise of the late Soobraya Moodeliar who passed away last Friday in his ninety-sixth year, at the Durban Railway Barracks, Durban. The deceased arrived in this Colony in 1864 and had been in the service of the Natal Government Railways for 40 years as chief Sirdar. He held the position of Trustee of the Railway Hindu Temple for the last 30 years. He was a man of kind disposition and endeared himself to all who came in contact with him. His remains were laid to rest in the Durban Cemetery, and the large gathering present at the graveside proved the popularity of the deceased. He leaves several sons, daughters and grand-children to mourn their loss, to whom the heartfelt sympathy of the Indian public is offered

We published in our last week's issue, a sample of the South African's League's advertisements, and this is another one appearing in the Durban morning paper:—

### "ANTI-ASIATIC ARMY"

1,000 earnest white men and women wanted to enrol in first battalion of the South Africans' League. Objects, legislation to resist Asiatic encroachments in European skilled crafts, commerce, industries, farming, and residential areas."

London, July 19.—The Colonial Office notifies that, in view of the fall in the exchange value of the Indian rupee, which is at present current in East Africa at two shillings, the importation of Indian coin and currency notes into Kenia, Uganda, and Tanganyika is prohibited. Persons arriving in East Africa are allowed to introduce a small amount of Indian currency for personal use, as the Customs authorities may determine.—Reuter.

Bombay, July 18.—The *Times of India*, in discussing the position of the Indians in Kenia Colony (British East Africa), demands that the Government should insist on an absolute equality for the Indians. A native meeting at Bombay has resolved to protest against the treatment of Indians in British East Africa. Reuter.

Johannesburg, July 21.—The question has again arisen of the Town Council supplying tramcars for coloured people. The Council, however, is placed in a difficult position. The Supreme Court says it has to provide travelling facilities for coloured people, quite apart from which the Council recognises its responsibilities to them, but it is faced by the fact that, owing to the sharp turns in the streets of the town and the length of the cars, tenders cannot be used. The main difficulty appears to be a shortage of cars. "We have not got enough cars for the white people let alone catering for the coloured population," said the chairman of the Tramway Committee to-day. "If we could put on special cars for coloured people we would do so." Thus the Council is between—the

devil and the deep," as he expressed the matter.—*Natal Mercury*.

We understand that Messrs. Ismail Bayat, Leo R. Gopaul, L. Gabriel and A. Christopher were appointed by the Durban Committee of the South African National Indian Congress to give evidence before the Provincial Select Committee in connection with the various municipal Ordinances now before the Provincial Council. We have, however, no further information on the subject.

Messrs. Benard L. E. Sigamoney, E. J. Choonoo and G. Mungar were deputed by the Durban and District Indian Teachers' Association to meet the Natal Educational Authorities on the many difficulties the Indian teacher works under. They were received by Mr. Hugh Bryan, Secretary of Education, and were given a most patient and sympathetic hearing.

A writer in the *Latest* says that there seems to be a considerable amount of discontent in the minds of the Indian municipal employees in connection with their wages. It appears the Indian employees sent in a petition for an increase last year, and the heads of the department were asked to make a report, and the matter has been put off from day to day to the detriment of the Indian workers.

London, July 27.—The *Morning Post* states that the visit of the Prince of Wales to India has been postponed owing to ill-health.—Reuter.

London, July 27.—Sir Michael O'Dwyer, late Lieutenant-Governor of the Punjab, writes a lengthy letter to the *Morning Post* regarding the Amritsar riots and complains of the harsh treatment of officers administering martial law in India. He declares that the persecution of officials and loyal Indians by extremists justifies his action in connection with General Dyer's order. He declares that he applied for leave to resign from the Service at an early date. He pays a tribute to officers and men in the Punjab for their services during the war and in last year's rebellion.—Reuter.

Reuter, Johannesburg, sends the following message dated July 27:—

It appears that 400 Indians recently left the Union by steamship, having chosen to be repatriated according to the law.

Mr. Ritch, who frequently represents the Indians in the Courts of the Union Government, has offered £25 and a free passage to every Indian who wished to return to his own country. He said, further, that there was a definite demand for Indian labour in itself, and that Sir R. Tata, the Parsee millionaire, had expressed himself as able to employ a considerable number, but he (Mr. Ritch) felt, nevertheless, that the Indian community was certain that the invitation extended to it to go in for repatriation, was made with the desire of getting rid of its members finally, since such folk would not be permitted to return.

Though the steamer *Umhloti* took 400 repatriated Indians, there were berths for 600.

We must say that the above message is not quite clear to us. We are, therefore, unable to make any comment on it before we know what Mr. Ritch really means to say.

We stated in our last week's issue that Mr. Wynne-Cole, Repatriation Commissioner, was going to address a meeting on Saturday last at Rawat's Bio Hall.

This information was given to us by Mr. Wynne-Cole himself. But, we were given to understand later that the convenor of the meeting was Mr. C. R. Naidoo who left for India by the s.s. *Umhloti*. Owing to his absence, we understand, the meeting was not held.

We are informed that a meeting is called at the Hindu Tamil Institute, Cross Street, Durban, on Monday, 2nd August, 1920 at 4 p. m. for the purpose of passing a resolution expressing joy at the release of Prof. Bhai Paramanand M.A., in India.

All are kindly invited to attend.

The writer of "The Indian World" column in the *Natal Advertiser* referring to the new draft ordinances promoted by the Durban Corporation, says:—In Durban there are several Indian Ratepayers' Associations and except for a half-hearted protest against these ordinances, they have done nothing further. The opportunity to give evidence before the Select Committee was theirs but they failed to take it. To-night the ordinances come before the Provincial Council; to-morrow the individual Indian Ratepayers will suffer because their Associations had not vigorously moved on their behalf in the defence of their civic rights and privileges.

#### THE KRUGERSDORP JUDGMENT

WE have before us a copy of the judgment delivered by the Appellate Court in the case of *Dadoo Ltd., and others versus the Municipal Council of Krugersdorp*. It is the final word on the question of whether an Indian limited liability company could, prior to the passing of Act 37 of 1919, legally become the owners of landed property in the Transvaal. It was contended that the acquisition of property by Asiatic Companies was in *fraudem legis* of Law 3 of 1885 and of the Gold Law of 1908 under which no Asiatic was capable of being the owner of fixed property in the South African Republic and that no coloured person could acquire any right of residence or occupation of mining ground other than as servants. In other words it was said to be an evasion of the spirit of these laws. The judgment is a lengthy one and goes fully into the question of the alleged "fraud." The learned Chief Justice has now decided that whereas an Asiatic or two partners could not legally have become owners of the stands in Krugersdorp a Company consisting of the same persons could. It is thus proved that there was no evasion of the law. Everything that was done had a legal sanction. It was a question of avoiding the restrictions of a statute. It thus appears that the fear that all those companies registered prior to the passing of 37 of 1919 would be declared illegal was groundless. Under that law it is specially declared that from and after May 1st 1919, Law 3 of 1885 shall be construed as prohibiting the ownership of fixed property by any company in which Asiatics possess a controlling interest. The Act has no application to property acquired before the date. The judgment is satisfactory in that it protects the legal rights of companies already formed at the time of the passing of last year's Act. It does not, however, do away with the legal disabilities in regard to the ownership of landed property by Asiatics; and, as the law now stands, no more property can be acquired by companies in which Asiatics possess a controlling interest.

## LABOUR PROTESTS AGAINST THE AMRITSAR ATROCITY

MEETING IN LONDON

### PUNISHMENT OF THE GUILTY DEMANDED

A meeting of protest against the whitewashing report of the Hunter Committee, to demand the recall of the Viceroy, Lord Chelmsford, and the impeachment of Sir Michael O'Dwyer, the late Governor of the Punjab, was held at Olympia, Scarborough, on Thursday, June 24.

The Chairman, Mr. J. Robertson, M.P., said, that the Amritsar affair was probably one of the most serious events in the history of India since the government was taken over by the British. Distance made no difference to a horror or atrocity, and the Indian people preferred to have their case put before the British people, who he hoped, would soon be the dominant factor in the Government of their own nation. How would the British people like it if India dominated their country and if every official was an Indian, if the material wealth of their country was being exploited for the benefit of an alien race? The best could not get out of a country when it was governed contrary to the traditions and the aspirations of the people.

Mr. J. M. Parikh said that the conduct of British officials in India, the high price of food, and other measures brought about a state of unrest in the minds of the people. There were forty millions who, even in ordinary times, did not get one square mill a day. (Shame.) During the war there was a state of recruitment which might be called conscription, and there was a feeling against the way the War Loan was raised. There was no freedom of the Press—no freedom of speech, and there was the Defence of India Act, similar to D.O.R.A., which would probably become permanent on the Statute Book. Opposition was offered to an occasional day of fasting and prayer and the people gathered together. They got very excited and two well-known men were arrested. The people went in a body to make application to the authorities for the release of these men, but were stopped by a picket. The people insisted and attempted to push their way through. The result was instant firing; and the whole town went mad. India was not going to leave this alone, and it was absolutely that those responsible should be brought to justice, and soon. The Report of the Hunter Committee said that General Dyer was honestly doing his work according to his conception of duty. Were they to accept that theory? No; punishment was necessary and it should be meted out according to the decision of a Court of Law. These gentlemen should be tried in this country for the simple reason that before the Committee was appointed the Government of India knew well what had taken place and, therefore, passed a Bill which provided that no one in India could institute criminal proceedings against any officer of the British Government. He understood that there was now a similar bill before Parliament, and if that was passed there would be no hope of bringing to justice any of those responsible for Amritsar. Unless this was done it had been decided that there would be no co-operation by Indians with the Government.

Mr. B. G. Horniman said seventeen hundred witnesses, who were not heard by the Hunter Committee, were called by the commissioners appointed by the Indian National Congress. The horrors and atrocities, in the ingenuity of their cruelty and their brutality, surpassed even the operations of the Germans during the War, and of the Belgians on the Congo. In saying this he was not guilty of any exaggeration; atrocities of a similar nature had been, in a more or less degree, committed by British officials, civil and military, in India. When Scarborough and other places were bombed by German indignation and horror were expressed by the people, yet, in India last year, General

Dyer was responsible for aerial attacks on peaceful villages, on villagers peacefully walking in the streets, on peasants working peacefully at the plough, and actually on the boarding-house of a school. And they found Mr. Montagu laying down that while the use of aeroplanes was not desirable, in cases of emergency it was justifiable and necessary, although it might not be possible to guarantee that innocent people would not suffer with the guilty. At this time there was not a state of rebellion. Sir Michael O'Dwyer was holding a public Durbar, but Martial Law was proclaimed. A telegram was sent to the Lieutenant-Governor of the Punjab stating that the place was perfectly quiet, that there was no sort of disorder, and that Martial Law was quite unnecessary. In regard to the demand for the recall of Lord Chelmsford, the Government, after all that had happened, after all these things, for which he was primarily responsible, had given him an expression of confidence in his discretion and in regard to his conduct, as high as they could give to any man who had performed his duty according to the highest standards. Lord Chelmsford's appointment was shrouded in mystery; he had no special qualifications. Surely a country of 300,000,000 people was deserving of one of the best men in the front rank of public life. One reason, perhaps, for the appointment was that Lord Chelmsford happened to be the son-in-law of Lady Wimborne and a friend of Mr. Freddie Guest, who, he supposed, held Mr. Lloyd George in the hollow of his hand. There would be no hope of any action being taken unless the people of this country made such a row as would frighten Mr. Lloyd George into realising that it was safer to recall Lord Chelmsford, than to oblige Mr. Freddie Guest.

Mr. Holford Knight said these terrible events in India happened not only in our name, but from a type of man we had to watch if we were going to avoid dangers to ourselves, and if we were going to do our duty as our forefathers would have wanted us to do so. This type of man was at work in Ireland—it was the main issue of the war, and unless the people took care, this type of man would be at work in this country.

Mr. George Lansbury said that if the public of England really knew the facts they would not only demand, but they would get the impeachment of the men who were responsible for the Amritsar atrocities. There were few people who were fit to govern their own children and he did not know of any nation that was fit to govern another nation. He did not believe in the destiny of the British or any other people to dominate the world. They should not dominate, but co-operate. The whole question of our relationship to India and other nations of a like kind rested on the need for a new sort of spirit in our attitude towards other nations. It was useless to talk about more law and changes of government. What was needed in the world to-day was a very commonly called thing—a change of heart. There had got to be an entirely different outlook. They could do what they liked with these people, but while the same spirit and the same machinery remained the same things would be happening to-morrow. There was only one royal road—sincerity towards one another.

A resolution denouncing the atrocities, demanding the recall of Lord Chelmsford, and the trial and punishment of those responsible for the crimes was then carried, with only one dissident.

Concurrently with the above meeting an open air demonstration was held on the sands by the Independent Labour Party and Mr. J. M. Parikh held a large audience with a recital of the oppression practised in India by representatives of the British people. So interested were the crowd, which included many of the delegates of the Labour Conferences, as well as residents in Scarborough, that the speaker was invited to address another meeting the following evening.

On Friday another large demonstration was held on the sands, presided over by Councillor Bizard, J.P.

After the Chairman had given a detailed account of the Indian National Congress, the meeting was addressed by C. R. Morden, Labour Candidate for Finsbury, who, speaking as an Indian and a member of the British Committee of the Indian National Congress, appealed to the sense of fairplay and justice of the British people to right the wrongs of India. The War had been undertaken in the interests of self-government for small nations—so at least it was claimed. It was a war to end war, and peace could only come by given self-government to peoples.

Mr. J. M. Parikh followed and again described the way in which India suffered from civil and military oppression. He was interrupted by two soldiers, but one of them, who was given five minutes on the platform, cut a very sorry figure, for he challenged several statements which Mr. Parikh was able to prove correct from the evidence printed in the Hunter Committee's Report.—*India.*

### INDIANS ABROAD

(By MR. C. F. ANDREWS IN *Young India.*)

(Continued from page 227)

#### II.

But even all this experience, which I have narrated concerning Natal, did not convince me that I was on the wrong line. I am an Englishman, and we are a stubborn people to convince, when we have got an ideal strongly into our minds.

In Fiji, I started again with the old assumption. I assumed that indenture could be worked, if only it was worked differently, that a very short period of indenture would be like an apprenticeship, such as every English working lad has to go through in my own country. I did not see that, in this matter, England is a free country and India is not free; in England even the poorest peasant has elementary education, while in India the peasants cannot even write their own names in their own mother-tongue. I had missed over these, and a great many other, differences.

What I saw in Fiji, the first time, did not altogether convince me of my mistake. I remained too long at Suva, negotiating with the Fiji Government and trying to come to some terms which would be a compromise and could not altogether destroy the indenture system and indenture recruiting. I did, however, see many things which opened my eyes still further. I saw the great Sugar Mill at Nausori on the river Rewa and went in and out of the coolie 'lines' there with Mr. Pearson. The faces of the women told their own tale of misery and shame, and Mr. Pearson and I came away silenced at heart. Later still, I visited alone some quarters at Navua which were even worse than those at the Rewa River. I made discoveries of cruelties and oppressions which were intolerably disgraceful. With Mr. Pearson's help, and with the assistance of Indians on the spot, we unravelled the terrible records of the domestic life in the 'line'—the sexual jealousy and quarrelling, the murders and suicides, the little children whose parentage even was not known, the women who sold themselves first and then their own daughters for a life of shame.

It seems to me very strange now and quite unaccountable, that all this did not convince me,—I am telling the story of my weakness of insight just as it occurred,—but I came back still persisting in the idea that a compromise was possible. I insisted, against the advice of my best Indian friends, in publishing this compromise in the Report. It still remains there, and it gives me a pang to-day, every time I turn over the pages and see it. But, as I have said, we English are a stubborn people.

Then, I was obliged to go out a second time in Fiji. By this time, things had happened, both in India and in Fiji, which had fully convinced me that

I was wrong, and that the compromise I had suggested would be worse than useless; it would be only a gilding of the bars of the prison-cage; it would not set the prisoners free.

But though I had been convinced, I had my *prayaschitta* to do; and this compelled me to go out for a second time to Fiji.

This time, I did not stay so long in Suva. I went more in the coolie 'lines' themselves. I went up and down the country. I lived as much as possible with Indians and I was constantly sitting and talking in the coolie 'lines' in the midst of the labourers. In this way, the fact was brought into my mind at last with the hot iron of pain that the indenture system could not be revised in any form or shape, however modified and mitigated. It was bad through and through, and Indians must not be induced any longer, under any system, to go abroad to work on the Sugar Company Estates. The greed of capitalism and money-making was certain to come in; and the Indian village labourer's ignorance and inexperience would be exploited.

When I came back to India, after this second visit to Fiji, I thought that my trianing and education in this matter was finally over. I wrote with all my heart and spoke with all my heart about my experience. The Planters and Sugar Companies in Fiji saw clearly the change which had come to my mind and I received the reward of being slandered and abused and threaten'd.

But even yet, I found, I had a further lesson to learn. I had imagined that in any country, such as Fiji, or Trinidad, or Natal, when once the indenture system was all over and the best indentured labourers had been set free, there would be an almost immediate recovery. The whole Indian community would lift up its head again, and the Indian labourer, feeding their new—won freedom, would rapidly regain a position of independence and also a reasonable wage for their labour.

I had not understood, how deep the evil of indenture itself had gone, how it had eaten out the very life and soul of freedom, how extremely difficult it would be for the labourers to recover, even when they were actually set free. I had to go out a second time to South Africa, just as I had been obliged to go a second time to Fiji, and there I discovered for myself, without any one pointing it out to me, this new and most alarming fact.

Instead of the Indian labourers in Natal recovering themselves rapidly after the indentured recruiting had been stopped and they themselves had been set free, I found them actually in a worse economic position than they were on my former visit. Reckoning into the account the rise in prices of all commodities their wages were actually of less purchasing value in 1920 than they had been in 1913-14. Even their outward condition showed this. They were more miserable, more discontented, more pitiously anxious to be sent back to India.

I found out how, while the average wage of the Kaffir and the Zulu had been increasing, the statistics showed that the average wage of the Indian had been decreasing. Everything pointed to the probability, if not to the certainty, that the Indian labourer would sink below the level of the Zulu and the Kaffir.

My heart went out to these Indian labourers in Natal with intense pain. It was our fault, our fault in India, that they were there at all. We had let this system go on almost unchallenged for nearly sixty years and this was the result. And I felt more strongly than I can say it, that, if ours had been the blame, then ours must be the remedy. We must not allow our Indian fellow-countrymen to sink lower and lower below even the level of the raw Kaffir who had just come out from the Kraal. We must not allow it. Wherever there was a wish on the part of these labourers, who felt themselves sinking and did not know how to rise, wherever there was a deep

longing on their part to go home to India, the motherland, and there to make a new start, we must do our part in fulfilling that wish. On their return to India we must see that they are not left stranded and helpless.

And still I had to learn one more lesson, this time from Fiji. I had rejoiced, with intense joy, at the welcome news that the last indentured labourer was free—that, for Indians, Fiji was now a land of freedom, not of bondage. And then, within a little more than one short month, the news came over the wires that there had been a strike and rioting and men shot down and Indian leaders deported. From Mr. D. M. Mehta's letter it is clear, that there was a concerted attempt to keep down wages, and that the military had been used to terrorise the people into submission. Militant capitalism here again showed itself, in all its cruelty and oppression. Just as in Natal, in 1913 there had been shooting down of Indians, and the use of military force to crush the spirit of independence, so now the same thing had happened in Fiji.

What, then, is the final outcome of it all? What is the moral, which has to be learned by heart? Surely it is, 'Never again'.—Never again, must ignorant Indian village men and women be exploited in this manner! 'Never again!'

And the words, reported as uttered by Dr. Mehta of Rangoon, give the same lesson, in another form. "Why", he said, "send out Commissions of Enquiry? Send out no more Commissions of Enquiry. Send ships,—ships to bring them back."

## NATAL LICENSING LAWS

### PROPOSED AMENDMENT

At a meeting of the Natal Provincial Council last week Mr. Hulett moved "That His Honour the Administrator is hereby requested to bring in a draft Ordinance, this session, if possible, amending the retail licensing laws of the Province so as to provide (a) that transfer of licences either to premises or to persons be prohibited; (b) that no new licences be granted to any person until the same has been approved of by the Executive Committee; (c) to disallow any appeal to any Court of Law against the decision of the Executive Committee in regard to new licences; (d) generally to do away with the present regulations, re-frame regulations, and annex them to the draft Ordinance governing the issue of said licences; (e) to do away with the present Appeal Board and make provision for the establishment of Appeal Boards to be elected by property-owners in the Province."

Speaking to the motion, Mr. Hulett asked to be allowed to amend (a) as printed above from its form on the order paper. This being granted, the mover said at the election the question had been brought before the candidates and discussed in all its bearings. A mandate had been given by the country constituencies at least to deal with this question. The law of 1897 laid down the strict provision as to the keeping of books by the licensee himself, but when it came to be tested in the Supreme Court it was held that, provided the books were kept in English by any person under the authority of the licensee, the law was satisfied. He thought this was not the intention of the Legislature, and it became necessary to alter the licensing law. Section 3 applied to provision of proper sanitary accommodation. He urged that the present licensing officers had neglected this provision, with the result that a state of affairs obtained in the country which was a standing disgrace. It might be urged that technical difficulties had resulted in hampering the work of the Licensing Officer, and if so then it was all the more necessary to thrash the matter out on the floor of the Chamber, and, if necessary, invest the Licensing Officer with further powers. His motion only dealt with licences, but he hoped that

the matter would be carried further, and the principle made applicable to existing licences. The Durban Town Council had adopted the very wise principle of refusing these licences and confining this class of trading to a definite quarter of the town. The existing authority should be abolished, and the decision of the people as to whether this trading should be carried on should be made to prevail in its place. The indiscriminate issuing of licences had gone to such an extent as to seriously alarm the people with whom the power should rest. If necessary they must frame and pass an Ordinance to cope with the whole question and so to frame it as to put a stop to a state of affairs which was a disgrace to the Province. Another blot was that an appellant, after having framed his reasons, was permitted to appear again before the Appeal Board and argue his case again. He urged on the Council that the matter was most urgent. As far as new licences were concerned, the final decision must rest with the Provincial Executive.

Mr. Russell seconded.

Mr. Clarkson said that the cause of the whole thing was that in the past the Licensing Officer had had too much power, and the motion did not go to the root of the matter. He would move an amendment that retail licence renewals be prohibited, and that the powers of the Licensing Officers be curtailed. He knew of cases where licences had been applied for by Europeans, and he wanted to see each transfer treated as a new licence. At present the Licensing Officer was free to flood the Province with new licences. In the case of opposed applications, it was only the question of wearing out the opposition, and in the end the licence was granted. The Licensing Boards should have the power now centred in the Licensing Officer, and the only thing an applicant need make clear was the necessity for a new licence. His amendment also substituted the Executive for the existing Appeal Boards. There was no intention to interfere with any vested rights. He hoped the mover would accept the amendment and keep the motion within the four corners of the Act.

Mr. Van der Merwe seconded the amendment, which was supported by Mr. Fraser, who expressed the hope that the new legislation would be extended to include Zululand. Power should not be left in the hands of one individual to such an extent as to turn him into an autocrat.

The Administrator said the motion and the amendment raised a very serious question to the whole Province, and he suggested that the debate be adjourned to give the Executive an opportunity of considering the views of the movers. He did not agree that the original intention was to make the storekeeper keep his own books. A constitutional point was that it was not competent under the Financial Relations Act for any Provincial Council to alter the existing law so as to effect the rights of licensees or applicants to appeal to a court of law. The suggestion was admissible as far as new applications were concerned, but it must be questioned how far they were entitled to interfere with transfers. He did not say the Executive was not a suitable body to act as an appeal board, but it was open to the objection that political considerations might influence the decisions of such a body. He suggested that the Executive be given a week to consider the matter.

On the motion of Mr. Green the debate was adjourned for a week.

### ANOTHER MOTION

Mr. Hulett, on behalf of Colonel Rathman, asked leave to allow to stand over for a week the motion: "(1) That this Council resolves in terms of Section 87 of the South Africa Act, to recommend strongly to Parliament that, in the opinion of this Council, the Asiatic problem presents a serious menace to the Union, and recommends (a) while recommending 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 shall be allowed; (b) no new licences shall under any circumstances be issued to Asiatics; (c) no transfer of any existing licences to any Asiatic shall be permitted, but at the expiry of any licence held by an Asiatic by the death of the holder reasonable compensation for land and trading stock 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. (2) That Mr. Chairman be requested to convey the resolution by respectful address to the Administrator for representation to Parliament." This was agreed to.—*Natal Mercury*.

### GENERAL DYER

A certain amount of mystery (says the London correspondent of the *Natal Advertiser*) appears quite unnecessarily to have been heaped around the fate of Brigadier-General Dyer. The officer, it will be remembered, had been requested to sign in consequence of the report of the Hunter Commission on the Amritsar shooting.

A few days ago it was widely announced that the Army Council had decided to reverse the recommendation of the Commander-in-Chief in India and to exonerate General Dyer and allow him to remain in the Army. Mr. Churchill in Parliament, however, says there is no truth whatever in this latter statement. It appears that the Army Council are still awaiting the statement which Brigadier-General Dyer is being allowed to submit. He expressed an opinion that he would be able to make a statement by Wednesday last, June 16, but he asked for a few more days' delay to enable him to complete his statement, and that is how the matter stands. All statements to the contrary are without any kind of authority. The subject of the Amritsar report had been promised public ventilation in the House, and people were looking forward with considerable interest to the debate arranged for next Monday; but now the Secretary of State for War asks for a postponement of the discussion. This delay should not in itself prove detrimental to the interests of the gallant officers concerned.

### EAST AFRICA

#### A SCHEME OF FUTURE GREATNESS

Sir Theodore Morrison, who was a member of the Council of India 1906-16, and attached to the political staff of the British in East Africa, in a letter to *The Times*, London, strongly supports the suggestion made by Lord Islington in the House of Lords for a Royal Commission to examine the political problems in the Kenia Colony, Uganda and the Tanganyika territories.

He urges that the Commission should be composed of men with a wide experience of tropical administration, and suggests that the true solution of the East African problems lies in the establishment of a powerful Central Government to deal with the problems on the spot.

He expounds a scheme for an East African Empire, of which the various Colonies and Protectorates will become Provinces, with a Governor-General enjoying a status comparable with the Viceroy of India.—*Reuter*.

The *Times*, in a leader commenting on the suggestion by Sir Theodore Morrison that the true solution of East African problems lies in the establish-

ment of a powerful Government to deal with the problems on the spot, suggests that geographical reasons render the proposal of a united Government impracticable, and expresses the opinion that regular meetings of Administrators be arranged, under conditions that will not remove them from their duties for long periods, and suggests the use of aeroplanes as a solution of the difficulty.—*Reuter*.

### GENERAL DYER'S DESPAIR

I am grievously disappointed in General Dyer. When he gave evidence of his actions before the Hunter Committee he spoke like a soldier and a (Ger)-man. Then, there was something of a fine spirit of unrepentance about his assertions and a carelessness of the consequences of what he might say, which appealed to the brute in his audience—that audience being the millions of India. Though Dyer was flayed by Indians for a cruel expert in massacre, the hatred with which he disdained to excuse his actions. But, presumably, the voyage home has unnerfed the man who was given such a rousing send off at Jullunder the other day (by about twenty people who addressed him as the saviour of British Rule in India.) To the inevitable correspondent of the *Daily Mail* General Dyer acted no honest villain's part. The newspaperman probed beneath the bluster which the Hunter Committee could not penetrate. And the result was an amazing squeal uttered apparently by one who had forgotten his own words spoken to the Hunter Committee. "I had only thirty seconds in which to decide" said the *Daily Mail's* Dyer. "I thought out my proposed action carefully on the march to Jallianwallaghbagh, and decided to fire at once,—with a machine gun, if possible," said the Dyer who blustered before Lord Hunter. None ever expected, after this latter admission, that General Dyer would not be convicted out of his own mouth by the Hunter Committee. And though at the moment of writing (Thursday evening) the text of the Report has not yet been published, its verdict against General Dyer is common property. The question that arises then, naturally, is:—"What of Sir Michael O'Dwyer who specially approved of the Massacre in the Garden?" I venture to predict that Sir Michael will not escape scatheless.—*LOOKER-ON*

## NOTICE

### SOUTH AFRICAN NATIONAL INDIAN CONGRESS

A mass meeting of Indians will be held under the auspices of the South African National Indian Congress (Maritzburg Branch) in the H.Y.M.A. Hall, Church Street, Maritzburg, on Sunday the 1st August, 1920, at 2 p. m., for the consideration of the following business:—

1. Minutes
2. Rules and Regulations
3. Election of officials
4. Indian Repatriation scheme
5. General

S. R. NAIDOO  
Secretary

P. M. Burg,  
27th July, 1920.

**SPECIAL NOTICE**

This is to notify the general Indian Public of the Union that the annual selection of the six educated exempts for the Transvaal will take place on the 18th, August, 1920.

Applications in regard to same, either direct from the applicant, or on behalf of any person desirous of applying should reach the undersigned not later than the 14th August.

Each application will be considered on its merits.

**P. K. NAIDOO.**

Box 6522,  
Johannesburg,  
July 27th, 1920.

Hon. Secretary,  
T.B.I. Association.

**વેચવાના ગુજરાતી પુસ્તકો**

નવલકથા સંગ્રહ ભાગ ૧ થો	૧	૦
તુલસીદાસની સાખી	૧	૬
શ્રીમદ ભગવત ગીતા ગુજરાતી પદ્યરમક-ભાષાંતર	૧	૦
કાવ્ય સામે યવાની ફરજ	૦	૬
રાજ પદ્ય	૧	૬
થીયોડેર પારકર	૧	૬
ભારતના સંત પુરુષો ભાગ ૧ થો	૧	૬
ભારતના મહાન પુરુષો ભાગ ૨ જો	૧	૬
દુકી વારતાઓ ભાગ ૪ થો	૧	૬
સામાજિક સેવાના સન્મારગ	૧	૬
પદ્મદીક ધરમ	૦	૩
રાજ ભયંતી વ્યાખ્યાન	૩	૦
જુકર ડી. વાશીંગટન	૨	૦
કરમ ચોગ	૧	૬
મોક્ષમાળા	૨	૬
નીતી વાક્યાચૂત	૧	૩
કાવ્ય દોહન ભાગ ૬ ઠો	૬	૬
શ્રીઓની નવાયુગની વાતો	૧	૦
શ્રીમદ ભગવદગીતા	૧	૦
શ્રીમદ ભગવદગીતા પાકુ પુકુ	૧	૬
રામાયણનું રહસ્ય	૧	૩
કાઉન્ટ ટોલસ્ટોયની વારતાઓ ભાગ ૧ થો	૦	૬
ગુજરાતી સંગીત રામાયણ	૪	૪
પરમારથ સાર	૧	૬
વેત્યુકે મારગકી સુદર સીડી પખથીયું ત્રીભુ પરમારમા	૧	૦
વેલુ લેખસંગ્રહ ભાગ ૨ જો	૧	૬
મોહનદાસ કન્મચંદ ગાંધીનો જન્મ વૃત્તાંત	૨	૬
સ્વામી શિશ્ય સંવાદ ભાગ ૧ થો	૦	૬
સ્વામી રામતીરથ ભાગ ૫ મો	૧	૦
" " " ૬ ઠો	૧	૬
" " " ૭ મો	૧	૬
" " " ૮-૯	૨	૩
વ્યાકરણ	૧	૦
શકર સંગીતાવલી	૧	૦
બાળ સદ્બોધ	૦	૬
કરતવ્યનો ઉપદેશ	૦	૬
ધી સ્ટાર ઈંગ્લીશ અને ગુજરાતી ડિક્શનરી	૩	૬

ગુરુસીધ્ધ સમવાદ	૧	૦
અનપુરણીકા મંદીર	૧	૩
દાસુશિક્ષક	૧	૩
સ્વામી વીવેકાનન્દ	૧	૬
બંકીમ નીત્યબંધાવણી	૧	૩
આરોગ્ય દીગ ફરજન	૧	૩
સીતા વનવાસ	૧	૬
આરોગ્યતા વીસે સામાન્ય જ્ઞાન	૧	૬
રાજ બોધ	૧	૦
રામકૃષ્ણ કથાચૂત	૧	૦
દુકી વારતાઓ ભાગ ૨ જો	૧	૦

**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.
Hinduism, by Dr. Barnett	1	9
Letters of John Chinaman	1	9
Prince of India : by J. L. P. Erasmus	0	7
The Hon. Mr. Gokhale and the Indenture System	6	
The Golden Number of "Indian Opinion"		
Paper covers	1	8
Bound in cloth	2	6
Position of the Women in the Vedas	0	3 1/2
Hindu Social Ideals, by P. J. Mehta	0	7
M. K. Gandhi, " "	0	7
The Story of the Ramayana, the Epic of Rama		
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	1	
The Indians of South Africa, by H. S. L. Polak	1	6
Memoir of the late J. J. Doka	6	3 1/2
Asiatics Registration Amendment Act (1908) in English and Gujarati	3 1/2	
Registration Act (1908) Regulations, in English and Gujarati	2 1/2	
The Ethics of Passive Resistance	0	3
Indian Home Rule, by M. K. Gandhi	0	6
Life of M. K. Gandhi (in Tamil)	1	0
(in Hindi)	1	6
"Mahomed" "The Great Arabian," by Meredith Townsend	1	3