

# Indian Opinion

No. 34—VOL. XVIII.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 20TH, 1920.

Registered at the G. P. O. as a Newspaper  
Price Fourpence

## NOTES AND NEWS

**D**URBAN Extended Powers Draft Ordinance (No. 14), having been through Committee stage was passed and the third reading was adopted in the Natal Provincial Council on the 11th instant.

During the debate on the Ordinance in its committee stage, Mr. Nicolson objected to the Licensing Officer having power to refuse a licence until satisfied that the applicant was not contravening the law, as in-English, since it placed the onus on the accused of proving his innocence instead of insisting that the Corporation should prove guilt before refusing a licence. He moved its deletion.

Mr. Fahey saw nothing in the clause other than a wholesome tightening up of the provisions of the licensing law, of which Durban in particular stood sadly in need. The amendment was defeated.

The third reading of the Durban Tramways Consolidation Private Draft Ordinance was passed in the Natal Provincial Council on the 12th instant.

In the House of Assembly, Sir Thomas Watt moved the second reading of the Indian Immigration Trust Board (Natal) Transfer Bill, the object of which was for the Government to assume the duties of the Board. The Bill passed through all the stages on Saturday the 14th instant.

The following cable was sent by the Port Elizabeth British Indian Council to Mr. Gandhi:—

To Mahatma Gandhi, Ahmedabad:—"Greatly mourn national calamity late Mahatma Tilak kindly transmit message relatives and proper quarters Bande Mataram."

Having completed his task in connection with the passing of the Indian Reform Bill, (says the *Natal Advertiser*, London correspondent), the Indian Peer, Lord Sinha, presently Under-Secretary for India, intends returning to his own country, where it is understood he will be appointed a Governor of a Province, thereby adding to his already long record as the first Indian to win the highest distinctions and honours in the highest public spheres.

The Duke of Connaught will probably visit India shortly, says the *Natal Advertiser*, London correspondent.

A Reuter message from London states:—Sir Rabin-dranath Tagore is promoting the sending of a memorial to Mr. Lloyd George urging him to take steps to allay the mutual distrust at present existing in India. The memorial suggests the appointment as Viceroy of the Right Hon. E. S. Montagu, Secretary of State for India since 1917.

Reuter in a message dated August 11, reports:—Sir George Perley, High Commissioner for Canada,

Mr. Andrew Fisher, High Commissioner for Australia, Mr. Blankenberg, Acting High Commissioner for South Africa, and Sir Arthur Hertzog, Assistant Under-Secretary of State for India, signed the Turkish Treaty at Sevres yesterday on behalf of Canada, Australia, South Africa, and India respectively, after Sir George Grahame had signed for Britain.

Bombay, August 13.—The *Bombay Chronicle*, (says Reuter), commenting upon the cable from East Africa purporting to give particulars of the Governor's policy as regards the administrative system in the Crown Colony, says it is clear that the Government of British East Africa is determined to keep the Indians there in the position of helots, and declares that this is a most flagrant breach of faith and bound to deal almost mortal blows at any faith in the words of a British statesman.

The *Times of India* thinks that the decision of the Administration is highly unsatisfactory in almost every particular, but before expressing a final judgment the paper prefers to await official confirmation of a telegram which discloses so grave a position.

### DURBAN MUNICIPAL ORDINANCES

**N**OTWITHSTANDING the protests of the Indian community, the Natal Provincial Council has passed the two ordinances promoted by the Corporation of Durban. The one, (No. 14, 1920), is an ordinance "to grant additional powers to the Town Council of the Borough of Durban," and the other (No. 16, 1920), is "to amend and amplify the laws relating to the conveyance of persons and things by the Town Council of the Borough of Durban."

A deputation representative of the Indian community gave evidence before the Select Committee of the Provincial Council. Mr. Mackeurtan as Counsel for the Durban Corporation, we understand, withdrew the Section in the Ordinance which provided for the "endorsement of any licence by the Licensing Officer of such conditions and restrictions that may be concurred in by any applicant." Mr. Lund a member of the Committee objected to the withdrawal, but the chairman, Capt. Byron, ruled that it was within the powers of the promoters to withdraw anything as it was a private Ordinance. The alternative designation of the "Indian Market" as a "Bazaar" was also then withdrawn.

But when the deputation subsequently met His Honour the Administrator and his Executive, it was astounded to observe from the amended ordinance on the extended powers of the Corporation that these most dangerous clauses were retained. When Mr. Mackeurtan's withdrawal of it was mentioned, the Administrator held that the Council could do whatever it may decide within its powers. Mr. Hollander, who

was also a member of the Executive, confirmed the withdrawal by Mr. Mackeurtan in the presence of the Mayor, Mr. T. Burman, the Town Clerk, Mr. M. Taylor, and the Corporation's Solicitors. The Administrator advised the deputation to approach the Corporation and they in view of the withdrawal in the Select Committee will sympathetically administer the law. It was a piece of unconscious irony on the part of the Administrator. Indians have learnt only too well the bitter lesson of relying on the shadow for the substance. The only safeguard is the protection the laws afford, for sympathetic administration is a relative term dependent for its interpretation upon the whim or caprice of the officer in charge of the matter.

The Administrator and his Executive would or could do nothing in regard to the class legislation in the Tramways Ordinance, in which the Corporation takes unto itself full and complete powers to set aside portions of vehicles, trams, shelters and other conveniences or the whole of any or all of them for the separate and exclusive use of persons of European descent, Natives or Asiatics, or of anyone or more of such classes of persons.

The several objectionable clauses in the Ordinances remain. The Indian community must now look to the Governor-General in Council to do the right thing by a people who have not the electoral vote in this country to influence class or other detrimental or humiliating legislation being passed against them as a class. But they must rely on their own efforts to work out their own salvation in this as in other matters that affect them.

### VOLUNTARY REPATRIATION

Sanj Parman of Bombay writes:—

We are not at all prepared to be enthusiastic over the ~~interim~~ recommendations of the Asiatic Commission in South Africa, re the status and the future domicile of the Indians in the sub-continent. The nostrum of solution suggested by the Commission is voluntary repatriation of the Indians from that country. To us it appears that the recommendations of the Commission are partaking of the character of officiousness. The suggested solution is no solution at all, and, we think, the Commission need not have been in so great a hurry to come out with their hasty suggestions, till the evidence for and against the Indians was completed and thoroughly investigated. Voluntary repatriation does not solve the Indian question, it simply begs it. It is at best a half solution and of the best kinds. It simply evades to solve once and for all the right of Indians to settle in South Africa if they choose to do so. We think the time is now arrived, when, once and for all, the right of the Indians to settle in any part of the British Empire should be finally decided. The proud title of British citizenship becomes a mockery and a sham, when Indians in the British dominions are treated as undesirable pariahs. Even a potential enemy of the type of a German, or an Austrian, may be tolerated, even a blood-sucking Jew may be welcomed, even a rascal-dom of Europe may be permitted, but an Indian, however respectable, however capable, however honest and business-like is taboo in these far-flung parts of the British Empire, simply because an Indian has committed the unpardonable crime of being an Indian. We think, honest Englishmen of the type of Mr. Andrews, fail to understand the mind of the Indians, when they believe that the solution suggested by the Asiatic Commission will meet with the general approval of the Indians. Of course, the selfish whites

of South Africa will welcome it with avidity and pleasure as long as by any means the hated Indians are out of the country. But if the recommendation is accepted, the voluntary part of the exodus will remain voluntary in name only, every possible form of pressure, little short of intimidation and downright compulsion, will be resorted to enforce the "voluntary" clause. It is pointed out that Mr. C. F. Andrews hopes that a large number of Indians will avail themselves of the opportunity of the recommendation of the Commission "and that, by removing from the mind of the South African the dread lest the Indians in the Union may increase in numbers and overrun the country, the whole problem may be reduced to such small proportions that the Union Government will have no fear to settle the matter on lines of fairness and justice to the Indian." We totally disagree from this proposition. Every experience of the past knocks this line of thinking on the head. The South Africans are out for the total expulsion of the Indians and they are not likely to be satisfied by partial success of their anti-Indian campaign. The tiger having once tasted a few drops of blood is not likely to remain satisfied at that. He must have more and the whites having once secured for themselves the handle of voluntary repatriation would only rest satisfied when every Indian has turned his back on the country, whether voluntarily or otherwise. Thus we come to the conclusion that the suggested "voluntary repatriation" will not solve the South African problem. There may be a few Indians, badgered and constantly harassed who would like to wash their hands clear of the country since they were to be brought back to their native land at Government's expense, but no self-respecting Indian is likely to avail himself of a recommendation, the very carrying out of which whether voluntarily or otherwise would be a tacit giving way to the whites' proud presumption that they could do anything in a country in which they as well the Indians are equally "new comers." South Africa was never a white man's country and even now it is not. The white man there is as much an intruder as, say, the Indian. Both have been there to better their condition and none has a right to claim any priority of right in the ownership of the country. The real owners of the country are the poor aboriginals who are still the hewers and drawers of water for the benefit of the new-comers. If there is a particle of honesty in the shibboleth of whiteman's burden, the whites of South Africa, instead of battenning themselves at the expense of the natives of the country, would try to improve the latter's lot and not do everything in their power to efface them from the surface of the world and ultimately to usurp the country completely for themselves. But the patent callousness of this policy is not its only derogatory factor. The dog on the manger was provident enough compared with the selfish conduct of the South African whites. The country is big enough to accommodate the major part of the population of the whole of Europe and compared with the vast extent of the country and compared to millions of the natives of the country, the whiteman's number is infinitesimal. Millions of more whites and millions of Indians, South Africa can easily accommodate, and only if the white usurpers were less selfish and did not follow the dog-on-the-manger policy there is room enough and to spare for all comers to live in harmony, peace and prosperity. But this policy won't suit the whites' book. They must have the whole loaf, though they know full well that they have no right to expropriate anything more than a mere part of it. But, we are afraid, under the present circumstances the Indians have very few chances of any kind of justice being done to them. We want from the Government of India, a stronger and a more robust policy. What the Indians want is the mere elementary right of British residents. Under no condition should this right be sacrificed for the sake of a parcel of arrogant and

selfish settlers and above all no half-baked policy of settlement should be countenanced. Voluntary repatriation sounds well enough. But it is a concession to the whites and we are against any concession, simply because it will be misconstrued into weakness and what is almost certain, they will very soon turn the voluntary repatriation into compulsory expulsion.

## THE KHILAFAT QUESTION

### TRANSVAAL INDIANS DEMONSTRATE

A mass meeting of all sections of the Indian community was held on Sunday the 8th instant at the Golpberg Bio Hall, Fox Street, under the auspices of the Transvaal British Indian Association, to consider the ruthless dismemberment of the Ottoman Empire, and the reduction of the Khalifa—the spiritual Head of Islam—to a state of impotency and insignificance, which is perturbing the whole Mahomedan World, and other Asiatic races of various denominations. This question, as it will be observed is causing great unrest among the Indian community and is doing no little in shaking their loyalty and estranging their good feelings towards the crown.

The chairman in recapitulating the position of the point at issue, remarked that they have not assembled for the purpose of preaching sedition or disloyalty, nor to arouse the people to a state of antagonism to the crown, but to submit in respectful yet solemn and fearless language the feeling of the community. My countrymen, he said, we have met here, to pour oil on troubled waters, to avoid a catastrophe, to solidify the Empire, to link another girdle to our loyalty, at the same time to maintain our national honour, and the hereditary right of the Khalifa as the religious head of Islamia. I do not wish to deal with the political point of the question, nor upon the reputed 14 points of President Wilson, which is to-day respected by the Allied Powers as much as Prussia respected the treaties when she was suffering from the exuberance of her power. All I can say, he said, is to appeal, to the British Crown under whose benign rule there are 71 millions of Mahomedans, and the highest representative of Great Britain, the Premier, and generally to the British nation and Allied Powers, that if the peace of the world is to be maintained the appeal of 190 million followers of Islam, should not be disregarded and treated with indifference.

There were many other speakers who spoke in a similar strain. Pro. Alli of Pretoria handed in a cheque £100 for preliminary expenses, after which the following resolution was unanimously adopted.

This mass meeting of all sections of the Indian community irrespective of any creed while affirming their profound loyalty to the Crown respectfully yet emphatically records its solemn protest against the ruthless and revengeful dismemberment of the Ottoman Empire contrary to the avowed objects for which the Allies stood for the preservation of the integrity and independence of weaker nations and to the public affirmation by the Premier the Right Honourable Lloyd George in the following words:—“Not are we fighting to deprive Turkey of its capital or of the rich and renowned lands of Asia Minor and Thrace which are predominantly Turkish in race” and whole-heartedly associates itself with and endorses the constitutional action of the Indian Khilafat Committee; urges upon the Imperial Government, and Allied Powers, for the good will and peace of the world—particularly the Indian Empire—to maintain the integrity of the Turkish Empire, and preserve to the Khalif the hereditary holy right of the Supreme Head of the entire Moslem World, so as not to wound the susceptibilities of the millions of His Majesty's loyal Indian subjects.

The following Committee under the designation of the Transvaal Khilafat Committee was appointed:—  
Mr. M. S. Coovadia—Chairman

Messrs. N. A. Camay, L. B. Singh, E. J. Patel, Vice-Chairmen.

Messrs. A. A. Karodia, P. K. Naidoo, Hon. Secretaries.

Messrs. Ahmed Mia, M. P. Fancy, M. G. Patel,—Treasurers.

### COMMITTEE

Messrs. M. M. Kharsani, Arab Sahib, M. D. Bharooch, Somabhai Patel, P. S. Joshi, E. M. Cachalia, M. E. Koonake, Molvi Ismail, Molvi Vally Oolla, R. V. Patel, Habib Motan, Hajee Habib, Anod Moosajee, with the right to add.

This Committee was authorised to raise funds and to work in co-operation with the Central Khilafat Committee in India.

## GOVERNMENT INDIAN SCHOOL AT STANGER

Beautiful weather favoured the opening ceremony of the new Government Indian School at Stanger. There was a large number of visitors, among them being many prominent Europeans.

Mr. M. C. Patel, the chairman of the Indian School Committee, in asking Mr. A. J. S. Maritz, the magistrate of Lower Tugela Division, to open the school, said that it gave him the greatest pleasure to welcome the visitors to the new school, which was a Government institution. Prior to this Indian education was conducted by Anglican Mission. He expressed deep gratitude on the community's behalf to the Church of England for the scholastic work done by them during the past. “Education,” he said, “should be under State control,” and the desire on the part of the Government in taking Indian education in their hands was a step in the right direction. He thanked all who assisted in the work, which was concluded with success. Special mention was made of the services of Mr. D. Bramdaw and Mr. Maritz, whom Mr. Patel called upon the school.

Mr. Maritz, on rising received a great ovation. He reminded his audience of the old adage, “Everything comes to him who waits.” He said that they had waited and agitated for a long time, and to-day the school for which they strived was an accomplished fact. It was a part of his suggestion to show the Government the necessity of providing a school for the Indians, and the result of their efforts could be seen in the intelligent little faces which were before them, eager to take in knowledge. Since his long connection, extending over 30 years, with the Indians, he found them very keen on acquiring knowledge, and told them that there was nothing like it. He said that it was far easier to govern a community of educated people, because they were able to express their views, than those who had not received the blessings of education. During the late Indian strike, he said that he managed to avert many a strike on the mills through the help of the educated Indians, to whose judgment he was able to appeal. “I hope,” he said, “there will not be such a thing as an uneducated Indian.” There was a certain class of European who feared competition from the Indian. He said that he always maintained that if the Europeans were not prepared to take advantage of the facilities provided for them, why then grudge the Indians who desired to improve themselves? They should rather appreciate the efforts of those who rise from the lower ranks. He said that the thanks of the Indian community were due to Messrs. Brhdaw, P. Thomas, M. Loonat, Amin Patel and others, who had laboured very hard for the erection of that fine edifice, which he had great pleasure in declaring open.

Mr. Maritz and Mr. M. C. Patel were garlanded in truly oriental style, and a pretty banquet was presented to Mrs. L. Clark.

The Rev. Leslie Clark said they should endeavour

to place their own language on the school's curriculum, which would create and inspire true nationalism. Addressing the children, he said that they should realise the huge advantages, and learn to be proud to be members of the great British Empire to which they belonged.

The Rev. V. R. Irving, of the Wesleyan Mission, also touched on the fear of the Europeans in regard to Indians in the trades. He said that their fear was without any foundation. "A people so industrious and honest as Indians are," he said, "are a source of wealth and a necessary asset to any land. When the scholars of this school pass out fully trained, they will be a definite answer to those Europeans who fear Indian competition."

Mr. P. Luke, on behalf of the Reception Committee, thanked those who responded to the invitation. He said that it was up to the Government to provide free primary education to all children, irrespective of colour, class, or creed. He further said that there should be facilities for secondary education, as his audience knew that a little education was dangerous.

After the National Anthem, three cheers were given to the King, the magistrate (Mr. Maritz), and the School Committee. The visitors and the children then adjourned for light refreshments which were provided for the occasion. The catering arrangements were under the capable management of Mrs. Luke, who was ably assisted by Mrs. A. Williams, Mrs. Sydney Williams, Miss Mabel Williams, and the Misses Peters. The thanks of the Indian community are extended to these ladies for their services, which they performed to the satisfaction of all.

## PRIVY COUNCIL APPEALS

[FROM OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT]

On Monday last, the 5th instant, before a Board of the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council, consisting of Viscount Haldane, and Lords Buckmaster, Dunedin and Atkinson, application was made by the Madrassa Anjuman Islamia of Kholwad for leave to appeal against a judgment of the Supreme Court of the Union of South Africa, Appellate Division, in favour of the Johannesburg Municipal Council in respect of the proceedings arising out of a lease granted to Danger Ltd., of a certain stand in the Vrededorp Township. The application was made *ex parte* by Sir. John Simon, K. C., and Bhugwandin Dube. After brief argument, their Lordships granted Leave to appeal upon the usual terms. Lord Haldane, in expressing the decision of the Board, stated that their Lordships expressed no opinion on merits of the Appeal, but they considered that the points in issue were of such importance that they should be fully argued before their Lordships.

Singularly enough, three days later, an application for leave to appeal against a decision in favour of the Durban Municipality was refused by their Lordships on the ground that it was sought to appeal not on a real constitutional question of the type which should come before the Judicial Committee upon a proper interpretation of Section 106 of the South Africa Act, but was primarily very much a local question. It would thus appear that their Lordships have realised the Imperial importance of the questions in dispute between His Majesty's Indian subjects in South Africa and the white population as represented by the Municipalities. Mr. Polak is the Solicitor for the Madrassa. No further steps will be taken to proceed with this Appeal until the complete Record has arrived, here for printing.

The Appeal of the Indian Immigration Trust Board of Natal against V. Govindasamy, tradidg as the Stamfordhill Laundry, is set down for hearing during the current sittings of the Judicial Committee,

and is likely to be heard about the end of the present month. Mr. W. H. Upjohn, K.C., and Mr. B. Dube appear for the respondents.

## HUNTER REPORT

### DYER THE SCAPEGOAT

INTERVIEW WITH COMMANDER KENWORTHY, M. P.

Interviewed by a representative of *India*, Commander Kenworthy began his criticism on the Hunter Report and the despatches by incisively remarking:—

"I think they are making a scapegoat of Dyer. There is an attempt being made to divert public opinion to Dyer away from other malefactors. Dyer is just the ordinary typical soldier and he represents the opinion of the majority of officers' messes in India and elsewhere—namely, that the only remedy for dissatisfaction is force. Of course, an example has been made of Dyer, although it has not gone far enough. He should be court-martialled."

"But could a court martial, composed of men of his own profession be trusted to do sufficient justice?"

"They dare not acquit him—unless they are as extraordinarily blunt as Dyer himself. His sin was to say in public what the rest say in private. Compare the treatment of Colonel Malone, who rendered most brilliant service in war and yet was dismissed from the Navy, losing all pension and pay, simply because, as a member of Parliament and representing the people he went on a private trip to Russia and gave his honest opinion of the regime prevailing there. I am not so very particular about Dyer—his great punishment ought to be the contempt that clean-minded Englishmen, who are not begoted, have for him.

"There are many other people whom I should like to see dealt with very severely over the Punjab atrocities, for example, that very pleasant gentleman who had a wedding party flogged. Is he still drawing public money or has he been punished? Hanging is much too good for him. Possibly he did express some repentance for his feat before the Hunter Committee. Topliss doubtless was sorry; Lloyd George is sorry about his gambling on the Marconis; Lirptz is sorry for his submarine warfare. And who was responsible for the shooting from the armoured train? Again, what of the firing by an officer from an aeroplane at anyone he saw? He ought to be dealt with and so should those who gave such vague and unsatisfactory orders about the aeroplanes."

"And what is your opinion of Sir Michael O'Dwyer?"

"O'Dwyer ought to be publicly condemned in some way for his whole policy of government by repression. He ought not to be exonerated; he certainly ought not to be praised. The same applies to Chelmsford. Montagu also incurs condemnation for praising Chelmsford and O'Dwyer.

The whole thing is this. People have got into their heads quite recently the notion that the British Empire, apart from the self-governing Dominions—I mean such places as India, Africa, and the Soudan—are ruled and kept in the Empire by force. Nothing of the sort is the case. They haven't been and they can't be. Our rule derives from a prestige which is not that of armed might—for great areas are held with a handful of troops or of police—but in a belief in the Englishman's fair dealing, justice, and reputation for keeping his word. In that respect our prestige was head and shoulders over that of other Europeans or of Americans. Nothing can take its place and force cannot in the end govern our Empire. It must be ruled by consent of the governed—and that government proved to be not in our interests but in that of the peoples governed. A British citizen of whatever colour, creed, or race must be equal with every other British citizen. Paul of Tarsus was able to frighten the Roman Governor for having flogged a Roman citizen, although not of Italian

birth. Anyone who injures or maltreats a British citizen ought to be made to suffer for it, whether British or foreign. If we allow race and colour prejudice together with the brutalising effect of war to make us forget those things we shall lose our Empire.

"India, Egypt and Africa will become Irelands with guerilla warfare and passive resistance making all government impossible. That would be a terrible source of weakness to us if ever we were again in difficulties and would weaken our diplomacy in dealing with other Governments."

### WHITE AND BLACK IN AFRICA

SIR HARRY JOHNSTON ON THE MAL-TREATMENT OF BLACKS

London, Aug. 15.—Sir Harry Johnston, writing in the *Observer*, declares that the resolutions passed at the Negro Conference recently held at Washington will before long have a very bad effect in East Africa and parts of South Africa if reform is not speedily introduced in the Colonial Office.

He says the black races in East Africa are uniting in a common hatred of the invading whites. He accuses individual settlers, British and Boer, of light-hearted murders and revolting cruelties, of which white juries acquit them, or trivial penalties are imposed.

He says: "The survivors, who have retained their tongues have now stammeringly told the world something of their preventable sufferings and callous and cruel treatment at the hands of the military authorities. The British have done admirable work in Africa, but plain justice must be done, otherwise the good that is really done by four-fifths of the white men in Africa will be utterly discounted by the wickedness of the remaining fifth."—Reuter.

### WEDDING

ISRAEL—SIGAMONEY

An event of great interest took place on July 28th at St. Aidan's Church, Durban, when an overflowing congregation assembled to witness the marriage of Mr. John T. S. Israel (Headmaster of Isipingo Indian School) and Miss Minnie Olive Sigamoney.

The ceremony was performed by the Revd. C. M. C. Bone, M.A., priest-in-charge of Christ Church, Sydenham. Long before the appointed hour the Church was crowded with friends and well-wishers. The bride entered the Church leaning upon the arm of her father, Mr. B. L. E. Sigamoney, attended by her bridesmaid, Miss Mercy Josiah (niece of the bridegroom). Miss Rosa Sigamoney and Miss Vera Botha, sister and cousin of the bride, acted as train-bearers, and Masters Bernard Desmond Sigamoney and Norman, the bride's brother and cousin made charming little page boys. Mr. Lewis Harris ably assisted as best man. The service was fully choral, Mr. W. Joseph presiding at the organ, and after the ceremony the happy couple left the Church to the strains of the wedding march. The reception which was fixed for 7 o'clock was held in the St. Aidan's Girls' School, Cross St. which had been very tastefully decorated for the occasion. The guests, including many European friends, sat down to a sumptuous repast and although the building was crowded to its utmost capacity, the meal was served with wonderful promptitude, many of the members of the Waiter's Union having volunteered their services. The banquet was followed by speeches by the Revd. C. M. C. Bone, Mr. Rooknooden, Mr. Michael Sigamoney (uncle of the bride), Mr. Wodson (Editor of the *Natal Advertiser*), Mr. Lewis Harris, Mr. R. Somasandrum, M.C., Mr. W. Joseph, Mr. B. L. E. Sigamoney, Mr. John T. Israel, suitably

responded for himself and the bride. The fortunate pair were the recipients of innumerable beautiful and useful presents. The function was carried till the early hours of the morning.

Both the bridegroom and his best man have seen service in East Africa with the second I. B. C. The bridegroom was Sergeant in charge when the company left Durban. The newly married pair are shortly taking up their residence in Estcourt where Mr. Israel has been appointed Headmaster at the Indian School.

### THE PUNJAB TRAGEDY

REJECT PLEA OF TYRANTS

SIR DINSHAW WACHA'S CABLE TO PARLIAMENT

The following telegram was sent to Parliament by the Hon. Sir Dinshaw Wacha on behalf of the Western India Liberal Association:—

The Western India Liberal Association humbly appeals to Parliament that it will be pleased to consider and deal with the true issues involved in the Hunter Committee Report in that spirit of calm and lofty statesmanship imperatively called for by the time and the perturbed feelings and sentiments of the Indian people by reason of the conduct and action of those responsible for the administration of Martial Law during the late disturbances in certain localities in the Punjab. The Association specially appeals to Parliament, firstly, because of the coming debate in both houses, and, secondly, because of the public utterances of some European organisations in India and their supporters in England with regard to the cruel excesses committed at Amritsar. Those utterances evidently aimed at rousing racial feelings and obscuring the real issues which are written plain on the face of the Report. They state that the measures adopted effectively supported what might have developed into an open rebellion of no little magnitude. The Association respectfully craves leave to point out to Parliament that there is hardly any difference between the plea now urged and that which was urged in times past by despots or tyrants as recorded in History. The plea, however, ignores the broad fact admitted alike in the Majority and Minority Report, namely, that the disturbances were at the outset and afterwards created by a small fraction, the vast majority of the people remaining loyal and holding themselves aloof from taking any part therein. Equally plain stands the fact that the general effect of the divers shocking atrocities, which it is superfluous to repeat here, supported by bombs and aeroplanes, to inspire terror—atrocities in which those engaged took pride and glory in their evidence before the Hunter Committee—have indubitably perturbed the better and soberer mind of India. A condition of insecurity prevails which, if not immediately removed, threatens not a little to diminish the confidence of the people in the humanity and justice which have hitherto characterised British rule in India.

It is this plain and momentous issue which the Association earnestly hopes, will in no way be obscured during the debate. Parliament will not fail to consider it while bearing in mind the credit that may be boastfully claimed by General Dyer and other officers of having stamped out "rebellion."

The Association begs to assure Parliament that howsoever the disturbances were quelled, the shocking excesses committed under the egis of Martial Law have sorely wounded the hearts and not a little unhinged the minds of millions of peaceful and law-abiding people, and profoundly shaken their faith, so firmly held hitherto in the justice and mercy of British rule in India.

The Association respectfully begs, therefore, that the decision which Parliament may arrive at will have the sure effect of at once restoring and re-establishing

confidence on a sounder and more permanent footing. Good-intentioned and liberal-minded as British are, they will see that officers of the Crown in India are not to be wholly trusted where fairplay, justice and humanity are required. It will be an evil day when the British come to confide in the future in men of the character who may boast, as those now implicated have ruthlessly boasted that Indians must be ruled and kept under heels by a reign of terror rather than a reign of law. There is a universal feeling prevalent that the conduct and action of the responsible officers in connection with the Punjab disturbances were almost Prussian in their method and manner rather than British. It is this problem which Parliament, it is to be hoped, will recognise and successfully solve in a spirit of broadmindedness and courageous statesmanship.

Lastly, it is unnecessary for the Association to assure Parliament that it asks not for vindictive action, as vindictiveness is not in the nature of Indian people but it is opposed to their religious and social traditions. The Association deems its duty, however, humbly to pray Parliament that it will be pleased to take definite steps to carry assurance to the wounded minds and bleeding hearts of the people of India due to the deplorable Punjab tragedy.

## 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:—

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