

Indian Opinion

No. 11—VOL. XX. FRIDAY, MAY 26TH, 1922.

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

NOTES AND NEWS

IN connection with the Township Franchise Ordinance, in which, as we had stated in our last week's issue, an opportunity was to be granted to the petitioners, the Natal Indian Congress, to be heard at the bar of the house, we now understand that they will be allowed to submit their case before the house only through a legal practitioner. Hence it has been arranged that Mr. Doull will represent the petitioners and the hearing will take place on Monday the 29th instant at Maritzburg.

Dr. Loram (one of the members of the Native Affairs Commission) was recently interviewed by the *Friend* in connection with the views expressed at the conference between the members of the Commission and representative Natives from the four Provinces of the Union which took place at Bloemfontein. In the course of his interview, touching on the problem of the exclusion of coloured people from Native locations, Dr. Loram is reported to have said, that coloureds who had acquired rights in locations, or who had become one with the Natives, should be allowed to remain, but it would be wiser to eliminate others gradually, and allow no more to come in, so that the Natives could preserve their race integrity. A minority of Native delegates present urged, however, that no ring fence should be erected, and that all who wished to throw in their lot with the Natives should be allowed to do so. But they were opposed to admission of Asiatics to the Native locations."

And a Reuter's message from Bloemfontein dated May 25, states:—At the eleventh annual convention of the South African Native National Congress, now in session here, the following resolution was passed unanimously to-day: "That this South African Native National Congress assembled at Bloemfontein, this 25th day of May, 1922, dissociates itself from the attitude taken up by the Conference of some Natives and members of the Native Affairs Commission held at Bloemfontein on the 15th inst., as regards the exclusion of coloured people and Asiatics from locations, and even the exclusion of Asiatics from South Africa."

Reuter (London) understands that the East Africa Indian deputation will maintain the closest touch with the India Office, which will continue under the new regime to do its utmost to facilitate the settlement of the Kenya difficulties. While it is unlikely that a settlement will be regarded as entirely satisfactory by either the settlers or the Indians, it is believed that the discussions are now tending towards an amicable solution of the problem, which, if not final, will be considered by both sides as a temporary settlement. It is considered likely that it will be possible to announce such a settlement in the course of the next few weeks.

The annual meeting of the Pietermaritzburg Branch of the Natal Indian Congress will be held in the Hindu Young Men's Association Hall, City, on the Union Day the 31st inst. at 2 p. m. The important business of the meeting is the consideration of the Township Ordinance and the Rural Licensing Ordinance,

election of officials, and the consideration of the Licensing system in Natal. Those intending to join the Congress should at once apply to the Hon. Sec. Mr. S. R. Naidoo for forms of application. A cordial invitation is issued to all to attend.

In order to be eligible as a Municipal voter, Indians should at once see that rates due to the Corporation are paid by the 1st of June next, which is the last day for payment.

A letter has been forwarded to us for publication by the Arya Pratinidhi Sabha, Eastern Africa, in which allegations have been made against Thakur Pravinsingh who is for the last two months or so amongst us and is due to leave in a few days for India, about his honesty of purpose in coming to this country. The letter is grossly libelous and we are, therefore, unable to give publication to it in our columns. We understand from the letter that Thakur Pravinsingh was in the service of the Sabha referred to above as a missionary of the Arya Samaj. Having served the Sabha for a little over a year he left the service and came to South Africa for a visit. In appreciation of his services, we understand, a certificate of satisfactory service was given to Thakur Pravinsingh. And we entirely fail to see what has prompted the Sabha to attempt to blemish the character of one who has once done good to them. We deplore the action of the Sabha and consider it to be the height of ingratitude and disrespect on their part. Moreover the allegations made against him are false and without any foundation.

Thakur Pravinsingh, though not a qualified Pandit, has a good knowledge of Sanskrit and Persian and he is well qualified in singing sacred songs of the Hindu religion. In fact most of his preaching is done by singing. As we had stated at the time of his arrival here, Thakur Pravinsingh was for a long time working for the Arya Pratinidhi Sabha in India and when he suffered the loss of his wife and children whom the unkind hands of Providence snatched away from him, he sold his house at Badapur Jilla, Bijnore, U.P. his birthplace, and with the amount derived from it he purchased a plot of ground and presented it to the local Arya Samaj there for whose cause he was working. Later on, a school for girls was built on this land under the auspices of the Samaj and to this school, we understand, Thakur Pravinsingh has bequeathed all the wealth he possesses. Thakur Pravinsingh's mission to South Africa is quite an independent one and he represents no particular body or institution. He is leading a very simple life, and his wants are meagre. Though belonging to a certain section only of even the Hindu community he was able to attract Hindus and Mahomedans generally to his lectures. During his short stay here he has delivered several lectures on religious and moral subjects which have greatly benefited the community. All those who have had the opportunity of hearing Thakur Pravinsingh will, we are sure, regret the shortness of his stay in this country and his *Shraddha* will be mixed by all.

THE INDIAN QUESTION

WHE notice that the debate in the Union House of Assembly on Mr. Mackeurtan's motion advocating the segregation of Asiatics resident in the Union which was adjourned till the 16th of this month has not been heard of again, and it seems likely, therefore, that the motion has been dropped. It had received no support from Mr. Duncan who voiced the Government, and it would appear from the comments made on the subject by the Press that, it has not the support of either the pro or even the Anti-Asiatic Press. But whilst no support has been given to segregation as a general policy of the Union the Government have expressed their readiness to assist Municipalities which did their best to encourage Asiatic segregation. The trend of some of the papers is towards supporting the Government while some do not consider the policy a practical one and urge more attention to be given to the still stronger enforcement of the policy of repatriation. In view of the preparedness of the Government to support the Municipalities in enforcing the policy of segregation, it will make no difference in the position of the Indian community whether Mr. Mackeurtan's motion fails or does not fail. Their position will remain just as bad as ever.

The debate in the House of Assembly as well as in the Provincial Council on the Asiatic question brings one to the conclusion that, what was at one time known as British fair-play, is now no more in existence, and that foul play is the order of the day. Where there are foul means adopted to solve difficulties, there all entreaties to reasonableness are sure to fail. Of all the arguments brought in support of getting rid of Indians from this country there is not one that is fair, and we are sure that, the conscience of those who bring forth those arguments know that fact full well. Sir Abe Bailey who is the financier of the Anti-Asiatic movement said, "the Asiatics were the white ants of this country destroying the foundations of our institutions and the roots of the livelihood of the white race." A better reply to that could not be given than that given by Mr. Percy F. Trotter, that those institutions must be particularly rotten to be so easily destroyed by such a weak force. Some of the arguments in support of his case were that Indians were useless for purposes of defence. That out of 158,000 Indians in Natal only 702 took part in the war and he also referred to Kenya, Zanzibar and Uganda. Sir Abe does not seem to know of the services of Indians during the Boer War and the Zulu Rebellion. He also does not seem to know of the services that India has rendered during the recent Great War. Our Prime Minister who was at the time in East Africa had a good word to say of the services of Indians in that country. And if in this country only a few had rendered service it was certainly not their fault but the Government's who refused their offer. A study of these things would do a great deal of good to Sir Abe Bailey, for, in making such insinuations in his ignorance he might seemingly be doing a service to the white race but in reality he does a great dis-service to the Empire. He is also reported to have said that, "Indians in Kenya were supporters of, and were supported by, Mr. Gandhi and their leader had said they intended to "bring cannons and rifles and fight for their rights when the people of India had independence." This must be a story

of his own creation, as we have never yet heard or known of anything like it. But if this story proves anything it only proves the cowardliness of the creator of it, and not only that, but he makes the whole nation, a nation that has been known to be the bravest in the world, coward, and thereby does a grievous injustice to that nation. Sir Abe was brutally frank when he said that, he was in the Parliament to look after the interests of his own people and not of the Indians. For his sake the name "British Empire," we think, will have to be altered to "white Empire."

It is argued by some that the agitation in India has been reflected here and advice is given by some that if Indians wanted to be treated fairly in this country they should be loyal to South Africa and not connect themselves with the movement in India. That the agitation in India has had its effect here is certainly true, but in this respect, that the hatred of Europeans towards Indians has increased considerably; and that is due to the misleading and onesided messages that are sent out by Reuter's from India in connection with the movement there. And the present agitation against the Indian in this country is owing to that hatred. It is entirely wrong to say that the Indian has changed, owing to the movement in India, in his loyalty. Indians in South Africa have ever been loyal and laws abiding and there is not a single instance to prove that they have at any time been disloyal owing to the state of affairs in India or any other reason. Nothing will swerve them from their loyalty, unless they find that those to whom they are loyal are prepared to make their lot the most humiliating that can be imagined, and they entirely fail in their endeavours to get justice. What we demand is but little, and nothing more than a self-respecting community can reasonably demand. That is, that the existing rights of Indians resident in the Union should not be taken away from them. The community is not and cannot be satisfied with anything less. It will be the most humiliating thing for our countrymen to accept anything less than this, and, as one of the Hon. members in the House of Assembly had stated, to shoot them was the only alternative were they to refuse to be segregated, so would we say that, it would be more honorable for Indians to stick to their just and reasonable demand even at the risk of being shot or compulsorily deported. But we do not believe that the Government and people of this country have become so heartless that they would not recognise the justness of our demands if we were ourselves in earnest in pressing them.

NATAL PROVINCIAL COUNCIL

ALIENATION OF LAND

The following debate took place in the Provincial Council in connection with matters affecting Indians on May 16:—

Mr. Van Rooyen moved:—"That the Executive Committee be requested to introduce a Draft Ordinance this session making the provisions contained in Private Draft Ordinance (No. 11, 1922) with regard to the alienation of land applicable to all the Municipalities and Townships in the Province.

The mover said that such an Ordinance would be welcomed throughout Natal. The need for it was obvious.

Mr. Cox seconded, and saw nothing to prevent the passing of the motion. The case for the placing of all

the municipalities in a better position was a strong one.

The Administrator hoped the hon. member would not proceed with the motion. The Durban Ordinance now being promoted would give them every opportunity of finding out whether the principle would be accepted. The Municipal Congress just held had made no request that the Ordinance should be made general through the Province. Only Durban and one other small municipality had suggested it. He advised the leaving of the general application of the principle to the Municipal Consolidation Ordinance which would probably be introduced next session.

Mr. Whyte thought it impossible to pass the motion containing, as it did, the words "this session." They must see first the fate of the Durban Ordinance.

Mr. Hollander asked the mover to amend his motion, and assured him that he did so from no lack of sympathy. If the Ordinance in charge of the member for Zululand were passed, it would be a test Ordinance and would give them an opportunity of drafting the Municipal Ordinance, and he suggested as an amendment that the Executive Committee be requested to introduce the provisions of the Draft Ordinance into the Municipal Consolidation Ordinance.

Mr. Coleman wondered whether the Consolidation Ordinance would ever be introduced. It was first suggested 19 years ago, and they might have to wait another 19 years before it became law. He asked for an assurance that if the Ordinance was not brought forward by next session the Administration would introduce it themselves.

Mr. Fahey described Mr. Hollander's amendment as an excuse for burking serious questions. Every time the question involved in this Ordinance came up the House displayed timidity. They were told they must not embarrass the Government on the Indian question, but if there was need to set aside residential areas in Durban for the Indians, there was greater need to take steps to prevent the small townships from being completely submerged. (Hear, hear.)

He (the speaker) would never be deterred from speaking his opinion on the subject. Let them give the Indian the rights he should have, but let them utterly prevent him from driving the white man out completely. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. Hulett advocated the alteration of the words "this session" in the motion, to the words "early next session."

Mr. Russell seconded this amendment, and said that he thought half a loaf was better than no bread. He was not sure that Durban was not making a mistake in not asking for the general application of the principle. If they had claimed the power of segregation right through the townships, he would have given every support.

Mr. Haycock supported the motion, and said that the Union Government should indicate how far they could go in dealing with the Indian question.

The Administrator thought the mover could accept the amendment of the member for North Coast, which placed the responsibility on the Executive.

The Chairman drew attention to the fact that the rules of the House limited discussion on motions to two hours. On the motion of Mr. Hulett, seconded by Mr. Hollander, Standing Rules and Orders were then suspended to permit any further debate on the subject.

Capt. Byron advised the House to consider their responsibility in the matter. They were dealing with a class that was not so well provided for as the native, and they were giving local townships power to alienate one class only, which might not always be desirable.

Mr. Cox did not think it too much to ask the Executive to bring the Ordinance forward this session. The question must be faced. The Government would give no declaration of policy, but everyone knew that there was a racial conflict. They could not allow them to absorb the Europeans. The latter must be protected.

Mr. Clarkson said the motion asked the House to

commit itself in advance to an Ordinance that was still to be brought forward. He would vote against it.

Mr. Coleman said that they realised their responsibilities as custodians of Western civilisation in South Africa. There was no better standard than that. He supported the amendment because the Municipal bodies in their recent Congress had considered the Ordinance, and if they did not bring it in, the Administrator had promised that the Executive would do so next session.

Replying, Mr. Van Rooyen accepted Mr. Hulett's amendment. The Asiatic question had not been rushed, and every member of the Council was pledged to bring about some restriction or other if the Ordinance was necessary for other Municipalities. In his own constituency the position of European business was critical.

The amended motion was then carried.

RURAL DISTRICT LICENCES

The House then resumed consideration of this Ordinance in Committee, Clause 3 having been formally passed at the previous sitting. The Ordinance provides for the appointment of Licensing Boards in each county in Natal for the hearing and determining of applications for licences, each Board to be appointed by the Administrator.

Sub-Section 2 of Clause 4 was deleted at the request of the mover, and the following new clauses 5, 6 and 7 inserted:—

5. Sections 4, 5 and 6 of Act No. 18, 1897, and Section 2 of Act No. 22, 1909, in so far as they relate to any area or any case to which this Ordinance applies, and Sections 6 and 7 of Ordinance No. 6, 1916, are hereby repealed, and the following is enacted *in lieu* thereof:—

(1) Every Licensing Board constituted under this Ordinance shall, within the area for which it is appointed, have a discretion to issue or refuse a wholesale or retail licence.

(2) A decision come to by such Licensing Board as to the issue or refusal of a licence shall not be liable to review, reversal or alteration by any Court of Law, save as in the next sub-section provided, but nothing in this section shall be deemed to limit the jurisdiction hitherto possessed by any Division of the Supreme Court to set aside on the grounds of irregularity or otherwise the proceedings of any licensing body.

(3) It shall be competent for the applicant for the renewal of a licence, or for a person who has duly lodged an objection to such renewal, to appeal to the Provincial Division of the Supreme Court or a local division thereof against any decision given by a Licensing Board under this section, and the Court may order that the renewal applied for be granted or that it be not granted, or may in any case remit the case for re-hearing.

The Court may also in its discretion award the costs of the appeal against either of the parties thereto.

6. The references in Section 7 of Act No. 18, 1897, and in other law to Licensing Officers and Licensing Boards shall, for the purposes of licences to which this Ordinance applies, be construed as references to the Licensing Boards constituted under this Ordinance.

7. The proviso of Section 5 (1) of Ordinance No. 6, 1916, is hereby repealed.

Capt. Byron thought that the wording of the last paragraph of Clause 3 made it possible for the Board to be mulcted in the costs of an appeal.

Mr. Hulett agreed.

Mr. Hollander said that if costs were given against any Board, as a Board, such costs would fall on the Administration and not on the individual members of the Board. One might as well argue that the members of the Board should pay the cost of running the Boards themselves.

Mr. Hulett said that these were public bodies, and a successful appeal against the Crown would carry costs. These Boards were a similar public body, and the Act

should lay down distinctly that they would not be liable for costs.

The Administrator said the position existed already in connection with the present Municipal Licensing Boards. Hardly a day passed without litigation against these Boards, and he saw no difference between Municipal Boards and the Rural Boards as they would be constituted. He did not think that the Council could in every case, dictate what the Supreme Court should or should not do.

Capt. Byron said he was satisfied with the explanation of the member of Stamfordhill, but thought the clause should state clearly who would be liable for the costs.

Mr. Nicolson said that he had never heard of costs being given against a Board except in cases of gross irregularities.

Mr. Hulett said that he knew of costs being given against Boards.

Mr. Hollander said it could scarcely be argued that an unfortunate individual who had a grievance against a Government body and obtained redress in a Court of Law, should have to pay the costs himself. It was only fair and just that if costs were given against a Board, such costs would be met out of the public purse.

Mr. Van Rooyen was curious as to the reasons that swayed the Government in vetoing the original Bill last year. He could not think that mere trivial legal objections would have been sufficient.

Captain Byron said that there was an impression abroad that the Bill was vetoed because it abolished the right of appeal to the Supreme Court.

In reply to Mr. Van Rooyen, Mr. Hollander pointed out that the reasons given for the vetoing of the Bill by the Government occupied several closely typed pages of foolscap, and had been laid on the table of the House in March last. He was sorry that the hon. member had not had time to read them.

In discussion of Clause 9, which lays down that the Administrator shall appoint the members of the Boards, Major Comrie moved an amendment to the effect that such Boards be elected and not nominated.

Mr. Cox said that a class of people existed, who by reason of their wealth and lack of principle, would defeat the very object of the boards if the electoral system were decided on.

Major Comrie's amendment was defeated.

The Draft Ordinance then passed through the Committee stage with these amendments.

SEGREGATION OF ASIATICS

PRESS COMMENTS ON MR. MACKENTAN'S MOTION

'NATAL MERCURY'

Commenting on the debate in the Union House of Assembly on Mr. Mackeurtan's motion advocating the segregation of Indians resident in the Union the *Natal Mercury* in its issue of May 11, writes as follows:—

"To borrow a metaphor from biology, the difference between European civilisation and Indian civilisation is a difference of species, and not merely a difference of varieties. If this ground were more generally taken the prospects of a satisfactory solution of the problem would be much brighter. We may cherish our own opinion of the relative merits of the two civilisations; but we are much more likely to get individuals of a different civilisation to acquiesce in any practical measures proposed if the proposal is based upon the incompatibility of the two than if it is advocated on the assumption of the superiority of the one over the other.

The most important division of opinion revealed in the course of the debate turned on the question of compulsory or voluntary segregation. Mr. C. P. Robinson seemed to argue that compulsory segregation en masse would be inhumane; but that is not necessarily

the case. The condition of affairs existing at Vrededorp as revealed by the inquiries of the Asiatic Commission, does not in the least alter the fact that it is generally speaking where segregation exists whether in theory or not that the Indians are found living in the most wretched conditions and the most undesirable from the point of view of the health of the European community. It is not in the occasional Indian homes existing in European residential quarters, but in the Indian settlements that the most squalor and filth are found. But no one proposes to compel the inhabitants of the former to live under the same conditions as the inhabitants of the latter. There is no reason why they should not take their higher standards of cleanliness and comfort into an area set apart for Asiatics; and their example would, indeed, tend to raise the general standard. When Mr. Mackeurtan and Mr. Marwick argue that voluntary segregation is not sufficient, they are right to this extent, that the special circumstances of the time can be held to justify restrictions which need not necessarily be regarded as part of the Union's permanent policy. These circumstances, which have been illustrated recently by the difficulty that has arisen in Durban over Corporation land sales, arise from two causes. In part they are a reflection of the unrest in India; in part they are due to the resentment aroused among the Indians by the extravagances of some of the anti-Asiatic propagandists. If, as we are inclined to think, these circumstances may be regarded as transitory, then it is unnecessary to put the restrictions referred to in such a form as to commit the Union to a general and permanent policy of compulsory segregation, though not quite so bad as the member for Durban Central paints it, is unquestionably a harsh measure and open to many objections. Contrary to an opinion very widely held, the Asiatic problem in this country is a diminishing problem, and there is, on that account, the less excuse for adopting measures unnecessarily drastic and harsh.

THE 'STAR'

The Johannesburg *Star* writes on the subject as follows:—

To kick off an old but serviceable pair of shoes before providing the new is not the act of wisdom, and the sudden impulse to remove the whole Asiatic population, whether born in India or South Africa, is not practical politics, for that population is at any rate doing a service to the public not easily replaced; even if on other than economic grounds it was desirable to remove people born of the soil and rooted in the soil. Leaving for future treatment the political aspect and the obligations arising out of the selfish actions of Natal towards the whole subject of Indian labour, we may now consider the matter purely from the economic side, affecting the Indian as worker and trader in the lower walks of commerce. As workers in the sugar and tea plantations, the Indians were necessary since there was no other labour available, the natives of the country having no special fitness for the work, and Natal was only able to start its plantations and bring them to remunerative producing point with the aid of Indians. These labourers in the field received every encouragement from Natal to settle, marry, and bear children; but when the original purpose was served, and the persevering industry of the newcomers began to seek other lines of livelihood in open competition with white workers, then the original service is easily forgotten and there arises the desire to remove competition completely by deporting the competitors bag and baggage. Well, that is in effect a forced remedy for the protection of incompetency, or sloth, or lack of enterprise. In every country the lower walks of trade, of distribution and delivery are filled by people who live by virtue of extraordinary industry. The costers in London who attend the central markets at break of day in all weathers, and truck their goods in barrows in the remotest suburbs, are able to supply the poorest

consumers with small lots at cheap prices. They pay no rent, and their competition no doubt vexes the greengrocers and other shopmen who pay rent, keep a better class of goods, and charge more; but if the costers were removed on similar grounds that their scale of living was lower, there would be an indignant public protest.

And so in all countries. The pearl trade of Australia is only possible because cheap coloured labour is available, and Queensland had to introduce cheap labour from the islands into its sugar fields. The Argentine has been compelled to rely upon poor emigrants from Italy to turn the pampas into lucerne, and the United States allowed in Japanese, Chinese, and Mexicans to supply cheap farm labour. Why? Because the Anglo-Saxons were not attracted by that class of work, and preferred to take advantage of the industry of a race or races satisfied with small rewards for their labour, as their extraordinary economy enabled them to bank savings where other people would have made losses. Their labour was of immediate benefit to their employers. The cotton, sugar and tobacco fields of the world are worked by a class of labour that is industrious and saving, and if that class of labour were swept clean away by enactment then the plantations and the capital invested in the plantations, together with industries dependent on them, would decrease. It is granted that greengrocers in South Africa were never so good or so cheap until the coolies grew them and broke them. From the growers and hawkers of vegetables many of the Indians began to encroach on trade, and here their competition was undoubtedly helped by a lower scale of living and by some system of partnership established on relationship or community of interest. At any rate this competition has in many cases been too much for white traders, but it is not confined only to Asiatics, since an increasing number of people from Eastern Europe is carrying on exactly the same class of competition. There appears, then, one of three alternatives open: (1) Either to close the ports on all-comers whose style of living and standard of trade are different to our standards; (2) to raise the standard of living of such people; or (3) to train South Africans to greater industry and closer economy. If South Africa, on the other hand, is to give up competition as beyond the energy of its sons, and to engage in a struggle to shut out or remove people who are too industrious, then the prospect is gloomy."

THE 'NATAL WITNESS'

The *Natal Witness* (Maritzburg) comments thus on the question:—

"While we acknowledge that the debate in the Assembly on Mr. Mackeurian's motion in favour of the segregation of Asiatics was conducted in a moderate tone, and without the display of bitterness frequently associated with the controversy, we fear it is nevertheless, a sheer waste of time. The policy of segregation may or may not be in itself desirable, but the question is, is it practicable? To that only a negative answer can be returned. Segregation must be either compulsory or voluntary. - Mr. Mackeurian disclaimed any idea of the former, and Mr. Robinson in his amendment recommended the adoption of the policy of the Asiatic Inquiry Commission on the question of segregation. Whether they will admit or not, even the most extreme of the Anti-Asiatic party know that compulsory segregation is impossible. Indeed, the Minister of the Interior, in the course of the debate, declared that it was out of the question. This policy, even if it could be enforced, would only involve the country in a sea of troubles, and it may therefore be ruled out, despite the flamboyant talk of certain members who appear to think that the Union can do what it likes, regardless of its relations with other countries. There remains voluntary segregation. Well, does any one who knows the conditions of the

country and the psychology of the Indian imagine that voluntary segregation is a practical policy? For one thing, it is absolutely certain that the Indians would not accept segregation unless it was general, because it would put those who did accept it at a disadvantage as compared with those who did not. And what chance is there of their accepting a general segregation which could not be enforced by the law?

And supposing the Indians, after a conference such as Mr. Robinson suggested, did agree to voluntary segregation? Everyone who knows anything of their peculiar temperament knows that, no sooner would this agreement be announced than there would arise a host of protests from various sections of the Indian community on the ground that the Conference had no authority to bind them, and that they were not going to assent to its decisions. As a matter of fact, no such Conference would have the right to bind every individual Asiatic, and as we have pointed out, unless segregation were general it would be a complete failure, because no section would consent to any other section being put in a position of superiority. For these reasons, which we do not think could be challenged, any discussion on the segregation of Asiatics must be purely academical. The solution of the problem is not to be found in such methods. A more practical, though perhaps less superficially attractive remedy, though only palliative, is to encourage in every possible way, even at the cost of considerable expenditure, the voluntary repatriation of Indians. A good deal has already been done in this direction, though of course it falls short of what some ardent spirits demand, namely the deportation of the entire Indian population. "The Asiatics must go," exclaimed Sir Abe Bailey, but even he did not condescend to explain how they must be got rid of, and he had one of the smartest rejoinders ever given in the House, when Mr. Merriman reminded him that not so long ago, during the Chinese labour agitation he was shouting, "The Asiatics must come." The reason for Sir Abe Bailey's advocacy of Chinese labour in those days was, of course, the same as that of the importation of Indians in Natal, namely the development of industries. But the incident illustrates the folly of supposing that a grave and intricate problem of this kind can be effectively dealt with by such a crude policy as he suggested.

One of the most extraordinary delusions in connection with this question, which is put forward with untiring regularity from the Nationalist benches, is that we owe all the trouble to the fact that the Union is part of the British Empire. If it had been independent it could have ended the whole difficulty by deporting the Indians bag and baggage. These shortsighted individuals forget that it is only because South Africa is a part of the Empire that it has not been summarily brought to book by India, and perhaps by other Asiatic Powers. During the debate on the Asiatic question last year Mr. Duncan pointed out that the so-called Asiatic "menace" would have been far more dangerous if South Africa had been independent. It is easy, of course, for the Fitchards and the Koossers to boast of what we would do if we were not tied to Britain's apron-strings. But the fact is that if South Africa were involved in a serious quarrel with India or Japan she would be in a perilous position. They appear to forget, too, that it is not India which as they seem to think, is responsible for the trouble, but ourselves. It was we who invited the Indians here for our own benefit, and it is therefore ridiculous now to act as if we are the unwilling victims of Indian aggressiveness. And another thing these valiant members forget is that a large proportion of the very persons who are clamouring for the summary deportation of the Indians are themselves their best customers. There is nothing to be gained by a hasty, ill-considered and provocative policy which takes no account of the fact that this is an Empire problem as well as a South African one. Our policy should be directed towards

an amicable settlement of existing difficulties, and towards safeguarding the country against any increase of the Asiatic element, which as time goes on will, if not reinforced from outside, become less and less formidable. Time, though slow, sometimes provides the best solution of difficulties which appear to present no immediate practical remedy.

ANNIVERSARY OF ARYAN BENEVOLENT HOME

The first anniversary of the Aryan Benevolent Home was celebrated in the grounds of the Home at Mayville on Sunday the 14th instant. The gathering was a most representative one, including gentlemen of all denominations of the Indian community, prominent among whom were Messrs. O. H. A. Jhaveri, A. Dookan, Sorabjee Rustomjee, S. Emammally, V. Lawrence, M. M. Gandhi, B. M. Patel, R. K. Kapitan, F. Ramlagan, A. Christopher, S. Moula Bux, Daya Naran, Sathya Bhooshun, Debi Dayal, Beethase Maharaj, Shaikh Amod, S. Jeevanjee, B. A. Meghraj, etc.

The ceremony commenced with prayers and performance of the Havan after which Mr. O. Jhaveri was elected to the chair and under his able guidance the meeting was conducted. The Secretary of the Home submitted his report for the past year placing before the gathering the work performed. Mr. Sathya Dev on behalf of the Arya Yuvuk Sabha thanked the gentlemen for their presence and appealed to the community for financial assistance, and especially eulogised the deeds of Messrs. A. Dookan and Sathya Bhooshun. Mr. Sathya Bhooshun was then presented with an illuminated address for the noble work performed during his tenure as caretaker. He carried out his functions for over 9 months without any remuneration whatsoever.

Mr. A. Dookan was then garlanded on the eve of his departure to England and it was earnestly prayed that his sojourn would be a pleasant one, and that he may be spared to return safely to these shores. Messrs. A. Christopher, B. M. Patel, Sorabjee Rustomjee, V. Lawrence, S. Emammally, M. M. Gandhi, Beethase Maharaj and others in brief speeches eulogised the work performed by members of the Arya Yuvuk Sabha in establishing and maintaining the Home for one year and a task now devolved on the community to take a hand in furthering the interests of the Home. The institution not being sectarian, the Indian community as a whole should rise to the occasion and fulfill its obligations. A silver cup presented by Mr. Dookan was put up for auction. Mr. Jhaveri opened bidding at five guineas and ultimately it was knocked down to Mr. Sorabjee Rustomjee for ten guineas. The purchaser put it up to auction again and Mr. R. K. Kapitan was the buyer at seven guineas. On being put to auction the third time, the sum of five guineas was realised and it passed into the possession of Mr. Jhaveri who once more called for bid and the trophy finally came into the hands of Mr. Dookan at five guineas, who generously re-presented it to the Home. Other contributions to the Home were from the following gentlemen:—Messrs. B. M. Patel, £2 2s.; V. Lawrence, 10/6; and Beethase Maharaj, 10/.

SHANKER LIBRARY

The chairman Mr. Jhaveri then opened the Library established in memory of the late Mr. S. D. Shanker and gifts in money and kind were forthcoming, which were as follows:—

From the Committee of the M. K. Gandhi Library £10 10s. and promise of current periodicals; Mr. S. Jivanji, 1 set Encyclopaedia Britannia; Mr. B. M. Patel, 5 books; Mr. A. Dookan, £2 2s.; Mr. Daya Naran, £1; Mr. R. K. Kapitan, £1; Mr. V. Lawrence, £1; O. Jhaveri, £2 2s. Mr. S. Emammally donated £1 for providing comforts to a destitute lady. The various donors were thanked for their valuable contributions and this brought the successful function to a termination.—Contributed.

OBITUARY

LATE MRS. GNANAMALL CHRISTOPHER

Death has removed from the Indian community one of the very few of the early Indian Colonists remaining by the death of Mrs. Gnanamall Christopher who arrived with her parents when quite young by the sailing ship, 'Lord George Bentinck' after a voyage lasting several months in November of 1860. Practically all her life she has been resident in Durban and grew up with the growth of the town. The esteem and regard in which she was held by her people was testified last Saturday by the extraordinary number of people—probably the largest and most representative seen on such an occasion among Indians—who followed the cortege from her residence in Victoria Street to St. Aidan's Church where a short choral service was conducted by the Rev. J. P. N. Potter and from thence the procession followed the cortege along Grey Street into West Street to the general cemetery where also the Rev. Potter officiated. The Pall-bearers were James, Albert, and Robert Christopher, (sons), Manickum and Abel Charles, (nephews), and John Pragasam.

Among the numerous floral tributes the following wreaths were noticed:—Mr. and Mrs. R. G. Reddy, Manickum, Gnanamall and children; Mrs. Ellen Lazarus and Alfred Lazarus; Indian staff, Marine Hotel; Officials and members B. B. F. C.; Mr. M. M. Gandhi; Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Francis and family; Officials and members D. D. I. F. A.; Mr. and Mrs. A. D. Pillay (2); Mr. and Mrs. Charles and family; Messrs. S. Emammally and Thajmoon; Mr. Johan Poonsamy and family; Mr. and Mrs. Vengetsamy Chetty and family; Mr. A. I. Kajee; David Peter; Headmaster, staff and boys, Sydenham Indian Boys' School; Mr. and Mrs. John Pragasam; Mrs. Stokes and family; Mrs. Mayet; Mr. Sorabjee Rustomjee; Natal Indian Congress; Officials and members, Greyvilles, Football Club; Mr. and Mrs. Maghraj; Arya Yuvuk Sabha; Mr. and Mrs. J. Sam. Joshua; Soodvall family Mr. C. Dinually; Mr. and Mrs. M. B. Iyaloo; Mrs. Godfrey and Daughters (2).

BOOKS FOR SALE

To be obtained from the *Indian Opinion Press*, Phoenix, Natal. Postal Orders to be made payable at Durban.

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