

# Indian Opinion

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## NOTES AND NEWS

**A**T question time in the House of Assembly Mr. Reyburn is reported to have asked the Minister of the Interior:

(1) What is the reason why the Consolidating Municipal Ordinance recently passed by the Natal Provincial Council has been held up? and

(2) What are the intentions of the Government with regard to this measure?

The reply by the Minister was as follows:

(1) Representations were received by the Government against the provisions of certain sections of the Ordinance, and as the time limit of 30 days, under section 90 of the South Africa Act, 1909, was found insufficient to give due consideration to the measure, and as requests had been received that Ministers should receive deputations to discuss certain clauses in the Ordinance, they decided to recommend that the Ordinance be reserved for further consideration under section 90 of the South Africa Act, 1909.

(2) The Ordinance will receive further consideration after the present session, when Ministers have met the deputations referred to in my reply to No. 1.

To another question by Mr. Reyburn to the Minister of Lands as to the value of the mortgages held by Asiatics on immovable property in Durban the Minister replied: "I have been advised by the Registrar of Deeds, Maritzburg, that it would take four of his officials a considerable time to extract the desired information. As the staff of the Natal Deeds Office is small, I hope the hon. member will not press for the information to be supplied."

We regret to learn of the sad news of the untimely death on the 12th inst., of Mr. V. N. Pather of Maritzburg, a prominent personality in the Hindu community and an untiring worker in the public cause. We extend our sympathy to his sorrowing family.

A meeting of farmers in the Klip River Division was held at the Ladysmith Town Hall on the 23rd instant mainly to protest against anonymous writers in the newspapers stating that locally there was promiscuous shooting of natives. Among a string of resolutions passed we find the following:—"That only European Zulu interpreters be employed as interpreters in the Magistrates' Courts in the Province of Natal, and that Indian clerks be not allowed to accept depositions from Europeans."

In a recently issued *Gazette Extraordinary* is contained a Bill providing for the establishment of the office of Government Attorney for the Union in Pretoria. Under his control, branches may be established at other places in the Union. The functions of the Government Attorney's office will be to do work, not alone on behalf of the Union Government, but also for the Provinces, and especially for the Railways. Commenting on this, *De Burger* mentions that during the past year the Railways and Harbours paid out an amount of nearly £75,000 in attorney's fees, and emphasises that the Bill will

do away with this expenditure, and effect considerable economy.

Our representative Mr. Manilal Gandhi who has returned from his short tour of the North Coast where he had been on work in connection with INDIAN OPINION, speaks very highly of the kind courtesy and assistance he received from our subscribers and friends right up to Tugela. This, it gives us great pleasure to note, has been the case on every occasion when our representative has been out touring, and for that our sincerest thanks are due to our friends. Mr. Gandhi will very shortly be touring the South Coast and the Main Line and we look upon our friends there too to render our representative every assistance in his work as they have done in the past.

We acknowledge with thanks the receipt of the following donations to INDIAN OPINION: Mr. Ramportal, farmer and storekeeper, Darnall £2-2-0; Mr. R. Bodasingh, Newguelderland £2-2-0.

### 'TIMES' ATTACK ON INDIANS

**W**E reproduce elsewhere in this issue a letter addressed to the *Times of Natal* by one "Briton" and comments thereon in a sub-leader of the *Times*. The Natal Indian Congress (Maritzburg Branch) at a mass meeting passed a resolution denying the charges of sex evils alleged in the *Times*, and in effect challenged the paper to prove its allegations. A report of the proceedings of the Congress meeting and the resolution touching upon the subject was published in full by the *Times*, but the paper or its correspondent "Briton" neither had the decency of withdrawing the charges, nor had the courage of substantiating them. No observation was even made to contradict, if that were necessary, the imputations made by the Congress upon the *Times* that "these abominable allegations are given prominence with a view to increasing race prejudice and antipathy between Indians and Europeans." The writer of the letter, "Briton," took the lead of the *Times* and remained silent. The case of the *Times*, by its silence and by its inability to prove its charges goes by default, and it stands self-condemned by its own utterances, which, to say the least of it, are as mischievous as they are untrue.

The article, as one reads it, is an attack upon the Indian community as a whole. It alleges sex contamination, and wants the people to believe that Indian storekeepers take advantage of their positions and carry on immoral acts as part of their trade. The paper, to remove this alleged evil, urges upon the Town Council to refuse the issue of licences to Indians in European localities, and to wipe out the existing licences on every legitimate excuse. A closer study of the article will reveal that at the

bottom of this wonton attack upon the morality of Indians stands trade jealousy. The intention was to inflame the feelings of Europeans particularly upon Indian storekeepers, but it missed its mark. The whole affair is as despicable as it is contemptible, and we refuse to believe that the intelligent section of Europeans will give any importance to it, much less believe it. We have taken the trouble of commenting on the affair so that our people will know that the enemies of Indian trade and existence will not hesitate even at the expense of their honour, to stoop to such low tactics, which have been our unpleasant task to criticise.

### THE VISIT OF THE COLONIAL SECRETARY

**M**R. J. H. Thomas, the Colonial Secretary in the Home Parliament, accompanied by the Parliamentary Delegation, landed in Cape-town on Monday. The visit is a unique one and may be productive of good results. The coming with power of a Labour Government is one of political surprises in the Home country, and equally so is Mr. Thomas's elevation from the occupation of an engine driver to the responsible and intricate post of His Majesty's Colonial Secretary. To the elastic and wonderful nature of the British Constitution should be attributed the admission of Mr. Thomas into the inner folds of the Council of Empire. But to us in this part of Africa the advantages and benefits that flow at the fountain of that aged long Constitution remain in name only. These benefits and advantages and the responsibilities in exercising same and the fruits to be enjoyed therefrom are, we regret, denied us at the altar of expediency. An example of this can be seen from the Boroughs' Draft Ordinance, which deprives the rights of Municipal Franchise exercised by the Indians, solely, not only because they are Indians, but because they are deemed to be a danger, notwithstanding their unflinching loyalty, to the Constitution. Be this as it may, after the late Mr. Joseph Chamberlain, Mr. Thomas is the second Colonial Secretary to visit South Africa. He has come, as he states, to learn and understand the different problems in South Africa. And one of these, we are sure, will be the Indian problem. Our community should not fail to take full opportunity of the Colonial Secretary's visit and give him first hand information upon questions which materially affect us and our existence. We shall have to present him with our side of the case, so that when he comes to examine and sift the divergent views expressed upon the problems in South Africa, he may appreciate,—if he cannot actually use his influence to ameliorate our present condition,—our view point and the stand we take to uphold our national self-respect.

Whatever the results of his visit might be, we, in name of the Indian community, heartily extend a hand of welcome to the Colonial Secretary and we trust that his visit, short as it is, will be thoroughly enjoyed by him.

### ASIATIC QUESTION IN PARLIAMENT

The following is a report of the debate that took place last week in the Union House of Assembly on Mr. Marwick's motion on the Asiatic question. The motion was as follows:—

"That this House requests the Government to take into consideration the desirability of introducing, during the next ensuing session of Parliament, legislation to provide for

(1) The setting apart of distinct and separate urban areas in the Natal and Transvaal Provinces for the exclusive occupation of Asiatics for trading or residential purposes, and the prohibition of the residence or trading of Asiatics in any portion of an urban area.

(2) The exercise of the right by landowners in any magisterial district of the Natal Province to determine, after a public meeting called by the magistrate, at which two-thirds of the landowners shall have voted in support of a resolution opposing land tenure by Asiatics in such districts, that all land titles registered in favour of Europeans in such districts shall from henceforth bear an endorsement prohibiting any Asiatic from acquiring or leasing any of the land so registered in such districts at any date.

(3) The prohibition, under severe penalty, of the employment of European women by Asiatics.

(4) The prohibition, under severe penalty, of the employment by Europeans of Asiatics in positions in which European men or women are employed under the orders of Asiatics, and

(5) The enabling of the Natal and Transvaal Provincial Councils to pass legislation that no further trading licences shall be issued to Asiatics, excepting for an Asiatic trading area, and that no transfer of existing trading licences shall be permitted from one Asiatic to another, or from a European to an Asiatic, excepting in prescribed Asiatic trading areas, and that no Asiatic shall be allowed to trade under the name or style or firm of a European, and that the trading licence of any Asiatic who becomes insolvent or compounds with his creditors shall be cancelled.

In the course of his remarks, Mr. Marwick expressed the hope that the question would be considered in a non-party spirit. Without desiring in any way to detract from the civilisation of the Indians, he would point out that the civilisation of the Indian and the civilisation of the European were foreign to each other.

He pointed to the position which had gradually developed in the rural areas of Natal and the Transvaal, where business to-day was practically controlled by the Asiatic community, to the great detriment of the European community.

There was no desire to do anything but treat the Indians fairly, but the motion, as it stood, represented the minimum of the needs of the Natal Province. The motion aimed at forbidding the employment of European women by Indians, and there was no doubt that such employment of European women actually did prevail.

In the course of his further remarks, Mr. Marwick declared that in the last few years some of the best land had been acquired by the Indians, while in the Transvaal land and buildings were owned by Indians in the name of some European person.

The position was becoming serious, as the Indians might eventually claim equal citizenship with the European. If the European wished to uphold his civilisation, then the time had come for steps to be taken, and they should be taken without delay.

Mr. Deape (S.A.P., Unvoti) seconded, and said the motion had behind it the solid support of the whole of the population of Natal. The Indians in Natal had a stranglehold on the country and were

ousting the Europeans everywhere. The Indian youth was not debarred from learning a trade, whereas the European youth, through the Apprenticeship Act, was so debarred.

He warned the House that they could not treat the matter lightly. Natal's plight to-day would be South Africa's plight to-morrow, if they were not careful. He affirmed that the effect of Indian trading was to demoralise the Natives and encourage them to the petty thieving of eggs, etc.

He declared that there were ominous rumblings in Natal where there were just as good South Africans as in other parts of the Union—(Hear, hear)—and they were not lightly going to see the birthright of their children taken from them. They wanted their house set in order, while there was yet time.

Mr. Reyburn (Lab., Umbilo) said that the working class people in Natal were far in advance of the sentiments of the mover and the seconder. They had been doing their best to get something done to meet the unfair competition of Asiatics.

He suggested that Mr. Marwick was counting on Nationalist Government to do something which he could not get his own Government to do. How could they when the sugar magnates were their supporters?

Mr. Reyburn referred to the report of the Durban Corporation on the Class Areas Bill, which was to the effect that it only touched the fringe of the problem. The Town Council was overwhelmingly of the opinion that the only solution was a minimum wage. The Labour Party accepted the principle of residential and trading segregation, but much more as wanted.

He knew a row of 25 houses in Durban inhabited by 67 Indians, and pointed out the way in which Indians and Europeans in industries, he felt was to render it difficult for employers of European labour to pay good wages, and to make them bad employers.

He moved as an amendment to the motion: "This House, recognising that the unequal competition of Asiatic workers is steadily ousting the European wage and salary earners in Natal and elsewhere in the Union, and that the like competition is now acutely felt by the working and other classes in the Union, requests the Government to consider the advisability of introducing legislation enabling the Provincial Councils to make provision for the working and residential separation of the Asiatics, the establishment of a minimum wage based on European standards, and the observance by the Asiatics of such standards, as well as to prevent unfair competition with the Europeans, and to make the necessary financial provision which will ensure a greater emigration of Asiatics."

Mr. Strachan (Lab., Maritzburg North) supported the amendment. He said that the speech of Mr. Marwick was much the same as he had delivered in previous sessions. The Class Areas Bill was not any means acceptable to the people of Natal, and he assured the Government whatever support the Nationalists obtained in Natal at the last election was due to the understanding that they would do nothing to assist the people of Natal in connection with the Asiatic question.

Mr. Strachan pointed to the various objections to insanitary habits and business methods of the Asiatics. As for a minimum wage, this would be objected by the Indians he was convinced.

The Minister of the Interior (Dr. Malan) said the Government heartily welcomed the debate as showing the strong feeling in the country on the Asiatic question. It could not be ignored by the Government. He further welcomed the discussion as throwing a light on the many difficulties connected with the

As regards the Government's attitude on Mr. Marwick's motion, he would say that the Govern-

ment could take up only one attitude, and that was in the main to accept the motion. Without at the same time compromising themselves by accepting one or other of the points raised, they would reserve for themselves the right to go into the whole question so as to introduce legislation at a later stage.

They realised that the Asiatic question was becoming more and more acute, and would have to be dealt with. A petition had recently been presented on the matter from the Natal Provincial Council, while that Council had also passed the Boroughs Ordinance dealing with the same subject. The Government had reserved its opposition of the Ordinance till a later date. The Minister intimated, however, that legislation would be introduced at a later stage.

While in general accepting the motion, Dr. Malan said that he would not accept the whole of the amendment proposed by Mr. Reyburn. The Asiatic question was not a question which could be left to be dealt with by a minor body, the Provincial Council. Besides the Asiatic question touched international relations, and could not be left to Provincial Councils for that reason.

The amendment also asked for the establishment of a minimum wage.

A great principle was at stake in reference to which legislation had not yet been passed by the Union Assembly. The Asiatic Commission had gone into this whole matter, and had pointed out, as Mr. Strachan had done, that the Asiatic would probably evade the provisions.

In regard to a minimum wage, the Asiatic as such did not employ assistants in the ordinary way, and would evade all provisions regarding a minimum wage, consequently legislation thereon would be useless. He was, however, prepared to accept the final part of Mr. Reyburn's amendment.

The Government added Dr. Malan would not tolerate South Africa being invaded by a foreign Asiatic element which would be a danger to our civilisation. There was not a civilised country which had not taken up a similar attitude.

South Africa's sister Dominions had legislation to keep Asiatics outside their boundaries. Canada to-day, according to the 1921 census, had only 1,200 Asiatics, Australia 3,000, and New Zealand 600, but South Africa, with its complicated Native problem, had no fewer than 161,000 Asiatics.

Where other countries took up that attitude of keeping out a foreign Asiatic element South Africa was thoroughly justified in doing the same, yet he wished to say that our Asiatic problem was a problem of our own creation.

Natal had imported Asiatics for 60 years, and the Asiatics in the other Provinces had only come as a result of what Natal had done.

He was pleased to see the strong attitude which Natal was now adopting, but the position made him think of the case of a Scotsman in very long trousers, remarking that a new convert always was the greatest enthusiast.

Natal to-day was the Scotsman with the very long trousers. (Laughter.) Natal had for years been dominated by two factors, the one being Imperialism, as the result of which she had been governed from outside and had not been able to control matters, but Natal was largely to blame for not sooner having thrown in its lot with the national life of South Africa. (Hear, hear.)

Besides, Natal had for years been dominated by great capitalistic influences, especially in sugar matters, influences which to-day caused South Africa as a whole to suffer.

Dr. Malan pointed out that of the 161,000 Asiatics in South Africa, 102,000 were born in the Union, and many of those to-day were in their fourth generation. Sixty-three per cent. were born in

South Africa. International law, of course, forbade them deporting these people.

While, therefore, they could not be too hopeful of a solution of the whole problem, there was no need for nervousness of South Africa being overflooded by Asiatics, except in certain limited areas.

He would say that illegal invasion by Asiatics from outside had been stopped. There had been illegal invasions through Delagoa Bay in the past, but as a result of action taken, this had been stopped.

So far as information showed, illegal immigration was no longer taking place. Compared with the increase in the European population, the increase in the Asiatic immigration was very small.

The European increase in 10 years had been 20 per cent., as against 8.8 per cent. of the Asiatic population. In 10 years, the Asiatic population had increased by 13,000, of which only 1,000 were males.

Dr. Malan went on to point out that the number of Asiatic females in the past had been small compared to the males, but the 12,000 females to 1,000 males, who had come in, had entered the Union under the Smuts-Gandhi agreement.

There undoubtedly was strong competition from the side of the Asiatic community with the European community. In the Transvaal, on proclaimed areas, Asiatic trading facilities could not be extended under the law of 1908. The population on the proclaimed areas was, therefore, protected, but the result was that sons of Asiatics on the Rand, if they wished to start business for themselves, had to go to the rural areas. In Natal, too, the position was a serious one, and the Government, during the recess, proposed going into the whole matter and preparing legislation therefor.

There was one means, however, by which the Asiatic pressure in the past had been reduced, and could be reduced in future, namely, by means of emigration. Under the Indian Relief Act of 1914, 21,000 Asiatics had been repatriated, or about 2,000 a year.

There had, of late, been a decrease in the number of repatriates, which showed that the floating population had come to an end, and also that the Indians left were on the whole people born in South Africa. Further, influential Indians had advised those in South Africa not to allow themselves to be repatriated, which also had its effects.

In the amendment, Mr. Reyburn suggested an increase of the bonus for Indians who allowed themselves to be repatriated. The Government had decided to increase the bonus from £5 to £10 per head, and to £50 per family. The Government proposed availing itself of the use of recruiters to induce Asiatics to allow themselves to be repatriated and to explain the terms to them.

Dr. Malan appealed to the House not to treat the matter from a party point of view. It was again like the Native question, involving the future of South Africa. South Africa's prosperity was closely bound up in this problem, and he asked the House to do its utmost to find a workable solution. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. Nicholls (S.A.P., Zululand) congratulated the Minister of his statesmanlike speech, which would go a long way to meet the views of the people of Natal. He suggested, however, that it was hardly in conformity with the Government's election speeches, from which it was expected that the Indians were to be thrown out of the country, lock, stock and barrel.

The Asiatic question was a prominent one outside the Union, and he particularly referred to Kenya. The effect of Asiatic penetration along the East Coast of Africa would be very serious, unless steps were taken in time.

He welcomed the proposal to increase the bonus to Indians leaving the country. As regards emigra-

tion, their only alternative to voluntary repatriation was the point of the bayonet.

Mr. De Wet (Nat., Heidelberg) welcomed what had been done by the members from Natal to deal with this question, which was also troubling the people of the Transvaal, where the Asiatics were ousting the white people by working for lower wages.

Mr. Alexander (Ind., Capetown, Hanover Street) said it was difficult to discuss this matter in its present academic form. The proposals of the motion were bound to evoke some opposition, because they were purely on racial lines, and he thought the amendment was on sounder lines, because it sought to get to root causes.

He urged that matters of sanitation and the insolvency laws could be dealt with on their merits, without trenching on racial matters.

He deprecated the idea of these questions being dealt with by the Provincial Administrations, and said that the figures given by the Minister showed that the so-called menace had been much exaggerated. His remedy was to see that all sections of the community observed civilised methods of life, and he hoped the present Government would not allow itself to be rushed into hasty and ill-considered legislation.

Mr. P. Leroux Van Niekerk (Nat., Wateberg) said that owing to the peculiar tendencies of the Asiatics it was practically impossible to deal with the question without making it to some extent a racial question.

He contended that the Indians were undoubtedly having an evil influence on the Native, making the Native dishonest and of goods, and by means of barter, which he regarded as immoral and unsound.

So strong were the feelings in the North and in Natal that unless the Government took drastic action the view would prevail that it was preferable that the whole matter should be handed over to the Provincial Councils.

He advised the Minister, who was not acquainted with the Asiatic evil, to visit Natal and the Transvaal, and make himself familiar with the position as it presented itself there.

He warned the Minister that if he only tackled the position as affecting the towns, the Asiatic would go on to the rural areas and become a serious competitor to the farmer.

Mr. Nieuwenhuize (S.A.P., Lydenburg) agreed as to the seriousness of the evil, but held that although the boycott of Indian dealers in the urban areas had been fairly successful, the white dealers had failed to supply convenient shops in the rural areas to enable the farming community to purchase their requirements from them in preference to going to the Indian trader.

He pointed out that although the old Transvaal Volksraad had passed various laws and resolutions against the Asiatics, the protection afforded the Asiatics by the Imperial Government had prevented those resolutions being given effect to.

He did not think that the increase of the bonus for repatriation would have much effect in the Transvaal as the Asiatic community, which created the evil there, was a trading community, and would not be tempted by that bonus.

Mr. Van Hees (Nat., Delarey) declared that the question was one presenting such different aspects in the different Provinces that it should be dealt with from the point of view of each individual Province.

The question, while not being a party one, was one on which the discussion of thought must be Provincial. He differed with what the Minister had said in regard to the Provinces being unable to deal with the problem.

He declared that there was nothing in the international law forbidding them to deport any Indian.

the Minister was going to inquire into the question he should not bind himself to axioms which were untenable. He was in favour of repatriation, and failing that, at least, segregation.

Mr. Duncan (S.A.P., Yeoville) said the Minister had his sympathy, if he had to satisfy irresponsible advisers like Mr. Van Hees. He urged that the Nationalists had been as guilty as anybody of dealing with this matter from the standpoint of party politics.

He welcomed the Minister's statement that the matter was not to be left to the Provinces to deal with. That was necessary, both in the interests of the nation and because of its external aspect. He welcomed also the fact that the bonus to those Indians who accepted voluntary repatriation was to be increased, while he hoped that the result would be considerable, though he feared that this might not lead to increased emigration.

He thought, however, that the Minister's little homily to the people of Natal, in regard to its imperialistic tendencies might have been omitted.

Natal continued its importation of Indians for twenty years after it ceased to be a Crown Colony. He did not think it could be proved that the Indians were forced upon the Colony, while a Crown Colony, or that the people wished to get rid of them after that. They had to get away from past history.

He agreed that while it was possible that a minimum wage might be evaded, it was at least worth consideration that this might possibly afford a means of meeting certain phases of Asiatic competition.

On the motion of Mr. C. Van Niekerk (Nat., Boshof) the debate was adjourned till Friday week. The House rose at 6 p.m.—Reuter.

ALLEGED CORRUPTION OF EUROPEAN WOMEN BY INDIANS

A "Briton" writes the following letter to the Editor, *Times of Natal* :—

Sir,—The municipal election just opened has raised in an acute form the question of the association of Europeans and Indians. The corruption of Europeans by the Oriental habit of bribery has unfortunately for a long time been regarded with only too much complacency. It is a much greater evil than it may appear to be at first sight. But the discussions that have followed some of the speeches delivered at election meetings during the last day or two have made public what was privately known to many, the sexual contamination of white women by Indians males. Specific instances have been given, and a particularly deplorable case cited where the victim, a City girl, gave birth to a child of Indian paternity very recently. Surely little more need be said to convince people of the impossibility of allowing the present association of the two races to continue in Natal.

The sex evil has already alarmed Ladysmith has assumed grave proportions in Durban, and is apparently to become a reproach to the honour of the Europeans of Maritzburg. Can measures be too drastic to render these dreadful scenes impossible?

What are we to think of employers who, in tea-rooms, offices, workrooms, callously and deliberately introduce European girls into hourly intimacy with their employees? The familiarity shown by Indian servants to European girls in a fashionable city rendezvous has recently become a subject of frequent comment among habitues. No doubt the patronage of the ritimato should be withheld from business where they are employed. For my side of the community

is due to Young South Africa for awakening the public of the danger of the situation.

A DEADLY MENACE

The *Times of Natal* comments on the above as follows:—

A letter which we publish to-day raises one aspect of a very serious question. The correspondent asserts that intercourse between white women and Indian men is becoming alarmingly prevalent in Natal. He says that the evil has assumed grave proportions in Durban, that it is becoming an open scandal in Ladysmith, and that it is far from being unknown in Maritzburg. For those assertions he has authority which leaves no room for doubt. Miscegenation is one of the dangers to which we are too prone in South Africa to close our eyes. In one Province in the Union—the Transvaal—we have a law which, under severe penalties, prohibits the cohabitation of Europeans with coloured persons, but it is a sad commentary on our apathy that after fourteen years of Union that Act remains merely a piece of provincial legislation. The Europeans in South Africa are a small handful compared with the coloured population. If this is to be made a white man's country the Europeans will have to keep themselves pure and uncontaminated by the races which surround them. How, so far, have we done it? In some of the Cape towns inter-breeding has gone on to so great an extent that it is impossible to be certain that the person one meets is of pure European extraction. European males all over South Africa can be found living, in wedlock or out of it, with coloured women. Chinese storekeepers marry coloured girls and poor white women. We are rapidly adding to our colour problems by bringing into existence a race which even General Hertzog admitted during the election could not be kept on the same level as the Natives. Now, still further to complicate the problem, intimacy between European girls and Indians appears to be increasing. It is probably due in no small measure to the Oriental habit of bribery. Economic pressure has forced many women to deal with the Indian storekeeper. Accounts fall behind, or goods are coveted which the girl cannot afford. The temptation is offered by the Asiatic—the overdue bill receipted or the goods wrapped up, the price at first perhaps her self-respect and finally her honour. As one man with whom we discussed the matter put it, "women are paying their accounts in the back room of the Indian storekeeper. Such a state of affairs cannot be allowed to continue. Many may have a faint idea that such things go on, but the subject is too unpleasant to dwell upon, and they turn away from it, comforting themselves with the thought that after all the cases are exceptional and the victims merely members of the lowest stratum of the European population. But if they will take the trouble to enquire more closely they will find that the thing is creeping into the centre of the life of the community, and that those whom they would least suspect are falling to the temptation. The problem must be tackled immediately. The churches and social workers ought to get together for the purpose of organising public opinion, and bringing pressure to bear on officials and public bodies to make use of the means to check it which they have at their disposal and to devise others. The Transvaal law should, without delay, be enacted for the whole of the Union. Town Councils should take steps to see that no fresh licences are granted. Asiatics to trade in European localities, and existing licences are wiped out on every legitimate excuse. As far as is possible European girls not be employed alongside Indians, and where they are thrown together the European public should see that no familiarity is tolerated.

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He welcomed the proposal to increase the bonus to Indians leaving the country. As regards emigra-

tion, their only alternative to voluntary repatriation was the point of the bayonet.

Mr. De Wet (Nat., Heidelberg) welcomed what had been done by the members from Natal to deal with this question, which was also troubling the people of the Transvaal, where the Asiatics were ousting the white people by working for lower wages.

Mr. Alexander (Ind., Capetown, Hanover Street) said it was difficult to discuss this matter in its present academic form. The proposals of the motion were bound to evoke some opposition, because they were purely on racial lines, and he thought the amendment was on sounder lines, because it sought to get to root causes.

He urged that matters of sanitation and the insolvency laws could be dealt with on their merits, without trenching on racial matters.

He deprecated the idea of these questions being dealt with by the Provincial Administrations, and said that the figures given by the Minister showed that the so-called menace had been much exaggerated. His remedy was to see that all sections of the community observed civilised methods of life, and he hoped the present Government would not allow itself to be rushed into hasty and ill-considered legislation.

Mr. P. Leroux Van Niekerk (Nat., Waterberg) said that owing to the peculiar tendencies of the Asiatics it was practically impossible to deal with the question without making it to some extent a racial question.

He contended that the Indians were undoubtedly having an evil influence on the Native, making the Native dishonest and of goods, and by means of barter, which he regarded as immoral and unsound.

So strong were the feelings in the North and in Natal that unless the Government took drastic action the view would prevail that it was preferable that the whole matter should be handed over to the Provincial Councils.

He advised the Minister, who was not acquainted with the Asiatic evil, to visit Natal and the Transvaal, and make himself familiar with the position as it presented itself there.

He warned the Minister that if he only tackled the position as affecting the towns, the Asiatic would go on to the rural areas and become a serious competitor to the farmer.

Mr. Nieuwenbuize (S.A.P., Lydenburg) agreed as to the seriousness of the evil, but held that although the boycott of Indian dealers in the urban areas had been fairly successful, the white dealers had failed to supply convenient shops in the rural areas to enable the farming community to purchase their requirements from them in preference to going to the Indian trader.

He pointed out that although the old Transvaal Volksraad had passed various laws and resolutions against the Asiatics, the protection afforded the Asiatics by the Imperial Government had prevented those resolutions being given effect to.

He did not think that the increase of the bonus for repatriation would have much effect in the Transvaal as the Asiatic community, which created the evil there, was a trading community, and would not be tempted by that bonus.

Mr. Van Hees (Nat., Delarey) declared that the question was one presenting such different aspects in the different Provinces that it should be dealt with from the point of view of each individual Province.

The question, while not being a party one, was one on which the discussion of thought must be Provincial. He differed with what the Minister had said in regard to the Provinces being unable to deal with the problem.

He declared that there was nothing in the international law forbidding them to deport any Indian.

the Minister was going to inquire into the question he should not bind himself to axioms which were untenable. He was in favour of repatriation, and failing that, at least, segregation.

Mr. Duncan (S.A.P., Yeoville) said the Minister had his sympathy, if he had to satisfy irresponsible advisers like Mr. Van Hees. He urged that the Nationalists had been as guilty as anybody of dealing with this matter from the standpoint of party politics.

He welcomed the Minister's statement that the matter was not to be left to the Provinces to deal with. That was necessary, both in the interests of the nation and because of its external aspect. He welcomed also the fact that the bonus to those Indians who accepted voluntary repatriation was to be increased, while he hoped that the result would be considerable, though he feared that this might not lead to increased emigration.

He thought, however, that the Minister's little homily to the people of Natal, in regard to its imperialistic tendencies might have been omitted.

Natal continued its importation of Indians for twenty years after it ceased to be a Crown Colony. He did not think it could be proved that the Indians were forced upon the Colony, while a Crown Colony, or that the people wished to get rid of them after that. They had to get away from past history.

He agreed that while it was possible that a minimum wage might be evaded, it was at least worth consideration that this might possibly afford a means of meeting certain phases of Asiatic competition.

On the motion of Mr. C. Van Niekerk (Nat., Boshof) the debate was adjourned till Friday week. The House rose at 6 p.m.—Renter.

#### ALLEGED CORRUPTION OF EUROPEAN WOMEN BY INDIANS

A "Briton" writes the following letter to the Editor, *Times of Natal* :—

Sir,—The municipal election just opened has raised in an acute form the question of the association of Europeans and Indians. The corruption of Europeans by the Oriental habit of bribery has unfortunately for a long time been regarded with only too much complacency. It is a much greater evil than it may appear to be at first sight. But the discussions that have followed some of the speeches delivered at election meetings during the last day or two have made public what was privately known to many, the sexual contamination of white women by Indians males. Specific instances have been given, and a particularly deplorable case cited where the victim, a City girl, gave birth to a child of Indian paternity very recently. Surely little more need be said to convince people of the impossibility of allowing the present association of the two races to continue in Natal.

The sex evil has already alarmed Ladysmith has assumed grave proportions in Durban, and is now apparently to become a reproach to the honour and dignity of the Europeans of Maritzburg. Can any measures be too drastic to render these dreadful occurrences impossible?

What are we to think of employers who, in tea-shops, offices, workrooms, callously and deliberately bring European girls into hourly intimacy with Indians employees? The familiarity shown by Indian servants to European girls in a fashionable City rendezvous has recently become a subject of frequent comment among habitues. No doubt the patronage of the public will soon be withheld from business where Indians are employed. For my own part, I think the gratitude of the community

is due to Young South Africa for awakening the public of the danger of the situation.

#### A DEADLY MENACE

The *Times of Natal* comments on the above as follows:—

A letter which we publish to-day raises one aspect of a very serious question. The correspondent asserts that intercourse between white women and Indian men is becoming alarmingly prevalent in Natal. He says that the evil has assumed grave proportions in Durban, that it is becoming an open scandal in Ladysmith, and that it is far from being unknown in Maritzburg. For those assertions he has authority which leaves no room for doubt. Miscegenation is one of the dangers to which we are too prone in South Africa to close our eyes. In one Province in the Union—the Transvaal—we have a law which, under severe penalties, prohibits the cohabitation of Europeans with coloured persons, but it is a sad commentary on our apathy that after fourteen years of Union that Act remains merely a piece of provincial legislation. The Europeans in South Africa are a small handful compared with the coloured population. If this is to be made a white man's country the Europeans will have to keep themselves pure and uncontaminated by the races which surround them. How, so far, have we done it? In some of the Cape towns inter-breeding has gone on to so great an extent that it is impossible to be certain that the person one meets is of pure European extraction. European males all over South Africa can be found living, in wedlock or out of it, with coloured women. Chinese storekeepers marry coloured girls and poor white women. We are rapidly adding to our colour problems by bringing into existence a race which even General Hertzog admitted during the election could not be kept on the same level as the Natives. Now, still further to complicate the problem, intimacy between European girls and Indians appears to be increasing. It is probably due in no small measure to the Oriental habit of bribery. Economic pressure has forced many women to deal with the Indian storekeeper. Accounts fall behind, or goods are coveted which the girl cannot afford. The temptation is offered by the Asiatic—the overdue bill receipted or the goods wrapped up, the price at first perhaps her self-respect and finally her honour. As one man with whom we discussed the matter put it, "women are paying their accounts in the back room of the Indian storekeeper. Such a state of affairs cannot be allowed to continue. Many may have a faint idea that such things go on, but the subject is too unpleasant to dwell upon, and they turn away from it, comforting themselves with the thought that after all the cases are exceptional and the victims merely members of the lowest stratum of the European population. But if they will take the trouble to enquire more closely they will find that the thing is creeping into the centre of the life of the community, and that those whom they would least suspect are falling to the temptation. The problem must be tackled immediately. The churches and social workers ought to get together for the purpose of organising public opinion, and bringing pressure to bear on officials and public bodies to make use of the means to check it which they have at their disposal and to devise others. The Transvaal law should, without delay, be enacted for the whole of the Union. Town Councils should take steps to see that no fresh licences are granted. Asiatics to trade in European localities, and existing licences are wiped out on every legitimate excuse. As far as is possible European girls not be employed alongside Indians, and are thrown together the European pub' that no familiarity is tolerated.

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## BENGAL GOVERNOR INSULTS INDIAN WOMANHOOD.

### INDIAN LEADERS AGITATED

The *Natal Advertiser* London correspondent sends the following message:—

Calcutta cables report an amazing Swarajist demonstration organised for the purpose of condemning Lord Lyton's alleged slanders on Indian womanhood, and demanding his recall.

Fifty thousand people attended the demonstration and listened to a number of fiery and inflammatory speeches. Mrs. Naidu concluded a hysterical harangue, which was frantically cheered, by saying: "Let the manhood of Bengal, to whom womanhood entrusted its honour, rise as one man and tell this man he is a liar and force it down his throat. He shall perish by his lie for the womanhood of Bengal shall be the redeemers of India's liberty."

The meeting was the sequel of an unexampled campaign in the extremist Press, during which countless columns of scurrilous abuse were hurled at Lord Lyton.

In a speech at Dacca Lord Lyton, who is Governor of Bengal, made a reference to cases of Indian women who had falsely accused their own honours in order to bring discredit upon Indian policemen. This caused a wild outburst in the native Press, who accused him for insulting the whole of Indian womanhood.

An ugly feature of the Calcutta demonstration, says a *Times* cable, was the distribution of another "Red Bengal" leaflet. This illiterate production talks of "hellhounds with their organs of lust and lawlessness," and boasts violently of "ocean of blood" and large numbers of "coming assassinations."

## Sporting News

(CONTRIBUTED)

In the 18th round match between Durban and Maritzburg, Rayob kicked off under a perfect condition. Soon the hoisters were swarming round the Durban goal, but G. K. Singh saved the situation with a great kick that set Royappen in motion. The winger crossed a fine ball, but E. Thomas was ruled outside. G. Nalliah gave Bhoohan a rough ride in the goal. Once he sent a tremendous shot which was going in the corner of the net but Bhoohan cleared in a convincing style.

Next G. K. Singh sent in a long shot which thumped misjudged and the ball went rolling into the net. With Durban's goal up the City awoke and a big run by Shank resulted in nothing. Away went the Durbanites in a rush when C. K. Ismail and Bhudayaloo broke through the hoisters' defence which resulted in the former registering the No. 2 goal for Durban with a great shot which gave the goalies no chance whatever.

The hoisters dashed away to the other end from the start but Ramith pulled up Nalliah in great style and served Thomas with a perfect pass which was tapped back to Moodly who sent the ball into the net. Still with 2 goals in arrears, found the City made a desperate effort, chiefly by the rights of G. K. Singh. The former swung in a perfect free which came to Rayob who sent in a first turn which Bhoohan saved in his best of form. Half

terminated with the score 2 to Nil in Durban's the U.

The effort of Africa ended off with a fine rush but the steady taken in timidity prevented an early score. Clever

He welcomes to Indians leave.

half-back play by Ramith and Bharos relieved the pressure, when Royappen and Moodly were away, but the winger's glorious centre was muddled by E. Thomas. At this period Ramith was playing a great game for Durban.

Things looked bad for Durban when Siva the centre half of Durban fouled in the penalty area which gave the City a chance to reduce Durban's lead, but to the disappointment of the spectators Nalliah shot the ball miles over. Next, Arco the City Captain when in an act of shooting was well attacked by M. K. Naidoo the Durban's captain. On one occasion the Durban's goal was bombarded but G. K. Singh saved time after time. Soon the match terminated in a win for Durban by 2 goals to Nil.

The following is the up-to-date League log for Junior League Cup:—

	P.	W.	L.	D.	F.	A.	Points.
Stars	10	9	0	1	34	3	17
Greyville	9	8	1	0	23	8	16
Royals	10	6	3	1	12	8	13
College	10	6	3	1	16	8	13
Aryan	8	4	3	1	17	9	9
Stella	10	2	5	3	8	15	7
Sydenham D	3	4	3	3	12	17	7
Pirates	9	3	6	0	10	19	6
Schools	10	2	7	1	9	27	5
Colonials	9	2	6	1	5	13	5
Mayville	9	0	7	2	2	14	2

have lost 2 points each for playing an eligible player.

Visitors intending to accompany the Natal Team are requested to make application to the Secretary of the N.I.F.A. Mr. U. N. M. Khan before the 3rd of September, 1924. After the said date no application will be accepted.

At the Council meeting of the Natal Indian Football Association held at Maritzburg on Saturday last the following players were selected to represent Natal at Port Elizabeth on the 15th September, 1924:—

Messrs. E. Thomas (Capt., Durban), P. Frank, S. A. Yusuf and A. M. Goga (Ladysmith), Bhoohan, G. K. Singh, M. K. Naidoo, B. Bharos, R. Ramith, C. K. Ismail, S. R. Moodly and J. Royappen (Durban), G. Nalliah, R. V. Pillay and V. D. Pillay. (P. M. Burz).

## BOROUGH OF DURBAN VACANT STALLS—INDIAN MARKET.

Tenders are invited from the Indian community for a number of Monthly Tenancies of stalls at the Indian Market.

Tenders are requested to state what Cash Bonus they are prepared to pay for such tenancies. No person or firm will be allowed to hold or be interested in more than two tenancies.

The Corporation reserves the right to refuse the acceptance of any tender.

Full particulars may be obtained from the Superintendent of the Indian Market, to whom all tenders endorsed "Vacant Stalls" should be addressed and delivered, at his office not later than 5 p.m., September, 10, 1924.

A. O. JONES,  
Town Clerk.