

Indian Opinion

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NOTES AND NEWS

AT question time in the Union House of Assembly last Tuesday Mr. Nel (S.A.P., Newcastle) asked the Minister of the Interior. (1) To what extent, if at all, does the Government intend during the present session to carry out the promise of the Minister of the Interior to introduce legislation to deal with the Asiatic question on the lines of the motion introduced by the hon. member for Illovo during the last session of Parliament, and (2) If any such legislation is to be introduced, when will it be published? The Minister replied: (1) As will appear from Hansard, the Minister of the Interior did not promise to introduce legislation on the lines of the motion by the hon. member for Illovo, though he undertook independently to investigate the question during the recess, and, if possible, to introduce legislation during the present session; (2) Legislation dealing with the Asiatic question is now in preparation, and will probably be introduced at a later stage.—Reuter.

General Hertzog is reported to have informed a deputation of women which waited on him recently in connection with the enfranchisement of women in South Africa that the great difficulty in the way of such a step was the Native vote in the Cape, and that they must wait until the Native question had been settled on a basis which made it possible to enfranchise European women without giving the vote to Native women.

At a recently held meeting of the Pretoria Town Council after a heated discussion over a recommendation of the Trading Committee that 10 years' leases be granted to Standholders in the Asiatic Bazaar, provided satisfactory premises were erected it was decided that five years' leases be granted.

At the last meeting of the Public Health Committee of the Durban Town Council, Councillor Smith referred to the decision of the Council in regard to the condemnation of certain premises in Brickhill Road Extension, and said he considered that as the occupants of the premises had no other accommodation that the Estates Manager should submit a report in regard to the land which might be available and could be leased out to Indians. The Estates Manager had been instructed to ascertain what land is available inside and outside the Borough of Durban which could be utilised and leased to Indians.

Mr. Rioji Oda, one of Japan's most influential business men, who is at present on a prolonged holiday from business, and who has made South Africa his first port of call, had some interesting observations to make regarding South African cotton. On a visit to the Rhodesian cotton fields Mr. Oda was greatly impressed by the quality of the cotton, and said that although Japan purchased her highest grade cotton from Egypt the cotton in Rhodesia was the most beautiful he had ever seen. As regards general trade, the very small volume of trade be-

tween this country and Japan has been a source of surprise to Mr. Oda during the course of his visit, and he insists that much mutual benefit would result from a free trade policy. Wherever he has visited in South Africa he has seen Japanese goods on sale at prices that he said could be reduced by half were it possible for a Japanese firm of repute to establish itself in this country, and this, says the *Natal Mercury*, brought him to the question of the restrictions upon Japanese immigration imposed by the Immigration Law of 1913. Mr. Oda said that when the law was passed Japan did not realise that South Africa was a country with such vital trading possibilities, but to-day he considered that both countries were losing trade that would be mutually beneficial by reason of the fact that not even the most reputable firms of Japan were able to establish houses in this country.

We are requested by Mrs. P. K. Naidoo from Johannesburg to announce that any correspondence in future with her should be addressed to her at 168 Prichard Street, Johannesburg.

THE COLOUR BAR

UP to the time this note is being written we have not seen the to-morrow of the adjourned debate in the Union Parliament on the Mines and Works Act Amendment Bill. From the debate that has already taken place it is highly probable that the Bill will be shelved. The least heard and said of it the better. What has interested us however is some observations made by General Smuts while speaking as leader of the Opposition against the Bill. He is certainly to be congratulated for the able manner in which he opposed the Bill. He thought it was a serious matter that fifteen years after Union the Government should give this blow in the face to a very considerable portion of the population. He felt this Bill was not honest dealing and he believed in honest justice between man and man in this country. He considered the Bill laid down a precedent of injustice, inequality and unfair dealing, which would recoil upon the Government. Dealing with its effect on the Asiatics General Smuts recalled the days of his negotiations with Mr. Gandhi and the position taken up by the latter and subsequently by the Indian representatives at the Imperial Conferences. He quoted Mr. Gandhi's words which were: "We recognise there is a difference between you and us, and that distinction must be made, but don't cast a stigma on us in the laws of your country." The colour bar, he said, existed in the South Africa Act on the question of the vote and they should leave it there. They should never see the end of the trouble, he said, but it had to be seen through. But they should

not pile on the agony, and make the position of the white man intolerable by bringing on him the hatred of other peoples.

Thus did the ex-Prime Minister oppose the establishing of the colour bar in the Union. If only these high ideals were practiced with the least bit of honesty there would be no discontentment among any section of the people of this country. But unfortunately they are not. General Smuts would make one believe that the colour bar existed only on the question of the vote but we would like to know where there is no colour bar where Asiatics and Natives are concerned excepting in their position as "hewers of wood and drawers of water."

MINES AND WORKS ACT AMENDMENT BILL

DEBATE IN THE PARLIAMENT

In the Union House of Assembly on Feb. 23, the Minister of Mines and Industries, in moving the second reading of the Mines and Works Act 1911 Amendment Bill, said that they were not going to be put off from what they considered to be right by any threats. The leader of the Opposition had spoken of the far-reaching effects of certain provisions of the Bill dealing with Asiatics. They had to do with a great national question, and they wanted to give the Native a chance to develop, but self-preservation was the first law of nature, and the Europeans had to take steps for their own self-protection. They had from time to time to test their laws as to whether they answered present-day needs. He thought that General Smuts could be counted amongst those who stood for a white South Africa. Special provision had been made for Natives on the mines. For instance, there was the compound system, and they not only did certain work, but gradually were trained to do work which had been done by Europeans. There was the Miners' Phthisis Act with its special provisions, and the Native was excluded. There were other factors which militated against the European getting the chance he should have, and a definite line should be drawn. Legislation should be introduced so that it could clearly be laid down. Under the Act of 1911 mining regulations were drawn up which stated what kind of work on the mines the Native should not do, and that had been done for the purposes of safety or discipline. It was not necessary for the Minister to make a declaration with regard to segregation at that stage. Not only the Native, but the Cape coloured man and the Asiatic had been affected under these regulations. Had the mining regulations of the previous Government not affected the coloured man?

Mr. Krige (S.A.P., Caledon): Was it regulations or legislation?

The Minister of Mines and industries replied that it was under the regulations, but he challenged the Opposition to say that it intended to do away with these distinctions with the Transvaal, or were these regulations nothing but a joke? Various commissions had dealt with these regulations on the colour bar, and it was curious that one of them referred to them as statutory. Commissions had recommended their removal, and why had the previous Government not removed them if they were not in favour of them. Did the Opposition dare to say that they were in favour of the removal of the colour bar? He took it from what they had done that they maintained that the colour bar or—well, he would not say what the alternative was. Did General Smuts know that the legality of these regulations had been called in question, and if so why had he gone on with them? Did he acknowledge their legality? The previous Government, however, had been quite

content to carry out a far-reaching colour bar regulation. He did not see the difference between doing something under the regulation and putting it into an Act. "I cannot appreciate the difference," said Mr. Beyers. He pointed out that it was the late Government who appealed from the decision of the Provincial Division of the Supreme Court declaring that the regulations were ultra vires.

"Why not?" asked an Opposition member.

"Yes, why not?" replied Mr. Beyers. "But you can't blow cold one moment and hot the next." It often happened that the Court expressed its view about the application of certain legislation, and it was for the Legislature to say whether that legislation should be amended or not. The opinion of technical advisers was that the number of accidents on the mines had increased because of the increase of Native workers and the lack of supervision. He was not called to go into the good intentions of the Chamber of Mines. Parliament should not look to what it might think best or desirable, but should lay down in an Act what should be done.

The colour bar had led to great dissatisfaction among the Natives. He held that the Natives must be kept within a certain limit and given an opportunity of developing within the limit, but they must not be repressed. At the same time the interests of the Europeans must not be lost sight of either. He would like to know if his friends from Natal were against the differentiation against Asiatics. He did not think it was necessary to repeat what Mr. Duncan had said in 1911 with regard to European versus Native labour. The Asiatic question was quite different from what was known as the colour bar. As to work from which Natives were excluded, it might be that there were individual Natives who were able to perform such work, but they must look to the summum bonum, and it could not be gainsaid that the Natives as a whole had not reached such a stage of civilisation or ability that they should be allowed to undertake that kind of work.

MR. ALEXANDER (Ind., Capetown, Hanover Street) indicated that he intended to move the rejection of the Bill because it was, perhaps, the most far-reaching measure that had ever come before Parliament. He pointed to the wide application of the Mines and Works Act, and urged that Parliament was not aware in passing the Bill that the colour bar was involved. He agreed with the Minister in regard to safety, health and discipline on the mines, which could only be left in the hands of a white man, and there was no injustice to the Native if the standard was fixed for responsible positions so high that the Native could not reach it, but to brand the Natives as incompetent was to put on them the brand of Cain, and the House, if it passed this Bill, would afterwards regret it. To draw the line on colour instead of on civilisation was absolutely wrong. He admitted that the Bill was better than the regulation, as it excluded the coloured man, but it included the Asiatic. He opposed the fallacious idea that no coloured man could become civilised. He wanted a civilised standard laid down. It was an open secret that the regulations were ultra vires some years before the judgment in the Supreme Court, but the Government had opened the way to far greater trouble than the old regulations, which applied only to the Transvaal. The Minister could bring in regulations debarring Natives or Asiatics from working in the brickworks in the Cape or the Natal sugar mills. This Bill was going to mean friction between the white and non-white population, and although the Government had excluded the coloured element, they would find that they made common cause with the Natives, and would feel the injustice with them. He moved that the Bill be read this day six months.

The REV. WILKINSON RIDER (S.A.P., East London, City) formally seconded the amendment.

GENERAL SMUTS (Standerton) said that some words

he spoke last week apparently left the wrong impression on the Minister's mind, that he (General Smuts) was threatening the Government. This was a matter which cut deeper than any parties. There might be members on either side who did not agree with their leaders. He would avoid all party acrimony in discussing this Bill. He hoped the House would discuss this Bill in the light of the fact that it raised fundamentals. It was a small Bill, but affected the fundamental issue on which South Africa existed. The Bill went much further than the regulations. He happened to have been the culprit for the Act of 1911. Clause 4 gave the Government power to deal with various matters by way of regulation, and one particular paragraph dealt with certificates of competency required for persons with supervisory positions, or those entrusted with blasting duties, etc. It was under that paragraph that regulations were framed which were intended to maintain the conditions existing in the Transvaal after Union. It was this regulation 197, which had been declared ultra vires. The first part of the Bill dealt with this question and purported to deal with the old colour bar in the Transvaal. The Bill, however, did not stop there, but applied the paragraph (N) to other classes of work which fell under the regulations. It gave the Government power by regulation to apportion the work in the mines and works between whites on the one hand and Natives and Asiatics on the other. He thought it was a very serious matter that 15 years after Union they should give this blow in the face to a very considerable portion of the population (hear, hear.) He agreed with the Minister as to the existence of the colour bar in the Transvaal, and he was aware of the pressure from the Rand to maintain the colour bar, but he contended that the Government had no mandate to stretch the colour bar to an extent that was never known before. His whole political career had been devoted to rendering further secure the white civilisation in this country. (Hear, hear, and "Question"). The question was whether this Bill was the right way to establish white civilisation. He thought it would rather embarrass it. The Government would have a very difficult row to hoe if they sought to establish a ring fence oligarchy. This Bill was a new departure and they ought to pause and think what would the Natives say about this Bill, and had they been consulted, he asked. He feared enormous difficulties, and that the position of the Prime Minister, as Minister of Native Affairs, would be unenviable. The Government's segregation policy had not yet been put into force, and it would probably take a long time to do so. He did not wish to attack the Government, but to bring home to them the extraordinary gravity of the situation. In a Bill introduced by the Minister of the Interior, Natives would be declared South African nationals, and on the other hand his colleague was bringing in a Bill in which they were going to declare "you shall in future be debarred from rising above the level of hewers of wood and drawers of water." He felt this Bill was not honest dealing (hear, hear). We were not ensuring our own position (hear, hear). Like the peoples of Europe we wanted our security, and it was his deliberate opinion that there was only one guarantee of that, namely, honest justice between man and man in this country (hear, hear): that was the intention of all parties. He affirmed that this Bill laid down a precedent of injustice, inequality and unfair dealing, which would recoil upon them. If there was any other way in which they could meet the difficulty in which the Government found itself, he asked them to explore it. He urged them not to look upon this as a Bill to be forced through at all costs, but to pool their intelligence and see whether it was not possible to deal with this matter without putting such a blot on the statute-book. Turning

to the Bill as it affected Asiatics, General Smuts said in the days of his negotiations with Mr. Gandhi the position the latter took up, which was taken up at subsequent conferences in London, and with which the Prime Minister would be faced if he went to London was an appeal not to dishonour the Indians. "We recognise," said Mr. Gandhi, "there is a difference between you and us, and that distinction must be made but don't cast a stigma on us in the laws of your country." In this Bill the very thing they were asked to avoid, and had avoided all these years, viz. to cast a stigma on the Asiatics in our legislation was the very thing the Minister did. We were gathering on our heads the hatred of the whole of Asia from one side to the other. All Asiatic people were branded by this Bill, and we should feel the weight of their hatred for years to come. This Bill, not in its intentions, but in its implications, would be taken as an outrage not only by black Africa but by yellow Asia. (Hear, hear.) Why should we heap these troubles on our people in the future. He saw a Party opposite which had stood for an independent South Africa. (Hear, hear.) Perhaps in the noblest sense and as far as he understood they still stood for the right of secession, the right of South Africa to go her own way. How would they secure this policy if we as a handful of whites were practically going to declare war on black Africa and flouting Asia? (Hear, hear.) He thought it was a very dangerous policy. His first intention had been to move that the order for the second reading be discharged, and its subject matter referred to a Select Committee, but he felt that the Government would accept that as a challenge to fight, and that the South African Party, being a poor handful, would be voted under the table. He did not want to create the impression of a challenge to the Government. Still he was most anxious to get out of this Bill in its present form, as he was convinced it would be a source of endless difficulties and mischief to the future of this country. They ought to parrow the issue. One mistake the Government had made was to depart from the old colour bar as it existed in the Transvaal. It was arguable to what extent they should perpetuate it, but they ought not to go a step beyond it. That was his first bit of advice to the Minister. His second was that the Asiatic should be separated from the colour bar, because it was a great mistake to mix up these two questions, which stood on different footings. He hoped, however, that the Government would put forward its considered policy in regard to the Asiatic question, and though eliminated from this Bill it should be dealt with on its merits. Not many Asiatics would be affected by the Bill, but hundreds of millions were affected by their name being mentioned in a Bill of this character (hear, hear). If it were possible to avoid legislation he hoped it might be done, and he thought they might still be able to do so, and to explore some other way of establishing the white man's position. He had given this matter his best consideration because it was a fundamental matter, and he was prepared in any Select Committee or other body to bear his full share in arriving at a solution. We had the colour bar in the South Africa Act on the question of the vote, and he urged that they should leave it there. We should never see the end of the trouble, but it had to be seen through. They ought not to pile on the agony, and make the position of the white man intolerable by bringing on him the hatred of other peoples. He was not going to move, but he would suggest that the matter should be seriously considered whether they should not discharge the order for the second reading, and put their heads together to see whether some other way could not be found out of the difficulty otherwise there was no person present who could not regret this Bill or whose children's chil-

dren would not regret it, as it would bring evil results beyond the foresight of any man living.

Mr. SAMPSON (Lab., Jeppes) remarked that General Smuts had not declared whether he was in favour of the principle of this Bill or not. The late Government had had plenty of opportunity of passing legislation. He wondered whether the Natives were consulted before the original colour bar was determined. He regarded this measure as restoring to the white workers on the Rand what had been taken from them by force of arms (hear hear). In Europe, where people were almost equally civilised, it was easy to talk about the rights of man, but not so in this country where the civilised man worked alongside savages. Until some attempt was made to protect the standard of life of the white man, what protection was there that the white man was not going to be dragged down to the very low level of the Native wages. The Factory Acts were for the protection of the workers, and of the property of the employer. His recollection of the passing of the 1911 Act was that the Cape members, who were practically a majority in the Government party, compelled the Government to drop the colour bar. It was known by the lawyers that the provision of the regulation was ultra vires and he was convinced that but for the War many occupations would have been filled by the blacks. During the War the maintenance of gold mining was considered necessary, but when the bar on recruiting was removed the black man took the place of the blacksmiths, etc. It was the threat of a strike which brought the "status quo" agreement which the mine owners in their own good time denounced. The Minister of Labour had a Bill to fix wages, and if the Bill had been in force for ten years he would not consider this Bill necessary. In Capetown the coloured man had fast undercut the white, and in turn been undercut by the Native; the Natives from outside the Union were being used as a check against the demand among the Union Natives for better wages. They must see that this influx is stopped before they could think of abolishing the colour bar.

SIR D. CHAPLIN (S.A.P., South Peninsula) thought Mr. Sampson had neglected the most important aspect of the Bill. Years ago the country was continuing the practice. When most of the labour was indentured labour the feeling of the Natives throughout South Africa afterwards grew discontented with the lot of the "hewer of wood and drawer of water." The first result of the Bill would be to accentuate that feeling among the Natives. Agitation was bound to arise, because as the result of the debate, those who would be content to leave matters as they were would be driven to associate themselves with Native feeling; he thought that Government would have been well advised to leave the problem alone. There might have been something to say for returning the position on the Rand, but they were extending the colour bar rights and left to practically any industry, and by taking the power to make regulations it might become illegal for Natives to drive a motor car or a small engine on a farm. He did not believe the coloured man was going to respond with acclamation to the Government's action in excluding him from this Bill. He would feel that his turn would come next. No one suggested that certificates of competency should be given to incompetent men. He asked to what extent the Minister intended to apply the powers given him in the Bill to the Cape Province, especially in view of the Trade Union pressure. Why was it necessary to bring in the Asiatics? A dangerous state of affairs existed in eastern portions of the Empire, and he did not think if the Minister had any regard for the Government of India he would have chosen this time for introducing a Bill which would cause animus amongst millions of

people. On the motion of Mr. Vanhess the debate was adjourned till to-morrow. The house adjourned at 6 p.m.—*Natal Mercury*.

WHITE AND COLOURED IN SOUTH AFRICA

In the course of a leading article on the Mines and Works Act Amendment Bill the *Natal Advertiser* writes:—

The measure now before Parliament is going to proclaim to the world that, so far as mining is concerned, there is not a pin to choose between the Asiatic (brown or yellow), the educated and partly civilised Native and the raw product of the kraal. We know that some people to their eternal shame think this. But few could imagine that a Minister of the Crown would be cynical enough or foolhardy enough to put it on record on the statute book. Yet apparently valiant ignorance has not touched bottom yet in South African political experience.

"But why," it may be asked, "should the colour bar in mining not be extended to the Asiatics as well as the Native? We do not want Chinamen here again, worming their way to positions of responsibility in which they displace white men."

The answer is that, if you covered the Kuroo with parchment and that parchment with all the statutes the mind of man can conceive, you will not save what is loosely called white civilisation in this country. There are two ways only of safeguarding that civilisation, and the sooner they are assimilated the better for all concerned. The one is to bring so many more white people in our midst that we can hold our own, be the progress of the non-Europeans what it will; and the other is to lower the barriers of race distinction and admit to our European confederacy all those non-Europeans who approximate in capacity and civilised ideals to what we call the white man's standard. There is it is true, a third way. You can, with machine guns, wipe out the whole of the non-European population (it will take a lot of ammunition) and then build a high fence round the Union, so that no one else, white or black can come in. But this way is hardly practicable in the Twentieth Century. Neither, by the same token is it practicable for a handful of white men, without fleets or armies, and without much money, to sit down and evolve legislation that is a "cold, frigid, and calculated" affront to all the non-European peoples of the world, and that groups together the assega-hurling Bantu and the ripest products of Eastern civilisation and culture. How long, think you, will people like the Japanese (to mention the most sensitive and dangerous of those classed as Asiatic) be content to sit down under this studied impertinence on the part of a white community that, numbers less than the population of Tokio? How long will even European peoples, who know that culture and civilisation are not wholly determined by the colour of one's skin, be content to let this clowning and spish gesture of defiance flourish like a live brand over the Asiatic magazine? And how long (for this is the most pertinent and immediate question in the catechism) will South Africa itself be content to be benighted with this insane conception of its "might, majesty, dominion and glory" as custodian of a white ideal when (heaven forgive me for remembering it in this connection) a great mass of its own people are sunk in such moral and intellectual degradation as would shame the pagans of the Southern Seas?

OUR LONDON LETTER

[BY OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT]

5th February 1925.

The fifth anniversary of the Indian Students Union and Hostel was, under the chairmanship of Sir Atul Chandra Chatterjee, High Commissioner for India, celebrated during Mail week.

Sir Chatterjee was recently the guest of the Royal Colonial Institute, of which he is a member and in responding to the toast said that he took his appointment not as a personal honour but as a compliment to India. He had found since his return to England that its people were taking a greater interest in Indian commerce and politics and welcomed this change in the attitude of the heart of the Empire towards India. It was not always realised how vast India was and what an important position it did and ought to occupy in the Councils of the Empire. They had now established before the League of Nations the fact that India was among the eight chief industrial nations of the world. Its exports and imports together entitled India to the sixth place among the foremost commercial nations of the world. Since the war their imports and exports had recovered wonderfully—the total now exceeded £400,000,000. India took more than half her imports from Great Britain, but regretted that Great Britain took less than one-quarter of Indian exports. India had a monopoly in jute, her tea was popular, but she would like to see attention given also to numerous other products such as wheat, oil seeds, manganese, tobacco, hides and skins, and wool. India was doing all she could to increase the extent of her cotton cultivation. At present she grew only short staple cotton but an organisation was now trying to grow long staple cotton. Trial bails were being tested in England with the assistance of the Institute and other interested associations. Pre-war average was only four million bales but the forecast of the present crop exceeded six million bales. Much of the material for the irrigation and railway development now in progress had to be bought in England. Thus they were furthering one of the objects of the Institute, the development of Empire resources and the utilisation of these resources within the Empire and that while he was High Commissioner he would do his best to carry out the objects of the Institute.

Mr. H. S. L. Polak has now returned from his tour in India. He is here—as he is in India and in South Africa—looked upon as an authority on questions relating to Oversea Indians.

At an Home by Mr. and Mrs. Polak, it was a pleasure to meet Capt. Hugh M. Meyler who was a member of the Union Parliament and well known in South Africa. Indians will remember that he was of the few who, in the days of Passive Resistance in South Africa, stood for a fair adjustment of the claims of the Indian community. And the Natives of South Africa, too, will recall his stand in the Union Parliament against the provisions of the Natives Land Act. For a time he sat in the British Parliament and is likely to enter Parliament again some day. He is practising as a Solicitor in London.

A report appears in the papers that Marcus Garvey, the self-styled "provisional president of Africa" has been sentenced to five years' hard labour and a fine of £200 for using the United States Mails for the purposes of fraud. Garvey sold stock in a company supposed to acquire steamers to transport Negroes and materials to an Africa peopled exclusively by coloured people. His followers in gorgeous uniforms thronged the Court and outside were thousands of Negro men and women "unbelievable that 'the Negro Moses,' as he is called, had defrauded them. Garvey captured the

imagination of his people just as Horatio Bottomley did in England.

In reply to a deputation that waited upon the Postmaster General which pressed for a return to the penny post, he said that the time was not yet ripe for wiping out some of the postage anomalies but he thought there was a good deal to be said on the question of the reduction to 1½d stamp and he was in close touch with the Chancellor of the Exchequer.

Jim Driscoll, the boxer, was buried on the 3rd instant. Many well-known sporting men went from London to the funeral.

There is every possibility of a fight coming off between Dempsey and Wills, the Senegambian, at New York. There was a time when Dempsey declared he would not fight a blackman. It is now being suggested in some quarters that the size of the prospective purse accounts for his change of attitude.

CAN THE EMPIRE AFFORD TO LOSE INDIA?

NEW SECRETARY OF STATES' VIEWS

The following article was contributed by Earl of Birkenhead, Secretary of States for India, to the *Sunday Herald* (London), in reply to an article by Mr. Blatchford:—

A few years ago, had politicians of a certain school of thought asked this question they would have been surprised. Beyond those who studied Indian problems and those who being merchants, realise that India was not only the greatest outside market for British manufactures, but that she provided immense quantities of those food-stuffs and raw materials which are necessary for British industries, there are few who clearly appreciated the vital importance of this mighty peninsula in the imperial scheme.

But to-day, with the lessons of the war fresh in our minds, the mere fact that the question has been asked by a responsible and patriotic Englishman is disturbing and it is well, however obvious the facts may be, however clear the answer, to state in broad outline why the severance of the tie that binds India to the Empire would be a crushing and irreparable disaster.

I say deliberately and with knowledge that the winter campaign of 1914-5 would have witnessed the loss of the Channel ports, but for the stubborn valor of the Indian Corps.

One and a quarter million of her troops fought bravely in many campaigns—in France, in Egypt, in Mesopotamia, in the Dardanelles, and in Palestine; her seamen shared with their British comrades the perils of the submarine. The financial help she rendered, if small compared with the sums raised in the country, was for a poor country substantial and of much greater importance. India provided throughout the war a steady supply of food-stuffs and raw materials vitally necessary to the Allies.

AN INCALCULABLE ASSET

To those who examine the matter from the narrowest commercial standpoint, it becomes apparent that India is an incalculable asset to the mother country. The expansion of her exports for war purposes during the past few years was merely an extension of her pre-war trade. Great Britain, has always drawn from India large quantities of food-stuffs and raw materials essential to her industries.

Out of the total exports of India, which before the war were roughly worth £150,000,000 more than a quarter were sent to the United Kingdom and over 40 per cent. to the whole Empire. The exports include such commodities as wheat, rice, and other grains, jute, wool, cotton, tea, hides, oilseeds, and manganese ore. But it is on the other side of the trade account

