

# Indian Opinion

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## DEPUTATION TO THE VICEROY

### ON THE INDIAN QUESTION

THE following is the full text of the statement presented to the Viceroy by the Indian deputation that recently waited on His Excellency in connection with the Indian question in South Africa and the reply given to the deputation by the Viceroy—

Many deputations have waited from time to time upon your Excellency and your predecessors in office in order to convey to the Government of India and through it to his Majesty's Government the intense feeling aroused in the minds of the people of India at the treatment accorded to Indians in South Africa by the Government of the Union. We remember with satisfaction the sympathetic response of the Viceroy of the day and of your Excellency to the representations made on those occasions, and in particular we recall with thankfulness and pride how in 1913, when the situation in South Africa had reached a dangerous crisis and public sentiment had been outraged by the bitter persecution of Indians in the Union, your predecessor Lord Hardinge placed himself at the head of the people of India and voiced their alarm and indignation in terms that extorted universal appreciation.

To-day a crisis of another kind has been reached. It is true that the circumstances of the Passive Resistance struggle in Natal for just and equitable treatment are not actually being reproduced in South Africa. Nevertheless a veiled warfare is undoubtedly being carried on against the resident Indian population and steps are being taken and policies framed having for their object, if possible, the expulsion and certainly the ruin and degradation of the unhappy Indian residents there, now virtually leaderless owing to the departure, death or misfortune of those upon whom they have hitherto relied for counsel, guidance and example.

#### SETTLEMENT OF 1914

When the Settlement of 1914 was reached between the Indian community and the Government of the Union, it was generally felt in this country that Indians there had secured no more than their minimum claim and for that they had to make enormous sacrifices—with the sympathy, support and practical assistance of the people of India—and they had gone to the utmost limit of honourable concessions by consenting unreservedly to the closest restriction of Indian immigration into the Union in order to allay the fear and hostility of their fellow-white colonists. The settlement was based upon public recognition by the Union Government of the sanctity of the vested rights of the Indian residents, whether individually or as a community, and Mr. Gandhi clearly intimated to the Government that though his countrymen had accepted the terms of the settlement as regards matters then actually in dispute between the parties, they, nevertheless, reserved the right and intended in due course to claim the restoration of the various incidents and privileges of citizenship of which they had been deprived by a long series of laws by which regulation of immigration was effected. Until they had secured for themselves the complete status of equal citizenship

throughout the Union.

With the outbreak of the War the anti-Indian campaign of an important and influential section of the white population remained in abeyance. But scarcely had the Armistice been signed when it burst forth again with increased violence, and in 1919 in spite of the definite undertaking of the Union Government five years earlier to respect Indian vested rights and interests, the Union Parliament passed legislation depriving the Transvaal Indians of even the legal right indirectly to acquire and own immovable property which with the knowledge and encouragement originally of the old South African Government they had exercised freely for over thirty years.

#### THE ASIATIC COMMISSION

Encouraged by this striking success the anti-Indian propagandists began to extend their operation to Natal. The Union Government thereupon set up a Commission presided over by Mr. Justice Lange to examine the whole Indian position in the Union. It was at this stage that your Excellency's predecessor, Lord Chelmsford, who had persistently advocated the Indian cause in South Africa, sought and obtained from the Union Government an invitation for a representative of the Government of India to proceed to South Africa to assist the Commission by representing the Indian case to confer with the Cabinet of General Smuts. Sir Benjamin Robertson's able presentation of India's case and his penetrating criticism of the evidence led by the anti-Indian party resulted in a finding of facts by the Commission substantially adopting the Indian point of view and discrediting on grounds of vagueness, inaccuracy or exaggeration, the main hostile allegation.

#### HOSTILE LEGISLATION

It was hoped as a result of this effort that the Union Government would take steps to correct popular misconceptions and correspondingly to improve the Indian status. But the insecurity of General Smuts' Government rendered it peculiarly susceptible to pressure from the anti-Indian party in the Assembly with the result that the Natal Provincial Council was encouraged to enact certain Ordinances prohibiting Indians in the Durban municipal land, depriving Natal Indians of the right to exercise the municipal franchise and severely restricting their already precarious trading rights. In spite of Indian protests the first Ordinance upon the advice of his Ministers was assented to by the Governor-General, thus for the first time introducing in Natal the practice of racial segregation. The other Ordinances were disallowed or assent withheld. Several attempts have since been made to secure the acceptance of these or similar Ordinances by the Union Government and the news has recently reached India that in spite of repeated protests the Governor-General has now assented to the Ordinance depriving Indians in Natal of the municipal franchise, thus that they had succumbed to the subterfuge of the Province and hence it was being introduced. This municipal franchise was publicly assured to them

by the Natal Government when in 1896 the Indians were deprived of the parliamentary franchise.

#### GENERAL SMUTS' DECLARATION

At the 1917 Imperial War Conference when the question of the disabilities of the Government of India came up General Smuts, speaking on behalf of the Union Government, expressly held out the hope that with the removal, by the enactment of the Union Immigration Acts, of the fear of an Indian invasion of South Africa the grievances of the resident Indians should be gradually remedied. And at the 1918 War Conference, Mr. Burton, the South African spokesman, paid a warm tribute to the law abiding character of the Indian population and admitted that it was entitled to humane and just treatment. The South African delegation accepted the resolution passed unanimously by the Conference recommending to the various dominion Governments concerned the investigation of Indian disabilities with a view to their removal.

The Lange Commission in 1920 reported that the allegations of unlawful Indian immigration on a large scale were not substantiated and this finding was supported by the Union census figures in 1921 which showed not only that the Indian population two-thirds of which was born in South Africa, was virtually stationary but that the white population in the Union had enormously increased. In Natal where the complaints of unfair competition were the loudest, though the Indian population had increased by the small amount of 5 per cent., the European population had increased by 40 per cent.

In 1921 the Imperial Conference adopted a resolution recommending to the various dominion Governments, in view of the change in the constitutional status of India under the Reforms, the desirability of conferring citizenship rights upon domiciled Indians. South Africa alone dissented. At the 1923 Conference, though the Union representative sought to procure the reversal of the 1921 resolution, it was reaffirmed, South Africa again dissenting. When Sir Tej Bahadur Sapru, speaking on behalf of the Government of India, recalled General Smuts' declaration at the 1917 Conference and pointed out that not only had nothing been done to remedy the Indian disabilities but that these had been steadily added to in contravention of both the letter and the spirit of the 1914 settlement, the South African statesman fell back upon the argument that the avowed policy of the South African Europeans throughout the greater part of the Union, was one of racial discrimination and differentiation to the exclusion of the principle of equality of citizenship.

#### RACIAL SEGREGATION

Almost immediately after his return to South Africa in 1920 and with the consciousness of a precarious parliamentary majority, General Smuts introduced into the Union Assembly the Class Areas Bill providing for the commercial and residential segregation of Indians in municipal areas throughout the Union. Owing to the fact that the Cape Indians exercise the parliamentary franchise they were able to secure the support of Cape members of the Assembly for their demand to be excluded from the operation of the Bill and an undertaking was subsequently given by the Government that they should be so excluded. With the general election that occurred in South Africa early last year, which resulted in the defeat of General Smuts and the advent to office of a Nationalist Labour Government under General Hertzog, the Bill lapsed. When the new South African Parliament met the Prime Minister stated that it was not proposed to proceed with the Class Areas Bill, but the Government was committed to the principle of segregation in urban areas and the Cabinet had under consideration a measure to give effect to this policy. The Minister of the Interior has since intimated that it is intended to

proceed with this measure at an early date. In view of the past attitude of the Nationalist and Labour parties in South Africa the resident Indian community is extremely alarmed at this prospect and its anxiety is shared by the people of this country.

#### MR. THOMAS' SUGGESTION

Recent statements by South African press correspondents indicate the probability of the holding of a non-party conference with the object of agreement upon a national, rather than a party, anti-Indian policy. During his recent visit to the Union, Mr. J. H. Thomas, then his Majesty's Secretary of State for the Colonies, delivered a speech at Pietermaritzburg at which he expressed the hope that the Indian question would be considered not merely in its local but especially in its Imperial aspects and that if, as he felt was desirable, a non-party conference was set up, the Imperial and Indian Governments should be represented thereat so that the Indian position could be re-examined in a spirit of tolerance that might result in the finding of a solution.

Whilst recognising the economic difficulties of the situation, we feel that the position of the South African Indian population since the passage of the threatened legislation has become so desperate and the present situation is fraught with such peril to Imperial relationships and in particular to those between South Africa and India, that we have no hesitation in urging upon your Excellency's Government the immediate need of securing the Union Government's assent to the suggestion of Mr. Thomas which we trust will be endorsed by the present Government in Whitehall.

In these circumstances and with the danger of irreparable disaster so imminent, we citizens of the Indian Empire feel it our duty both to the people and the Government of this country to approach your Excellency with an earnest request for an assurance that your Government, mindful of the gravity of the problem and of the intensity of Indian feeling thereon, is making every effort to secure from the Union Government an undertaking that no further steps will be taken relating to Indian interests until the whole Indian position has been thoroughly re-examined in a non-party spirit of tolerance by a conference of the above mentioned character in the presence and with the collaboration of such representatives of the Imperial and Indian Governments as will by their knowledge and ability possess the full confidence of the Indian people.

#### PRINCES' SUPPORTS

We have been authorised by his Highness the Maharaja of Bikaner, who much to his regret is unable to be present to lead us owing to a religious ceremony in which his Highness's presence is indispensable, to recall in this connection the message which he as the Chancellor of the Chamber of Princes communicated to the Imperial Conference of 1923 through his Highness the Maharaja of Alwar. The message expressed the earnest hope of the princes that the united efforts of all concerned at the Conference would yield some satisfactory results and secure to Indians, including the subjects of the Indian states, an honoured position in all parts of the Empire in keeping with Indian's rightful place in the British Commonwealth and in conformity with the assiduous and constant efforts of your Excellency and your Government. His Highness wishes us to add that the Princes are in agreement with the object of this deputation.

We beg to thank your Excellency for the patient hearing that has been given us and we pray that your Excellency's efforts will bring about the much needed relief to the Indians in South Africa and will tend to remove that bitterness between the component parts of the Empire which the differen-

that treatment of one class of his Majesty's subject in the dominions has unfortunately generated.

The deputation consisted of the following :—

Sir Dinshaw Petit, Bart., the hon. Raja Sir Har-  
nam Singh, the hon. Sahibzada Aftab Ahmed Khan,  
the hon. Sir Arthur Froom, Kt., Nawab Sir Sahib-  
zada Abdul Qaiyum, Sir P. S. Sivaswami Iyer, Sir  
Campbell Rhodes, Sir Purshottamdas Thakurdas,  
Sir Hormusjee Adenwala, Sir Hari Sing Gour,  
Dewan Bahadur T. Rangachariar, Mr. Bepin Chan-  
dra Pal, Mr. M. A. Jinnah, Colonel J. D. Crawford,  
the hon. Mr. Lallubhai Samaldas, the hon. Mr.  
Pheroze C. Sethna, the hon. Mr. G. A. Natesan, Mr.  
K. C. Roy, Mr. W. S. J. Wilson, Baba Ujagar Singh  
Bedi, Mr. N. M. Joshi, Mr. R. K. Shunmukhan  
Chetty, Mr. Husseinbhai Abdullabhai Taljee, and  
Dr. S. K. Datta.

#### VICEROY'S REPLY

The following is H. E. the Viceroy's reply to the  
Deputation :—

Gentlemen, I am glad to have the opportunity of  
welcoming you here this evening. You are mem-  
bers of a deputation which is, to an unusual and  
remarkable degree, representative and influential.  
The composition of the deputation indeed shows  
how deeply stirred are the feelings of the whole  
country in regard to the conditions of Indians in  
South Africa. Although no Ruling Prince is  
actually with you to-day yet I observe that you  
have received messages of sympathy from His High-  
ness the Maharaja of Bikaner the Chancellor of the  
Chamber of Princes and His Highness desires it to  
be known that the princes are in agreement with  
the object of this deputation. I welcome also the  
presence of the distinguished representatives of the  
non official communities and it is especially note-  
worthy that Indians and Europeans are associated  
together in this deputation and with the same pur-  
pose in view. The question before us is of the  
 utmost importance to the future of the Empire and  
it is well that the British in India should show in  
this unmistakable way that they identify them-  
selves with those questions which affect seriously  
the interest and the position of India in the Em-  
pire.

In your address you have given a concise histori-  
cal survey of this complicated problem and it must  
be admitted that that survey leaves on the mind an  
impression of deep disappointment. On the con-  
clusion of the 1914 settlement, as it is termed in  
your address, it appeared that the causes of future  
friction between the Government of South Africa  
and the Indians resident within its borders had  
been moved. At the conclusion of the negotia-  
tions of 1914, a letter was written on behalf of  
General Smuts to Mr. Gandhi, in which the follow-  
ing passage occurs with regard to the administration  
of the existing law : "The Minister desires me to  
say that it is always, has been and will continue to  
be the desire of the Government to see that they  
are administered in a just manner with due regard  
to vested rights. In conclusion General Smuts  
desires me to say that it is of course understood  
and he wishes no doubts on the subjects to remain,  
that the placing of an Indians Relief Bill on the  
Statute Book of the Union, coupled with the ful-  
filment of assurances he has given in this letter, in  
regard to the other matters referred to herein and  
touched upon at recent interviews, will constitute  
a complete and final settlement of the controversy  
which is unfortunately existed for so long and will  
be unreservedly accepted as such by the Indian  
community."

#### PRESENT POSITION

This letter indicated, at any rate in the mind of  
General Smuts, a feeling of hopefulness for the  
future and it does not seem unreasonable to infer  
that at that time the Union Government did not

contemplate the necessity of imposing any fresh  
restrictions on Indians already in the country, as I  
understand it was in this sense that the agree-  
ment was interpreted in India and the speeches  
made by the representatives of South Africa at the  
Imperial Conference in 1918 and 1919, tend to  
support this interpretation. General Smuts, speak-  
ing at the Imperial Conference of 1917, said  
"There is still a difference of opinion on adminis-  
trative matters of detail, some of which are referred  
to in the memorandum which is before us, but I  
feel sure, and I always felt sure, that once the  
White community in South Africa were rid of the  
fear that they were going to be flooded by un-  
limited immigration from India, all other questions  
would be considered subsidiary and would become  
easily and perfectly soluble. That is, the position  
in which we are. Now that the fear which formerly  
obsessed settlers there has been removed, the great  
principle of restricted immigration for which they  
have contended is on our Statute Book with the  
consent of the Indian population in South Africa  
and the authorities in India and, that being so, I  
think that the door is open now for a peaceful and  
statesmanlike solution of all the minor adminis-  
trative troubles which occurred and will occur from  
time to time."

It is not difficult therefore to understand the  
feeling of disappointment that has invaded the  
country when several restrictive enactments you have  
detailed have successively been brought into effect  
in the last few years culminating into the Natal  
Boroughs Ordinance.

#### NATAL BOROUGHS ORDINANCE

The immediate occasion of this deputation is the  
passing into law of the Natal Boroughs Ordinance  
which has received the assent of the Governor-Gen-  
eral of the Union of South Africa on the advice  
of the Union Government. This Ordinance, whilst  
safeguarding the rights of those Indians who are  
already on the electoral roll of the Borough in  
Natal, will prevent any further enrolment of In-  
dians as Burgesses. The next generation of Indians  
born in South Africa will not possess the municipal  
vote.

It is stated in your address that "the municipal  
franchise was solemnly assured" to Indians by the  
Natal Government when in 1895 Indians were  
deprived of the parliamentary franchise but you  
have not indicated the exact source of the nature of  
the assurance. My Government are making the  
necessary enquiries to verify the position and mean-  
while I should be glad to be supplied by you with  
any further information you may possess upon this  
subject. It is not necessary for your case, for apart  
from any question of assurance or promise and apart  
even from any question of sentiment, it cannot be  
disputed that it will be a serious deprivation to the  
Indian community to be excluded from any part  
or lot in the administration of the municipal affairs  
that touch their every-day lives. Moreover, the  
Ordinance can hardly fail to affect injuriously the  
economic life of many of the Indians. The municipa-  
lities administer the licensing Laws and I  
understand that a considerable number of the In-  
dian community are small traders trading under  
municipal licences and it becomes necessary to en-  
large on their possible disadvantages when deprived  
of the influence on the surface of those who  
administer the licensing laws.

For a time there seemed to be some hope that  
this new policy of imposing fresh restrictions on  
Indians in Natal would be checked by the Union  
Government, but the passing into law of the Natal  
Boroughs Ordinance appears to indicate that the  
provinces will be to a large extent left to deal with  
the Indian problem as may seem best to them.  
This is a position that Indians must be regarding

with increasing misgiving at this moment when the action now taken in Natal following that proposed in Natal or elsewhere, suggests that the position of Indians in South Africa has reached the crisis. I should be unresponsive, indeed, if I did not fully appreciate the sentiment which stirs the country and is well expressed by this remarkable duputation, exemplifying in a striking manner the co-operation of Indians and Europeans of varying shades of opinion and varying interests. Firm in the faith of the future of India within the Empire, I am deeply concerned at the turn of events and at the possible reactions on imperial relationship. I need not say that my Government is entirely with me in the desire to obtain more favourable consideration from the Union Government for the interests of Indians resident in South Africa. From my own personal knowledge I can assure you that Sir Narasimha Sarma, when in charge of the department, laboured devotedly to represent and uphold the Indian cause and I am convinced that Sir Mahomed Habibullah will not be behind him in the earnestness of his endeavours to the same end. As a Government we have consistently and persistently striven to the utmost of our capacities for this purpose.

#### THORNS IN THE PATH

But I must not conceal from you that the difficulties which confront us are great. Your object as practical men is to find a practical method of achieving some result of removing the danger to the whole position of Indians in South Africa. Feelings are deeply stirred, but it is not sufficient to relieve them by resolutions or speeches. We seek, you seek, all seek a practical solution. I therefore turn with special interest to the suggestion made by you at the end of your address. You propose that my Government should make every effort to secure from the Union Government an undertaking that no further steps will be taken relating to Indian interests until the whole Indian position has been thoroughly re-examined in a non-party spirit of tolerance by a conference in the presence and with the collaboration of representatives of the Imperial and Indian Governments who will, by their knowledge and ability, possess the full confidence of the Indian people. I am not surprised, in the circumstances mentioned by you in your address, that you should concentrate upon this proposal. You will appreciate that I cannot discuss it in its full bearings in a public statement to you. The suggestion is worthy of the fullest consideration and, I assure you, has already received it. I may tell you at once that my Government has been and is in consultation with His Majesty's Government upon this very subject and has been and is doing its utmost to seek a solution of the problems before us by the means suggested by you, or any other which may be presented, that is likely to yield fruitful results.

But I should not be candid with you if I tried to belittle the difficulties in the way of obtaining assent to such a conference. You are well aware of them. We must do our utmost to overcome them. Negotiations in these matters must necessarily be of a delicate character. National susceptibilities are easily aroused not only in India, but elsewhere. The path we shall have to tread is difficult. South Africa has already full responsible Self-Government as a Dominion within the Empire and you are apprised of the strength of the feeling and of the agitation in South Africa upon these questions. Each Government has its own problems and its own embarrassments. Each Government needs the assistance of the other. We must therefore in the future be ready to meet each other in the most friendly and most helpful manner. We must be ready to meet each other in the most friendly and most helpful manner. We must be ready to meet each other in the most friendly and most helpful manner.

tion and threats can only produce injurious consequences and embarrass us with the Union Government. Indeed the language of your address bears testimony to your views and I take this opportunity of paying my tribute to the restrained, though none the less emphatic manner in which you have stated your case to-day. In conclusion, Gentlemen, let me assure you, if it is still necessary, that I and my Government are whole-heartedly with you in the desire to be of assistance to the cause of the Indians in South Africa.

#### Notes and News

IN the Union House of Assembly on the 6th instant the Asiatic Further Restriction (Transvaal) Bill to be moved by Colonel Collins (S. A. P. Ermelo) came up for its second reading but before it was taken Colonel Collins said he understood it was the intention of the Government to bring in comprehensive legislation dealing with this question. He realised it was a thorny and vexatious one, and he was very chary of doing anything which might embarrass the Government in dealing with this question, and he felt that under these circumstances his Bill might be premature, and lead to duplication of argument and a certain amount of waste of time. He therefore moved that the second reading be discharged.

The above Bill to prohibit the issue of renewal of trading or business licences, to Asiatics within certain areas of the Province of the Transvaal, was published in the *Union Gazette Extraordinary* dated February 23 and reads as follows.—

"Be it enacted by the King's Most Excellent Majesty, the Senate and the House of Assembly of the Union of South Africa as follows:—

1. (1) Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in any law contained, no licence to carry on any trade or business within six miles of any municipality or Township in the Province of Transvaal, wherein a person belonging to any of the native races of Asia may not own fixed property, shall be granted to any such person nor shall any such licence, if granted to any such person before the commencement of this Act, be renewed.
- (2) The expression "a person belonging to any of the native races in Asia" shall be deemed to include any company or other corporate body in which one or more persons belonging to any of those races have a controlling interest.
2. This Act may be cited for all purposes as the Asiatics Further Restriction (Transvaal) Act, 1925."

Thus the *Indian Social Reformer*—Lord Reading is not due to leave India till April next year. Nevertheless, for want of any more exciting occupation, perhaps, newspapers in England and India have been speculating about his Lordship's succession. Except as a reminder to the present Viceroy that the shades of evening are closing upon his regime, the discussion is of little practical use. The two candidates for the viceregal mantle when it drops off Lord Reading's shoulders, who are considered to have the most chances, are Lord Lytton and Sir George Lloyd. Both, in our view, are unsuitable by reason of the fact that the one is and the other has been Governor of a Province, and have formed prejudices and prepossessions which would be likely to be of great disadvantage to the Government of India.

and the same objection holds in his case also. But there would have been a longer interval in his case between the Governorship and the Viceroyalty, and on other grounds also he would seem to be the most suitable candidate of the three for the place when it becomes vacant. Who knows but that next year the British Government may find that Lord Reading should be given an extension for a year or so, to enable his successor to make a start with a new Assembly?

At a special meeting of the Bombay Municipal Corporation the question of the extension of free and compulsory education to Muslim girls was discussed and the meeting is reported to have come to the decision that one year after the introduction of compulsory education in any ward of the municipality, compulsion should also be extended to all Muslim girls up to ten years of age.

Addressing the students of the Samaldas College Mahatma Gandhi characterised student life as Sanyasi's life and advised them to cultivate the habits of plain living and high thinking. Mahatmajee also spoke on the usefulness of Charka for the solution of Indian poverty.

#### PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEES ORDINANCE AND INDIANS

THE Indian community is protesting against the Public Health Committees Ordinance 1923 which was passed by the Natal Provincial Council and assented to by the Governor-General-in-Council notwithstanding the strong objection raised by Indians. The object of this Ordinance is to place in the hands of committees composed of a section of the people power to decide for themselves the method they desired to carry out the public health duties of the areas outside Boroughs or Townships. The ordinary Public Health Act enables the appointment of Sanitary Inspectors to look after these areas but the Council has thought it advisable to hand over this matter to the local residents of these areas. Many poor Indians live in these areas on small plots of ground. Anti-Asiatic feeling is high all over the country and the Indian has never been able to live at peace in town nor outside the town. Wherever the white man settles he wants to make the place entirely white. While this is so the Indian is naturally alarmed when he sees that the administration of the district in which he lives is placed in the hands of the white residents of that district, he himself having no voice in it at all. This is the position under the Public Health Committees Ordinance. The Committees under the Ordinance are constituted of Parliamentary voters which in effect exclude Indians and other non-Europeans from voting for candidates for or being themselves eligible on the Committees. The Natal Indian Congress had raised a protest on this ground against the passing of the Ordinance pointing out at the same time that they had nothing against the objects of the Ordinance in so far as they concerned the looking after of the public health and sanitation. This was, however to no avail and the Ordinance was passed and promulgated. Indians in the different districts concerned have now formed into different Committees and the Committees have combined together and have decided to test the legality of the Ordinance

pending which they are refusing to pay taxes imposed on them in terms of the Ordinance. So long as they do not infringe the ordinary rules of health and sanitation they are quite justified in taking the step they have taken. We only hope that they will carry on their work peacefully and unitedly, and thus they will be able to form the basis of a yet larger struggle the Natal Indians will have to consider the advisability of entering into soon if they wish to remain in this country with the slightest degree of self-respect. The time to fight against the humiliations already imposed on us is more than ripe and if further legislation is introduced into Parliament which as the Minister of the Interior has recently intimated is under preparation, it will be the height of insult not only to us in South Africa but to the whole of India and it will be for the Indians in South Africa to consider seriously whether they have in them the manliness or not to uphold the dignity and honour of their Mother-country.

#### H. H. MAHARAJA OF BIKANER'S MESSAGE

The following is a copy of the telegram from His Highness the Maharajah of Bikaner to Sir Dushaw Petit Bart, President of the Deputation which recently waited upon His Excellency the Viceroy at Delhi with regard to the Indian situation in South Africa:—

"Please refer to your letter dated Jan. 9, requesting me as Chancellor of the Chamber of Princes to join as well as to invite some other representatives amongst the Princes to join the deputation which is to wait upon His Excellency the Viceroy next week on the South African question. As for myself, personally, I very much regret that apart from other important engagements, certain religious ceremonies which cannot be postponed keep me tied down to Bikaner from Sunday Jan. 25, to Monday, Feb. 2, the dates of which were fixed several months ago, but need hardly assure you of my deep interest and sympathy in the matter in regard to which besides other occasions in common with my British Indian Colleague, Lord Sinha, was specially privileged to assist at the Imperial War Cabinet and Conference in 1917.

"In view of the fact intimated by you in your telegram dated Jan. 15, in reply to our telegraphic enquiry of the same date that the deputation will be received on Wednesday Jan. 28 the shortness of time in any case makes it impossible for me to approach the Princes in the subject with a view to getting any collective action taken. You can, however, confidently rely upon the general sympathy of the Princes as a body in regard to the question of Indians overseas which is one of all-India importance and affects their fellow-countrymen in British India as well as their own subjects. The sympathy and support has already been publicly expressed as is clear from the message which in close co-operation with the Maharajah of Alwar and in consultation with my brother Princes, I as Chancellor of the Chamber of Princes was privileged to telegraph and authorise His Highness of Alwar as the representative of the Princes of India, to deliver to His Majesty's Government and the British nation and to the British Dominions and Colonies and their representatives at the Imperial Conference of 1923, in the course of which the Princes' earnest hope was specially expressed that the united efforts of all concerned at the Conference would yield so satisfactory results and secure to Indians, including the subjects of Indian States an honoured position in all parts of the Empire in

keeping with India's rightful place in the British Commonwealth and in conformity with the assiduous and constant efforts of His Excellency the Viceroy and the Government of India. This message was published in all the leading Indian newspapers to wards the end of October, 1923, through a communique issued by the Chancellor's Office and which of course had special reference to South Africa and Kenya, and you are at liberty to refer to these facts in your address as also therefore, to add that the Princes are in agreement with the object of your deputation and to publish this telegram."

### INDIAN QUESTION IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS

#### LABOUR SUGGESTS RECIPROCTY

London, March 9.—In the House of Commons this afternoon, Mr. Lansbury (Labour, Bow and Bromley) asked which of the British Dominions and Colonies prohibited or restricted the entry of Indians, and whether India restricted the entry and domicile of Britishers

Mr. Amery, Secretary for the Colonies, gave particulars, whereupon Col. Wedgwood (Labour, Newcastle-under-Lyme) asked whether Kenya was the only Crown Colony that restricted the immigration of British Indians?

Mr. Amery replied that Kenya did not impose restrictions.

Mr. Lansbury asked if Indians were refused the right of domicile in South Africa, Canada, and Australia. He proceeded to contend the Indians should have an equal right with the Dominions to exclude whites, when the Speaker intervened, saying that it was impossible to have a debate on the subject.—Reuter.

### INDIA AT WEMBLEY

#### APPRECIATION BY PRINCE OF WALES

The following correspondence has passed between the Prince of Wales and the High Commissioner of India regarding India's display at Wembley Park.—

From His Royal Highness to the High Commissioner —

"As President of the British Empire Exhibition, I wish to congratulate India on the splendid manner in which there was presented at Wembley Park so fine a picture of the great civilisation of the Indian Empire. The Indian Pavilion was one of the architectural attractions of the Exhibition. With its contents it gave to visitors a vivid impression of the achievements of the people of India, and brought back to me many happy memories of my wonderful tour two years ago. I trust that great political benefits will accrue to India from her participation in the British Empire Exhibition. Certainly, the people of the home country have benefitted from the opportunity given to them of obtaining a better knowledge of India. Please convey to your Exhibition Commissioner, and to all others who have taken part in India's display at Wembley Park my sincere thanks for their work."

The High Commissioner replied as follows:

"It gives me great pleasure to acknowledge Your Royal Highness's letter of congratulation on the manner in which India was represented at the British Empire Exhibition. I am taking steps immediately to communicate to His Excellency the Governor-General, in Confidant the terms of your Royal Highness's letter. I am also conveying to the Exhibition Commissioner and to all others who have taken part in India's display, the very generous appreciation of the results of their work expressed by Your Royal Highness, which will afford them the greatest possible satisfaction and encouragement."

## BOROUGH OF DURBAN

### MAHOMEDAN SECTION — GENERAL CEMETERY

All persons claiming ownership of grave lots in the Mahomedan Section of the General Cemetery situated at Brook Street are requested to produce their receipts or other evidence in support of their claims to the Chief Sanitary Inspector, Old Court House, Durban. On production of satisfactory evidence of ownership, the owner's name will be registered in the block book which has been prepared in conjunction with a plan of that portion of the Cemetery.

A. O. JONES,  
Town Clerk.

Town Clerk's Office,

Durban, 15th January, 1925.

### دربان شہر

سار्वجنیک کھستاننو سولیم ویلاگ.

ہرگز سٹیٹوں میں آوے گا سار्वجنیک کھستاننو سولیم ویلاگ میں کھڑاواہی جہاننی مالیکیہ نہاوا کرتا سبھی لوگوں نے پتانا آوے گا ہاوانا ریکا میں پتانی پڑھیں آوے گا آوے گا پورا پورا درباننی جونی کھڑاوا ہکان میں آوے گا سینیٹری ڈنسیپیکٹر سبھی رٹی کرانی پینتلی کرانی میں آوے گا، مالیکیہ سہاواکارک پورا پورا رٹی ہاواہی کھستاننو آوے گا ویلاگانا پتانی ساتھ آوے گا کرانی میں آوے گا ویلاگ ہکان میں مالیکیہ نام نہاوا میں آوے گا.

آئی. آئی. جی. سی.

ٹاؤن کلرک.

۴ فرسٹال عامہ کاسلائی حصہ ۴

تمام لوگوں کو کہ جو قبرستان عامہ واقع درون سٹریٹ کے اسلامی حصہ میں قبروں کے ٹکڑوں کے دعویدار ہوں انکو اطلاع دی جا رہی ہے کہ وہ اپنے اپنے دعوے کے ثبوت کی رسدیں یا دوسری شہادتیں "صدر محکمہ صفاہی" (حذف نسیمہ، بیٹوری) عدالت کڈہ پارٹنہ (اولڈ کورٹ ہاؤس) دربار، اس پیش کریں

اسی تسکینی شہادت پیش کرے جو ملکوں کے ملک میں رجسٹر کئے جائیں کہ جو قبرستان کے نقشہ کے ساتھ تدار کا کیا ہے

"آئی۔ او۔ جی۔ سی"

ٹاؤن کلرک — درباری کورڈیشن

### لوگوں کو آپہانی ہے

دکان 333 پارٹن سٹیٹ میں آئی. آئی. جی. سی. ملحد  
لوگوں کو پتہ ہے کہ  
مجاہد  
آئی. آئی. جی. سی. ملحد  
333 پارٹن سٹیٹ، دربان.