

Indian Opinion

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MR. POLAK'S ACTIVITIES

MR. H. S. L. POLAK'S name requires no introduction to our readers. As the Secretary of the Indians' Overseas Association in London Mr. Polak has been ever active on questions affecting the Indian community and his services in South and East Africa are well-known.

We reproduce below some of the letters addressed by Mr. Polak to the Press in connection with the present Indian question in South Africa:—

Jews and Indians in South Africa

The following letter was addressed by Mr. H. S. L. Polak to the *Jewish Chronicle*:—

Sir,—Some years ago, when it was my privilege to stand side by side with Mr. M. K. Gandhi in defence of the Indian community in South Africa, you were good enough to lend to the cause that we represented the full weight of your valuable support, on the best of all grounds, namely, ethical ones. I had hoped, when I left South Africa in 1916, that an evil page in the history of the country was turned and that our coreligionists, many of whom made the mistake of siding with the oppressors of the Indian community, would, in future, work side by side with the latter in the interests of a common citizenship. Unfortunately these hopes have been frustrated, and there has once again developed in South Africa a fresh and yet more bitter attack on Indian vested rights, with a view, if possible, to the elimination from the Union of the Indian population.

I have, on more than one occasion, in your columns and in the Jewish Press in South Africa, drawn a parallel between the history of anti-Semitism in Central and Eastern Europe, and that of the anti-Asiatic campaign pursued from time to time in South Africa. Unhappily, the analogy has not been recognised by a large proportion of our coreligionists there (many of them aliens), in spite of the valiant efforts of individual Jews like Morris Alexander of Capetown, and Hermann Kallenbach, and L. W. Ritch, of Johannesburg, who, in this matter, have always staunchly advocated the cause of the oppressed. It seems to be one of the most common, but nevertheless dismal, features of human nature that the one time oppressed becomes in his turn the oppressor so soon as he can find a scape-goat. I am reminded of the folly and the danger of this by a non-Jewish friend who writes to me as follows by this mail from South Africa:

"Such an attitude is highly dangerous for those adopting it. I find that the Jewish traders who want to get in when the Indians are driven out are (human nature being what it is) helping in the anti-Asiatic movement. But from the Jewish community's point of view this is madness, for if the Indian is driven out easily, the Jew will be the next object of attack. . . . It is plain as anything out here that anti-Semitism is smouldering. Nothing could give it a more sinister opportunity than to drive out the Indians. . . . There are those who desire to capture the Indian trade who are shortsighted enough to side with the enemy against the Indians."

The significant warning is timely, and the facts are not to be disputed. One has only to read, for example, the recent columns of the *Rand Daily Mail*, which published an advertisement by the so-called "League of Gentiles," asking for the enrolment of twenty thousand more Gentiles "to complete the scheme of co-operation for the benefit of all true South Africans." The objects of the League, which is obviously a definitely anti-Jewish body, are "to organise Gentile opinion so as to bring pressure to bear on the Government to prevent evasion of the immigration laws by the people of Eastern Europe, and to ensure the protection of Gentile womenfolk."

This is exactly the kind of language that was used, not long ago, in order to get rid of Indian competition and to tighten up the immigration laws against Indians. My correspondent is entirely right, in pointing out the folly of making common cause with the enemy, that is, ignorance, superstition, selfishness and greed, against the Indians.

This anti-Indian attitude, on the part of a considerable portion of the Jewish trading community in South Africa, is bound to react harmfully upon the Jewish population in India, which is already none too popular. I am bound to confess, however, that the Jewish leaders of the Beni-Israel community whom I have met, and who entirely share Indian national aspirations and Indian national resentment of the anti-Asiatic policy of the South African Government and people, recognise that the attitude of our coreligionists in South Africa results in their humiliation equally with that of their non-Jewish fellow-subjects of Indian birth.—Yours faithfully,

H. S. L. POLAK.

Danes Inn House,
265, Strand, W.C.2.

The *Jewish Chronicle* comments on the above as follows:—

The letter which Mr. H. S. L. Polak addresses to our columns this week is far from pleasant reading. Mr. Polak has for years been one of the foremost champions of the Indian population in South Africa, whose position there has long been subject to the evil sentiments he describes. But that they should be exacerbated by Jews joining in a campaign of racial hate, as Mr. Polak alleges, is deplorable beyond expression. The danger to Jews of such an attitude is manifest. It is really a matter of asking for trouble. There are, however, higher considerations, assuming our correspondent is not placing blame undeservedly, which, it is distressing to observe, have been ignored by some of our people. The splendid principle of non-differentiation on account of racial origin was originally Jewish, strangely enough to be sure when the racial exclusiveness of the Jew is borne in mind. Never, however, was there an apter case in which Jews should be reminded that they themselves were strangers in the land of Egypt, than that presented by the position of the Jews to whom Mr. Polak refers. It is terrible to think how that splendid adjuration is being flouted in the interests of the most material kind. There is ample here, as Mr. Polak suggests, to account for

the League of Gentiles that has been formed, and which is designed (to employ a Rabbinic simile) to make Jewish skulls float upon the water because Jews made those of Indians float likewise. It is gratifying to learn that the best Jewish opinion in South Africa is opposed to Indian persecution; and it is to be hoped it will find itself able to influence and direct those Jews who, by siding with the oppressors of the Indians, are surely bringing disgrace and trouble upon the whole of the community.

"Asiatic Traders Forced to Face Ruin"

The following letter was addressed by Mr. Polak to the *Manchester Guardian* :—

Sir,—May I ask the courtesy of your columns for the publication of the following telegram that my Association has just received from the Transvaal British Indian Association :—

Under the general dealers control ordinance licences of Asiatics in the Transvaal are being refused on a wholesale scale. At Balfour, where Indian interests involved about forty thousand pounds, the Municipal Council there have deliberately decided not to issue a single licence to an Asiatic, and all Asiatic applications for renewals, both here and in several other places have been refused. Boards mainly consist of interested parties. Long-standing Asiatic lawful traders are being forced to relinquish their businesses, and have no other option but face ruination. Indian community bewildered action local authorities, prays relief, and if possible Government intervention.

The action of the Transvaal municipalities is disastrous for the Indian trading community. It is important, however, to note that it has apparently been taken under the existing provincial legislation, which is not in this respect, changed by the bill introduced by Dr. Malan, the Union Minister of the Interior, last session, and now awaiting a second reading. The latter, however, renders precarious in many other respects trading and all other rights throughout the Union. It is designed specially to add to the insecurity of Indian tenure, in order, as Dr. Malan frankly stated, to bring pressure to bear upon as many Indians as possible to leave South Africa without any obligation as to compensation falling upon the Union Exchequer.

When General Smuts opposed what was called the "Racial Bar Bill" last year, he warned the Union Government against arraying the coloured world against White South Africa. My latest information, however, is that General Smuts and his party have decided to support the present bill, which goes even further than the bill introduced by General Smuts's own Government, two years ago, which failed of enactment only because of his defeat at the general election.

I am informed that if, in spite of protests from India, official and unofficial, the present bill is substantially enacted, a unanimous demand will be made by Indian public opinion that the Government of India should urge his Majesty's Government to refuse to advise the Royal Assent, in which event, a first-class Imperial crisis will be upon us.

Is not British public opinion intelligent enough and powerful enough to secure what all parties, except South Africa, would gladly welcome—namely, a round-table conference, at which the whole problem might be thrashed out and some sort of an understanding reached, honourable both to India and South Africa?—Yours, &c.,

H. S. L. POLAK, Hon. Secretary
Indians' Overseas Association.

A Timely Pamphlet

The Indians Overseas Association has issued a timely pamphlet entitled "The South African Indian

—Helot or Citizen?" with an introduction by Mr. H. S. L. Polak. This pamphlet contains the statement by the Natal Indian Congress on the Asiatic Bill, Minister of Interior's speech in introducing the Bill, Gandhi-Smuts Agreement of 1914, Representation of South African Indian Deputation to the Viceroy at Calcutta December 19, 1925, Extract from introductory speech of Dr. Abdurahman as the head of the Deputation, Viceroy's Reply, Extract from Viceroy's address to the Indian Legislative Assembly at Delhi, Jan. 20, 1926 and Bishop Fisher on Indians in South Africa.

Some Plain Words on the Asiatic Problem

'Natal Advertiser's' Comments

The *Natal Advertiser* in its issue of the 26th February has the following very thoughtful and interesting leading article :—

A great deal is likely to be heard about the Asiatic question in this country before it is finally settled; and Wednesday's debate in the House of Lords showed how widespread is becoming the interest in the whole matter. This debate can, for the time being, go without comment. There are, however, points about the recently published correspondence between the Union and Indian Governments which deserve close scrutiny, for there is no reason to suppose that the Simla administration has said its last word on the matter.

The first thing to strike the reader of those telegrams which passed between the Viceroy and the Union Government, and which led to Dr. Malan's consent to refer his proposed Bill to a Select Committee, is the Pact Government's curious insistence on the tragic urgency of the measure. In telegram after telegram there is a breathless reiteration of this urgency:—"The Union Government cannot contemplate a conference between the two Governments" because "public opinion in South Africa will regard it with the gravest suspicion." Later "Being in close contact with the public feeling in South Africa, and knowing as they do how the holding of a conference on the Indian question without limiting the scope of such conference to some definite concrete question or questions is likely to be looked on and resented by the people here as an interference from outside, Ministers are satisfied that by deciding as they have they merely give expression to the great mass of responsible public opinion in the country." And so on. There is much more downright emphasis by the Union authorities, all pointing the same way. They are acting, they claim, with the overwhelming mass of opinion behind them; and the Indian question cannot, they aver, wait any longer for solution.

Time for Plain Speaking

Now on these points we frankly suggest the Union Government is romancing. In the first place, the only part of the country which is really intimately concerned with the Indian question is Natal; and in Natal the Nationalists have one member only! It is true the Labour members of the Pact are anti-Asiatic, but they are in a very small minority in this Province; and it is this Province, we repeat, that matters. It is out of no love for Natal that Dr. Malan and his colleagues want to solve the question. It is from no desire to increase our prosperity that they are touching India on the raw. Least of all is it true that Natal opinion (the only opinion really affected) would resent or misconstrue a round table conference with the Indian Government. On the contrary, Natal is the one Province in the Union that would see no loss of dignity or status in two Dominions of the Empire

trying to solve amicably an issue that otherwise may imperil the very existence of the Empire.

It is time for plain speaking on this matter. We are not pleading that the Indian is the sort of citizen we want in Natal or in any other part of the Union. What we do say is that the Union Government would have lost no dignity had it abandoned this mock air of national sensitiveness, had it not bemused itself with the idea that everyone in this country was at boiling point of Hinduphobia, and had it recognised that there are some Imperial relationships which even South Africa could study without loss of dignity. As it is, the published correspondence shows the Union up in a misleading light. It stresses sentiments which do not exist to anything like the extent it claims, and it misrepresents Natal opinion (and it is Natal that matters) when it says that a Conference with the Indian Government would be regarded and resented as "an interference from outside." We in this part of the country know too well that were it not for Britain's benevolent "interference from outside" with the naval security of South Africa, there might be no South Africa to-day. People living on charity cannot afford the luxury of over-sensitive skins; and in certain vital directions this country has lived on charity for many years past.

An Awkward Question

But we want to come to an aspect of this Indian question that no organised body of opinion has yet made its own. Never, since the agitation started, has any effort been made to estimate what the departure (could it be secured) of all our Indian population would mean to Natal. It is not our business to furnish the answer, but merely to suggest the problem and all its implications. Our Indian population is, roughly, about the same as our white population. From a labour point of view, it will require whites rather than natives to take its place. Where are they to come from? If they do not come at all, the Province will, of course, lose heavily. This is axiomatic. Are they, then, to come from the backveld; is the poor white to be successor to the poor Indian? Let Natal answer its own conscience in the matter.

Or—being quite impartial—are they to come in as immigrants from overseas? At our present rate of Union white immigration it would take about fifty years to make up the Indian numbers, even assuming all outsiders who landed at any of our ports came up to Natal. And who are immigrants nowadays? Yesterday we published some figures that are full of warning to South Africa. The Eastern European, the Lithuanian, the Russian and the Pole—these are the gentlemen who are casting covetous eyes on the Union. And let no one be mistaken. Once these people get established in our midst their little finger will prove thicker than the Indian's loins. The Asiatic may have chastised us with whips, but these people will chastise us with scorpions. For are they are not civilised? Are they not white? Will they not have the franchise? They will work hard but not harder than the Indian. Yet they will go further; and the day may come to pass sooner than we think when their influence, reacting on the South African native, will bring this country to the very rim of ruin.

What About the Planting?

We are not pleading for the Indian. He has got abler advocates at Simla than any this country can produce. Nor are we raising now the question of ethics, or moral obligations to people who came at South Africa's invitation many years ago. The thing the Natalian ought to do, first of all, is to look at this anti-Asiatic agitation from the one angle he has never yet occupied. He ought to clear his mind of cant phrases, and unctuous platitudes, and decide calmly and rationally whether what he wants to up-

root from Natal is really distinctly worse than what he is likely to plant in its place. Can he, in his mind's eye, see the Pact Government emptying Natal of Indians and filling the spaces with eager-hearted British settlers or other men of like temper and aptitudes? Frankly we cannot; and until some clearer evidences are shown us of what the Pact intends, we would bank on Hamlet's counsel and put up with the ills we have rather than fly to others that we know not of. It is easier nowadays to desolate an area than to people it with just the sort of folk you would like to have.

Government of India Deputation

Summary of Report

The following are the "conclusions and recommendations" arrived at by the Government of India Deputation on the Asiatic question as summarised in a dispatch to India:—

In the first place they (the deputation) have been unable to find any justification for the general opinion held by Europeans in Natal that Indian competition in trade is increasing and is closing fruitful avenues of employment to Europeans. Similarly, they are unable to obtain accurate or complete statistics to indicate how far, if at all, Indians have recently displaced Europeans in skilled or semi-skilled occupations. They suggest that if a fresh survey of the situation were undertaken, it would probably prove these fears, so far at least as trade and commerce are concerned, to be unfounded.

Their investigations tend to show that Indian penetration has, during the last few years, increased only in certain trades, such as tailoring and furniture, especially in the Durban area; while in the sphere of business proper, the Indian has not improved his position since the report of the Asiatic Inquiry Commission. Further expansion of Indian trade is barred by the action of the municipalities, who refuse the issue of any new licences to Indians and frequently refuse transfer of old licences for new premises, even in the close proximity of the old ones. The same policy is being followed by Licensing Boards in rural areas.

For these reasons they suggest that fresh inquiry is advisable in order to certify the facts on which the demand for the Bill is based.

The second point on which the deputation lays stress is that it is questionable whether the Bill will effect any mitigation in economic competition between the two races, which opinion in Natal regards as the crux of the whole Asiatic problem. Positive remedies contemplated by the Bill are:—

- (1) Commercial separation.
- (2) Residential separation and
- (3) Restrictions provided for in clause 10.

As regards (1) the deputation finds that the municipal administration of existing licensing laws has already resulted in Indian traders being concentrated in areas distinct from those occupied by Europeans, except old-established Indian firms which carry on business in European quarters.

Legislation Unnecessary

From the European point of view therefore the legislation now proposed appears unnecessary while it will seriously aggravate the position of the Indian trading community. They assume that the elimination of Indians from trading is not aimed at, as such a policy would not be in accordance with the general standard of fairness, particularly since they report that aliens from Europe are monopolising new opportunities for trading. If the object aimed at is mitigation of competition, other remedies seem more important (? and) effective.

The allegation of unfair Indian competition is said to be based on payment of lower wages to shop-

assistants and evasion of regulations governing the terms of employment. They consider that means could be devised to prevent such evasion, and are strongly of the opinion that the matter deserves investigation, especially as they have been told that if board and lodging and other amenities allowed free to Indian assistants are included in the total, the wages of the latter would equal those paid by European employers for the same class of work.

With regard to residential segregation, the deputation report that the conditions of many localities occupied by Indians around South Africa cause the Indian community to be full of apprehension that the class areas created for them will share similar fate. Any measures tending to depress the social and economic standard of Asiatics may be expected to intensify rather than to mitigate industrial and commercial competition between them and the white population.

It is pointed out further that clause 10 of the Areas Reservation Bill, in the opinion of the deputation, will have "most serious consequences."

Repatriation of Indians

Over 33 Per Cent. South African Born

Dr. Malan (Minister of the Interior), replying to questions when the House was discussing in Committee the vote for £8,725, said that over 33 per cent. of the repatriated Indians were South African born. Some of them were probably minors returning with parents who were born in India. He thought 33 per cent. was very satisfactory. The Government paid £10 per head, and the maximum amount per family was £50. Formerly the payment was £5 per head. During 1924 the Indians repatriated numbered 1,063, and during 1925 1,400.

The increase in repatriations on account of the higher payment was effective for only four months, and after that the number dropped, but he was glad to say—whether it was due to the legislation introduced at the end of the last session he did not know—that since the end of last session the number of applications from Indians to be repatriated had increased very considerably. The great difficulty at present was to find accommodation on ships for those who wanted to go away.

Why Not British Guiana?

Mr. J. W. Jagger (S.A.P., Cape Town Central): I would like to ask the Minister whether he has ever considered the desirability of helping these Indians to go to some other country than India. British Guiana is taking Indians at the present time, and is far less crowded than India is.

Dr. Malan: I believe at present the difficulty is more a legal one. We cannot repatriate Indians otherwise than to India, and with a view to that I have introduced in the proposed legislation—the Reserved Areas Bill—a clause with the object of leaving the Government free to send Indians to any part of the world.

The Rev. W. Wilkinson Rider (S.A. Party, East London, City): Can the Minister tell us how many Indians of adult age, born in this country, have gone to India? It is technically incorrect talking of repatriating Indians born in this country to India.

Mr. O. R. Nell (S.A. Party, Newcastle): Can the Minister tell the House how many of the Indians who have been repatriated are males, and how many are females?

Mr. L. Blackwell (S.A. Party, Beaufort): I pointed out there was a fortnightly service between Durban and India, and he did not see why Indians intended for repatriation could not be sent away fortnightly; or, at any rate, once a month.

Major G. B. Richards (S.A. Party, Weenen) said the best able to give an opinion were convinced they would only get Indians to leave in large numbers from Natal provided they had well-selected recruiters, and paid them a good fee for the Indians they collected and got on board.

Mr. G. A. Hay (Lab., Pretoria, West) sought an as-

urance from the Minister that the people reached India, and were not finding their way into Rhodesia and then filtering back to the Union across the border.

Proportion of Sexes

Dr. Malan: The figures as to males and females repatriated during the last three years:

	Men.	Women.	Children.
1923:	1,397	600	790
1924:	569	220	274
1925:	709	292	399

There are about twice as many men going back as women, but that is owing to the fact that a large number of Indians are practically domiciled in India. They leave their families there and they are in South Africa only for trade purposes.

The question of sending back these Indians to India by ships specially chartered for the purpose or as passengers by regular steamers is largely or altogether a matter of expense. If we send them by the method which we have followed so far, that is, by agreement with a particular ship, the passage costs about £8 per head or even less, but if we send them as passengers, by regular steamers the cost is much more.

Mr. Blackwell: Cannot you come to some arrangement with the British India Line to take these people away?

Dr. Malan: I think it has been tried, but not with much success. At any rate, we will keep an eye on this matter. Major Richards has made some observations in regard to the system of recruiting. With regard to that I can say that the ordinary method of bringing to the notice of Indians in Natal the inducements offered by the Government for them to leave the country is by spreading this information among them through pamphlets. Some time ago we specially appointed a certain person, an official, who made it his business to recruit Indians for repatriation purposes. The results we can judge by the increase of 400 during the last year as compared with the previous year, although, of course, this increase is also due to the fact that the bonus has been increased and is also probably due to the proposed legislation.

Slight Leakage

With regard to the point raised by Mr. Hay, all I can say is there may have been escapes from the ships taking repatriated Indians to India, but in any case they have not been brought to the notice of the department. There is a leakage, I admit, of Indians coming from India into South Africa, but that leakage, as far as we can judge, is less than it was some years ago. I do not know of any case where an Indian has thrown himself overboard and in that way come back to South Africa, after he has voluntarily agreed to leave the country.

Mr. Blackwell: They only get the bonus on arrival in India?

Dr. Malan: Yes. It is paid on arrival in India.

Mr. P. Duncan (S.A.P., Yeoville): I rather gathered from the reply the Minister gave later that the number of Indians who had availed themselves of the system in 1924-1925 showed a considerable falling off, notwithstanding the fact that the Government are offering increased advantages. I would like to know, if this is so, to what cause does the Minister attribute it?

Mr. Jagger and W. A. Deans (S.A.P., Unsoi) supported the suggestion of Major Richards as to the appointment of recruiters.

Mr. S. D. De Wet (Nat., Heidelberg) asked whether any Transvaal Indians were being repatriated.

Col. N. J. Pretorius (S.A.P., Witwatersburg) urged that as it was the Natal Indians who were costing all the money in regard to repatriation, Natal should be debited with the costs incurred.

An Old Story

Mr. O. Pearce (Lab., Lieke) wanted to know whether the Natal people, who in former years had advocated that those who imported the Chinese should pay the cost of them, should not do some little thing to help

the Government with regard to these Indians, and not always come to the Government to cover up the sins with which they had burdened South Africa.

Major Richards charged Mr. Pearce with having distorted the facts.

Mr. A. G. Barlow (Lab., Bloemfontein, N.) appealed to the chairman. Was it right, he asked, for the hon. member to say that an hon. member was wilfully distorting the facts?

The Chairman: Will the hon. member withdraw that statement?

Major Richards: Yes, I withdraw that. I myself moved the resolution in the Natal Parliament against the Chinese

Mr. H. E. K. Anderson (S.A.P., Klip River): If you are going to charge the cost of the Asiatics to Natal you must charge the cost of the irrigation schemes to the Transvaal.

Mr. G. Reyburn (Lab., Umbilo) entirely disagreed with his colleagues from Natal in this matter. This was a Union affair.

Sharing Each Other's Burdens

Dr. Mulan: With regard to this little passage of aims between representatives of the different Provinces I can only say we all agree that we have come into Union, and that we are going to share with each other the wealth of any particular Province and the poverty of another Province. We are going to share the common destiny, and also each other's mistakes of the past. The Indian problem of Natal is but one of the whole Union, and we accept it as such.

Replying to points raised, the Minister promised to see whether Indians could be found as recruiters, to be paid by results. He did not know why the number repatriated had fallen off after four months of increased bonus. It might be that the number of those who desired to go back to India were practically exhausted, and it might be that Indians lived in the expectation that the bonus would be further increased. The Indians repatriated were mostly of the labouring class—mostly Hindus from Natal. It was very difficult to get the Mohamedan and trading class to accept repatriation.

Indians' Backs up

Mr. M. Alexander (Con., Dem., Hanover-street): I can only speak of the information that comes to me. I think it is clear from those who get any news from India that the chief reason why voluntary repatriation has been getting more and more unsuccessful is the way in which the various proposals have been brought out in connection with legislation in the Provinces and the Union. Feeling in India has been aroused to such an extent that the people are urging the Indians in South Africa not to take advantage of the repatriation, and if the Minister wants the policy to succeed, then I would say the things he is doing now, instead of helping, are going to put the backs of the people up, and even to-day I am told that letters are arriving from India telling the Indians here that it is a point of honour with the people in India and that the Indians here would be traitors if they took advantage of the scheme. If the Minister went about this in a better way the figures would go up.

The vote was agreed to.—*Cape Times.*

Mr. C. F. Andrews' Birthday

Mr. C. F. Andrews wishes, through these columns, to express his deep gratitude for the birthday greetings sent to him from all parts of the Union. The messages were so many in number that it was impossible for him to answer them personally.

Our Supplement

We issue as a supplement to this number the report of the Madras protest meeting in connection with the Asiatic Bill and the text of the Viceroy's Statement to the Legislative Assembly on the subject.

Springs Asiatic Bazaar

Agreement Between Council and Indians

Negotiations have taken place between the Town Council of Springs and the Indians resident in the location in regard to the rentals for stands for business and residential purposes, as also other matters in connection with which the Indians appealed. The judgment in the case, Municipal Council of Springs versus Muttyah Pillay, was given in favour of the Town Council, but an appeal was noted. This, however, was withdrawn on a guarantee being given by the Council to meet the requests of the Indians. The terms of this guarantee are embodied in a letter to the Town Clerk from Mr. B. P. Goldberg:

"Arising out of the judgment and the difference generally existing between your Council and the occupants of the Asiatic Bazaar at Springs, I have been requested by G. Banthoo, Essop Seedat, Ranchod, Bhoola Patel, Salehji Loonat, Boodhram, Biharee, Rowji, Aya Poori, Veera Samy, Joe, Rajah, Fakir Ebrahim, and the agent of the defendant, Muttyah Pillay, a certain Peerumal, his son, to place upon record the terms of agreement this morning arrived at between His Worship, the Mayor as representing the Municipal Council and the above-named as representing the defendant and all Asiatic occupants in the bazaar:

1. The Municipal Council undertakes to cause to be amended forthwith existing Regulation No. 14 of Asiatic Bazaar Regulations, which, when amended, shall read:

For a lot for residential purposes or for a lot reserved as a trading lot which is occupied for residential purposes, at the rate of 7s. 6d. per month, and for such a lot for which a licence to trade is issued or upon which business or trade is conducted, at the rate of 30s. per month.

2. The Municipal Council undertakes to permit this amended regulation to have a retrospective effect and will apply it as from April 1, 1925.

3. The Municipal Council of Springs will extend to the defendant and to all Asiatic occupants in the bazaar reasonable time to enable each of them by payment of instalments to liquidate the costs of the above judgment and to liquidate their arrear stand rents and rates—earning capacity to govern the extensions to be granted.

4. That, in consideration of these terms agreed upon, the defendant agrees to withdraw his notice of appeal against the judgment in the case of Muttyah Pillay versus Municipal Council of Springs.

5. That the Municipal Council of Springs shall furnish to Banthoo Gangadeen, as chairman of the British Indian Association (Springs branch), representing Asiatic occupants in the bazaar, a copy of the minutes of the proceedings this day concluded between His Worship the Mayor and the above-named persons; which copy shall be furnished within a reasonable time.

6. That in so far as arrangements to pay the costs of the judgment are concerned, such shall be negotiated direct with the town solicitor through Mr. B. P. Goldberg.

7. That in so far as arrangements to pay arrear rates and arrear lot licences are concerned, these shall be negotiated direct with the bazaar inspector, Mr. Payne, through the committee of the British Indian Association (Springs branch), of which Banthoo Gangadeen is chairman.

A Reduction in Rents

8. That in respect of the resolution adopted at the special meeting of your Public Health and Works Committee, held on October 8, 1924, and approved by your Council on October 23, 1924, reading: "(a) That the Asiatic community be informed that the Council will favourably consider

their request that the next section of the location to be allocated for occupation will be a section in Zone 11, adjacent to the Asiatic Bazaar." His Worship the Mayor assured the deputation that he would use every effort to obtain the Council's sanction to have this zone occupied and so give effect to the purpose of this resolution. The benefits to accrue to the Council were duly pointed out by the members of this deputation.

"I shall be pleased if you would be good enough, as soon as possible, to confirm the contents hereof.

Your faithfully,
(Sgd.) "B. P. GOLDBERG."

At the meeting referred to, Mr. J. Tyrell, chairman of committee, was present, and not the Mayor.

The parties to the agreement will pay the cost of the case direct to the Council in monthly instalments of not less than £10. The first instalment has already been received.

It has been recommended that the Council should agree to the terms of the letter from Mr. Goldberg in so far as paragraphs 1, 2, 3, 7 and 8 are concerned; and, further, that the Governor-General-in-Executive-Council be requested to amend section 14 (b) of the Asiatic bazaar regulations to read—

The rent in respect of trading lots in the bazaar shall be 30s. per month, which shall be reduced to 7s. 6d. per month as long as no licence to trade is issued in respect of, or no business or trade is conducted on or in connection with such a lot; water, sanitary service (private), slop water and refuse removals to be charged at the tariff in force at the time such services are rendered. The reduction referred to to have retrospective effect to April 1, 1925.—*The Star*.

Port Elizabeth Council

Rejects Resolution on Asiatic Bill Mayor and Councillors Disagree

The *Natal Advertiser* Port Elizabeth correspondent says:—

The Southern Suburbs European Association of Johannesburg recently asked the Council of Port Elizabeth City to consider the conveyance of a formal resolution to the Minister of the Interior supporting the association and the Government in connection with the Areas Reservation and Immigration and Restriction Bill.

At a meeting of the Council last night the licensing committee recommended that the association should be informed of the Council's sympathy with the proposal.

Councillor Maolean moved as an amendment that the letter be merely recorded. Councillor Clap seconded, agreeing with Councillor Maolean that the Council should not associate itself with a political question.

The Mayor disagreed with the argument that it was a political matter. He submitted that the question was one of vital moment to the people in Port Elizabeth. He thought that the people of the city hardly realised the seriousness of the menace of Indian trading to the European trade of the town. He had expressed this opinion to the Indian deputation when it was here a few weeks ago, and he would state it in public. The European trade of the town was seriously menaced by the persistence of Indian trading in this country. In his opinion it was not a political question so much as an economic one.

Councillor Hunter declared that if discussion of the question were allowed, he was prepared to consider it from a different point of view to that put up by the Mayor.

The Mayor: Very well, you can go on if you want to discuss it.

But on the vote, the amendment was carried by an overwhelming majority.

[NOTE:—Would that the Councillors of other municipalities took the noble example set by their Port Elizabeth colleagues.—ED.]

Congress Deputation Returning

Messrs. Amod Bayat, V. S. C. Pather, Mirza and Advocate J. W. Godfrey, members of the deputation of the South African Indian Congress, that went to India in connection with the Asiatic Bill are now returning and are expected to land at Durban on the 10th instant.

Dr. Abdurahman the leader of the above deputation has sailed from Bombay on the 3rd instant per s.s. *Karoo* and will land at Lourenco Marques and proceed to Capetown via Johannesburg.

Mr. Sorabjee Rustomjee will be leaving India about the end of April.

Prayer Meetings

Ladysmith

[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT]

A most impressive mass meeting of the Indian community of Ladysmith, under the auspices of the Natal Indian Congress, Klip River Branch, was held at the Mosque, Ladysmith at 10-30 a.m. Tuesday Feb. 23rd to solemnly protest against the Asiatic Bill at which Mr. J. A. Kharwa, the Chairman of the Congress presided.

After solemn prayers by the Moslem, Hindu and other priests, in which the public very sincerely joined in, speeches were made by the leaders of the community and Congress officials, which were of a religious nature, calling upon the people to place their trust in God in this their darkest hour.

The following resolution moved by C. S. Asmal, seconded by M. E. Seedat and supported by F. S. David was unanimously passed:—

"This mass meeting of the Indian community of Ladysmith and District, held under the auspices of the Klip River Branch of the Natal Indian Congress, prays Almighty God to protect the South African Indian community in this hour of greatest danger and prays that He may move the hearts of the rulers of this country to sympathy and justice."

A further resolution was passed professing the confidence of the people in the Natal Indian Congress and extending the whole-hearted support of the community in its actions.

Solemnity was the order of the day and all Indian business houses were closed for the day without a single exception.

Newcastle

At Newcastle, Indian trade was at a standstill on Tuesday (Feb. 23), all the Indian stores being closed. The day was given up to prayer that the Almighty would instil a sense of justice and equity towards Indians in the hearts of the Ministers and members of the Union Parliament.

A mass meeting was held in the evening, the proceedings being very orderly, and it was decided to send the following messages:

To the Governor-General:—

This mass meeting of Indians of Newcastle and District do solemnly pray that Almighty God may protect the South African Indian community in their hour of calamity, and instil a spirit of equity and justice in the hearts of our rulers, so that by their actions they may bring a reign of peace in this land.

To the Natal Indian Congress:—

Indians of Newcastle and District heartily support spirit of unity throughout South Africa.—*Renter*.

Pretoria

Resolutions asking Almighty God to instil justice into the hearts and minds of South African Parliamentarians were passed at enthusiastic semi-religious meetings held in Pretoria on Feb. 23, by the Indian community, following the lead of the South African Indian Congress. Stores and shops were closed and in the evening two mass meetings were held under the auspices of the British Indian Association.

The Indian Library Hall, where Mr. M. H. Joosub presided, was overcrowded. Many speeches were made condemning the Asiatic Bill, and the priest of the Mahomedan Mosque, Molvi Goolam Mohiyooden, offered prayers for a sense of justice to be instilled into the hearts and minds of the Union legislators. A resolution was passed as at other demonstrations, and a further resolution supporting all the activities of the South African Indian Congress was passed.

At a packed meeting in the Bioscope Hall at the Asiatic Bazaar similar resolutions were passed.

The meeting unanimously decided that they would never accept the Asiatic Bill, even if it were amended. Not one line of the Bill as such was acceptable, and Indians in Pretoria would join with their race throughout South Africa and India to make the application of the Bill impossible.—Renter.

Port Elizabeth

[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT]

In terms of a resolution passed by the South African Indian Congress, all Indian business houses were closed on Tuesday to offer prayer to Almighty God. A very large gathering of Indians was present at the Empire Bioscope Hall, South End, where an impressive ceremony took place. Emaan Panday and Maharaj offered prayers to the Almighty, asking Him to guide the South African legislators on the path of righteousness. The President (Mr. A. E. Haffjee), in the course of his remarks, said they were suffering under the Union Government's unjust laws and that afternoon they were making an appeal to the King of kings.

Mr. N. M. Pillay also spoke, saying that the Indians in South Africa were faced with a situation of unparalleled danger and they had to pray to Almighty God to instil a true Christian spirit in the minds of the members of the Union Parliament so that they might be able to judge between right and wrong.

The following resolutions were unanimously passed:

"This mass meeting of Indians held at Port Elizabeth prays to Almighty God to protect the South African Indian community in this hour of greatest danger and prays that He may move the hearts of the rulers of this country to sympathy and justice." This was proposed by Mr. A. E. Haffjee and seconded by Mr. K. N. Bhagat.

"That this mass meeting of Indians held at Port Elizabeth supports the attitude taken by the South African Indian Congress and prays to Almighty God that He may instil a true Christian spirit in the minds of the members of the Union Parliament so that they may exercise justice and fairplay to the Indian people who form part and parcel of a great British Empire." This was proposed by Mr. J. J. Reddy and seconded by Mr. G. Panday.

The above resolutions were forwarded to the South African Indian Congress.

Capetown

In Cape Town, the hartal was not strictly observed says the *Cape Times*. It was noticeable, in certain quarters, that Indian shops were open even during the afternoon meeting. Nevertheless, from day-break, Indians assembled in large numbers at the mosques of the city in order to join in prayer; and

in quarters where Hindus congregate, religious observances began at a very early hour.

During the morning, groups of Indians could be seen talking together; and social meetings were held in various leaders' houses, where the subject of the Asiatic Bill was earnestly discussed. Certain cables, which had come from India, were eagerly read and considered, forming the chief topic of discussion.

In the afternoon, between 2-30 p.m. and 4-30 p.m., a gathering of Indians assembled at Fidelity Hall, in Primrose street. So great the crowd grew that in the end the hall itself was picked to the doors. The audience sat for a long time in silence. At last, the President of the Cape British Indian Association, Mr. Hawa, took the chair, and the secretary, Mr. Ismail, read the cables which had been received from India, expressing deep sympathy with the South African Indians.

A resolution was then carried in silence, while all the audience remained standing. The resolution invoked "the help and protection of Almighty God, the Protector of the helpless, on behalf of the Indian community in this hour of their gravest danger," and prayed that "the hearts of those in authority in the land might be moved to sympathy and justice in all their future actions on the Indian question."

Those present remained standing, while the Imam of the leading mosque, conducted the prayers. He recited in a sonorous voice and solemn tones some verses from the Koran, and, afterward, prayed extempore in the Urdu language. He was followed by a Pandit, who recited some Sanskrit verses and then continued in Hindi. Christian prayers were also offered, both in English and in the vernacular. Speeches followed, the Chairman reminding the audience that it was not a day of excitement but a day of mourning; and that therefore the speeches should be delivered in a sober and solemn manner.

It was clear that those who were present were deeply moved, both by the prayers and by the subsequent speeches. The meeting dispersed quietly and the hartal was continued until sunset, when prayers were again offered in the mosques and other places of religious worship in the city.

Johannesburg Meeting

The Dean of Johannesburg, the Very Rev. W. A. Palmer, opened the Indian prayer meeting in the Indian School, Bree Street, Newtown, at 3 o'clock on Tuesday afternoon (Feb. 23).

In a short address before his prayer, Dean Palmer said that this was not the time for foolish talking, not the time for heated thinking, and not the time for wild words. Instead, it was the time for quiet thinking. They were there to pray. There were representatives of many religions present. "My friends and I are Christians," he said, "and yet no Christian has ever said more beautiful words about Jesus Christ than Mr. Gandhi.

"I am quite sure you will understand me when I say that Jesus Christ, my Master and the Lord of the Christians, said that whenever there is trouble or difficulty or darkness, remember there is a Father in Heaven. Trust Him to show you the way through."

Dean Palmer thought that they were gathered together in the right spirit—not to judge anybody, but to lift up their troubles to their Father in Heaven, and to ask Him to show them the way out.

He said that it ought not to be strange to them that there were white Christians present. In South Africa there were many white people who were sympathetic towards the Indians, and the number was increasing day by day. Their outlook was hopeful. The Bill had been put back for a time. Dean Palmer then prayed on behalf of the Indians.

The Dean's speech and prayer were translated by one of the Indians present.

Prayers were then offered by Arabsahib, the Mohammedan priest, and Swami Gopaldas, the Hindu priest.

There was a large gathering of Indians present, as most of the Indian places of business were closed for the day. Ninety-eight telegrams were received from the various districts of the Transvaal.

With the Dean were the Rev. C. B. Baker, the Rev. W. E. Wilkinson, the Rev. C. Phillips and Mr. W. E. Wilkinson.

After prayers, the chairman (Mr. E. I. Asvat), read the following resolution which was carried unanimously: "That this mass meeting of the Transvaal Indians prays that Almighty God may protect South African Indian community in this hour of greatest danger, and that our rulers act with sympathy and justice; and, further, supports the South African Indian Congress in all its activities for the good and protection of the interests of the whole Indian community in the Union of South Africa."—*Star*.

Lord Headly and Khwaja Kamaludeen

Lord Headley, the only British peer who has become Muslem and Albaj Khwaja Kamaludeen the leading Moslem missionary of England recently landed at Capetown where they were accorded a very hearty welcome by the local Moslem community. Both the visitors, we understand, will be touring South Africa. Preparations for their welcome are being made at the various centres where they are expected.

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રવિ	૬	૭	૨૦	૨૯	૫-૫૨	૬-૨૩
સોમ	૭	૮	૨૧	૩૦	૫-૫૩	૬-૨૨
મંગળ	૮	૯	૨૨	૧	૫-૫૪	૬-૨૧
બુધ	૯	૧૦	૨૩	૨	૫-૫૪	૬-૨૦
ગુરુ	૧૦	૧૧	૨૪	૩	૫-૫૫	૬-૧૮
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ઈન્ટર: ૫૫ ૦-૦

ડેક ૫૫ ૮-૦-૦

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