

Indian Opinion

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EDUCATION INQUIRY COMMISSION

THE Indian Education Inquiry Commission, formed as a result of the agreement between the Union Government and the Government of India began its sittings in the Provincial Council Buildings on Monday April 2 and continued up to Thursday the 5th instant. The Commission will sit again on April 17 and 18 when the Natal Indian Congress will present their statement.

The members of the Commission are Mr. J. Dyson (chairman), Mr. C. F. Clarkson, Mr. J. A. Lidget, Mr. F. H. Acutt, Mr. A. L. Pretorius, Mr. E. Fell; and the terms of reference are as follows:—

“The existing facilities as a whole in town and country areas; the conditions of service of Indian teachers in Government and Government-aided Schools, including salary, promotion, discipline, and pension; the present system of Provincial grants-in-aid, and many changes which may be considered to be necessary; the financial basis of Indian education, having regard to the resources of the Province, the various demands upon them, and adequacy or otherwise of the existing Union Government subsidies in so far as they affect Indian education.”

Superintendent of Education Gives Evidence

Mr. Hugh Bryan, Superintendent of Education, said that the figure of 32,000 in his report was the number of Indian children in Natal, and not, as the report stated, the number of Indian children of school age. The European population of 167,000 was likely to supply a school-going population of £25,000. Assuming that the Indian population was no less prolific than the European population, he thought that the approximate figure for school-going Indian children would be 25,000. This, however, he declared, was mere guesswork. The question of age with the Indians was a very difficult one. There were about two thousand Indian scholars at present in the Government Schools of Natal, and the aided schools had approximately 8,000 Indian pupils. At the present time the figures stood as follows:—3,800 children below Standard 1; 1,300 children in Standard 1; 1,100 in Standard 2; 800 in Standard 3; 600 in Standard 4; 300 in Standard 5, and 100 in Standard 6. There were approximately 66 above Standard 6. Children were anxious to go to school, but there was a lack of accommodation. But for this over 300 more children could have been taken.

Mr. Dyson asked whether a system of compulsory attendance at school would not be advantageous, but Mr. Bryan considered that it would only improve the position up to Standard 4.

Indian Teachers

Regarding the class of Indian teachers in the Government Schools, Mr. Bryan said that the academic qualification for the Senior certificate was about eighteen months beyond Standard 6, while for the Junior Certificate a Standard 6 qualification only was necessary. It should be possible to get an attendance of Indian children of upwards of 20,000 without compulsion.

The mean average salary of an Indian teacher in a Government School was £140 a year. To accommodate the extra pupils 250 extra class-rooms would be required and approximately £90,000 additional expenditure on

salaries. In Government aided Schools, out of 176 teachers, 91 were unqualified, and in some cases the salaries were as low as £1 or 30s. a month.

In reply to Mr. Hollander, Mr. Bryan said that he would be in favour of the Government subsidy being wholly restricted to education. There was nothing in the Act to restrict the subsidy to this use, although it was based upon school attendance. Any section of the community had a right to what it earned. He agreed that in no case did the per capita grant equal the unit cost of each of the grades.

Mr. Hollander: “Would you suggest that the Department has been making improper use of the subsidy?”

“No, I would not say that.” Mr. Bryan favoured the extension of the present grant aided scheme. From the financial viewpoint, he was also in favour of reducing the cost of the Government Schools to allow of a greater expansion in the Government-aided Schools, but from the point of view of efficiency, he personally favoured the extension of the Government Schools.

Mr. Bryan, in reply to the chairman, admitted that the subsidy for Indian education was not wholly expended on the educational needs of the Indian.

The position of the unqualified teachers was, he said, most unsatisfactory and he advocated the introduction of a system of training. Many teachers who had passed the junior examination had not passed Standard 6 in the schools. If funds were available there would be little difficulty in starting a training centre for Indian teachers. One drawback would be that there were not sufficient Indian graduates in the province to staff such a training college, and these would have to be brought from India. Should such an institution be started he would recommend that a European teacher should be in charge.

Asked whether he was in favour of a fixed grant or a per capita grant, Mr. Bryan said that he supported the continuance of the per capita system. This could always be increased while the fixed grant remained the same no matter what the attendance was. In reply to Mr. Hollander, Mr. Bryan said that the present grant of £5 per head was not sufficient to bring about any immediate improvement in the position.

Again replying to Mr. Hollander, Mr. Bryan said that the inquiry was a part of the agreement, and he considered that they would be justified in asking the Union Government to bear the increased cost of the extension.

Training College

Continuing, Mr. Bryan said that the question of an Indian teachers' training college had already been taken up by Mr. Sastri, who had collected £18,000 and had acquired two acres of ground on which to build the college at Durban.

Mr. H. J. Lawlor, inspector of schools for the Midlands district, said that the time had come to do away with the small salaries which some of the teachers were receiving. If these low paid teachers had the initiative to sell papers in the street they would find that they could earn more than a pound a month. To get the best value out of any educational scheme the schools should be equipped with full staffs. He had worked out a scale and according to his scale some of the present schools would have their staff increased and others would have their staff reduced. He instanced a school with a staff

of five teachers, where one class had 52 pupils and another class 72 pupils. He did not consider that any teacher could do justice to a class of 52. The salaries of three of the teachers were £204, £114 and £84.

The accommodation in the schools was very inefficient.

The majority of the scholars had only benches to sit on and they had to support their slates and books on their hands. The buildings were, for the most part, wood and iron and were extremely trying both in summer and winter.

As regards secondary schools, Mr. Lawler thought that as the need developed for secondary education it should be met. He had nine Government-aided schools under his control, and he was satisfied that these schools were earning their grants. Two of them especially were doing excellent work. The Indian could pick up mathematics better than the average European, but naturally in other subjects, such as English, the Indian fell behind.

Mr. Hollander: Given equally qualified teachers would you advocate the same curriculum in Indian schools as in English schools?

Mr. Lawler: Yes.

Mr. Kichlu, Indian education adviser to the Commission, asked if there was any grant towards school appliance, but received the answer that no provision was made in that connection. In reply to a further question, Mr. Lawler said that provision was made for physical drill on the syllabus in the Indian schools, and some schools were in the habit of drilling their pupils. He could not say that the physical exercises taught were of the best but there was no reason why the pupils should not be well taught.

Mr. Kichlu: In view of the dearth of teachers, has the department done anything to assist deserving pupils to take a course of training?

Mr. Lawler: No.

Comparing the uniformity of attendance at European schools, Mr. Lawler attributed this to the fact that in Indian schools attendance was not compulsory.

Mr. Hollander: In your experience have you found that there is a demand for schooling which cannot be satisfied under existing conditions?

Mr. Lawler: As far as my district is concerned I am not aware that any Indian children requiring education cannot be accommodated. My greatest trouble is not accommodation but the migration of pupils from one school to another.

Colenso Indians

The secretary of the Colenso Indian Social Service League, Mr. V. Naidoo, submitted a statement on behalf of the Indian population of Colenso regarding the necessity of providing education for Indian children in that town.

The Indian population of Colenso, he said, was 194, and owing to the fact that the S. A. R. power station was built there, there was every prospect of an increase as time went on. There was not a single school in Colenso where Indian children could be educated.

The nearest Indian school was at Ladysmith, 18 miles away. The majority of Indians resident at Colenso were in poor circumstances, and could not afford to send their children away to be educated. The number of children of school going age was 60, their ages ranging from 6 to 14. There was a keen desire on the part of the Indian parents to provide education for their children, and they were prepared to recommend to the department an Indian of substance and standing as a guarantee if by that means they could be provided with a school.

Mr. Hollander: "You say there is a lack of accommodation at Ladysmith, and yet I see that out of a total of 170 places, these were fully occupied for only half the year?"

Mr. Naidoo: "That can better be answered by the Ladysmith representative."

Mr. J. A. Lidgett: "You really are here to ask for a new building at Colenso?"

Mr. Naidoo: "Yes."

Mr. Lidgett: "Colenso is in the extraordinary position of having grown in a night, and it may conceivably fade away in a night."

Mr. Naidoo: "The Indians who want the new building in Colenso have been there for years, and are not a floating population."

The Commission then adjourned until the following day.—*Natal Witness.*

Notes and News

WE deeply regret to learn of the sad and sudden death last Friday week of Mr. Ebrahim Bharoochi the elder brother of Mr. M. D. Bharoochi, president of the Transvaal Indian Congress. Mr. Ebrahim Bharoochi was the first president of the Transvaal British Indian Association, when that body was established by Mr. Gandhi. The late Mr. Bharoochi was a public spirited man and always willingly helped in the cause of the community. We extend to Mr. M. D. Bharoochi and to the bereaved family our deepest sympathy in the great loss sustained by them.

News has been received by cable that Abraham Dalal, son of Mr. and Mrs. M. I. Dalal, of Cape Town, has passed his final degree of L. R. C. P. He qualified in January as a member of the Royal College of Surgeons of England.

A young Native found guilty of assault on a young white girl in North Street, Durban was sentenced to two years' hard labour, plus 12 strokes, by Mr. Justice Leslie in the Native High Court. The excuse of the Native was that the girl bit him.

His Majesty the King has been graciously pleased to approve of the appointment of the Hon. Sir William Henry Solomon, K. O. S. I., K. C. M. G., Chief Justice of the Union of South Africa, to be a member of His Majesty's most honourable Privy Council.

Sidney Wilson, an unemployed labourer, 18 years of age, was sentenced in the Borough Court, by Mr. de Villiers to £ 50 fine alternatively imprisonment with hard labour for six months for supplying liquor to an Indian.

Dr. Malan in his speech at the opening of the annual meeting of the Capetown Branch of the National Party stated that the next General Election will not take place until the first half of next year.

Mr. H. N. Venn, Commissioner of Immigration and Asiatic Affairs, who has gone on a visit to India on his arrival at Madras was interviewed by an Associated Press representative. Referring to the Capetown Agreement Mr. Venn said, both Governments were playing the game. He paid a tribute to the Rt Hon. V. S. Srinavasa Sastri. Immediately after arrival Mr. Venn proceeded to the harbour where he arrived four hundred repatriates aboard the steamer *Umona*.

Mr. M. Ramhorry wishes to thank the many friends who have kindly sent him messages of sympathy in his recent sad bereavement.

Answers To Correspondents

MAHOMED SAHEB (Springs)— He can return within three years from the date of his departure.— Ed. I. O.

THE TRANSVAAL TROUBLE

THE Transvaal trouble never seems to come to an end. There are continuous volcanic eruptions. The tramway trouble, thanks to the Johannesburg Town Council, is settled to the satisfaction of those concerned. After an interview of the representatives of the Indian and other non-European communities with the Chairman of the Tramways Committee the notices discriminating between Europeans and non-Europeans have been removed and Indians can now occupy any seats on any part of the upper deck. So far so good. But now there are other troubles which are causing the Indian community anxiety one of which is the licensing question. A trading licence in Turffontein (a suburb in Johannesburg) was recently refused to an Indian on the ground that it was calculated to cause a nuisance to the residents in the neighbourhood. On appeal to the Supreme Court the decision of the Council was overruled by Mr. Justice Greenberg there being nothing in the law to provide for discriminating between classes of persons. This was too much for the anti-Asiatics to swallow and the Federation of the Ratepayers Associations of Johannesburg have strongly condemned the action of Mr. Justice Greenberg in considering only the question of justice regardless of the wishes of the residents! Mr. A. Law Palmer, ex-Mayor of Johannesburg, has made himself heard most of all. He has suggested that no one should serve on Licensing Committees unless such Committees have absolute power to issue or refuse any trading licence without the interference of the court.

Mr. Justice Greenberg's decision has opened the eyes of various municipalities in the Transvaal to the fact that the General Dealers' Control Ordinance, the object of which was to restrict the number of Asiatic traders, though it did not expressly state that, is failing in its object and there is now a movement on foot to amend the Ordinance to suit the requirements of the anti-Asiatics.

On this question, rather than expressing our own opinion it will be more effective to allow the *Rand Daily Mail* to do so for us. "Mr. Law Palmer," says our contemporary, "would deprive citizens of their right of access to the Courts, although an injustice might be done to them and their very livelihood be seriously affected. Ob-

viously, such a power as this cannot be conferred upon the members of a Town Council, notwithstanding all the excellent and unpaid services which they may render. Members of a Licensing Committee may strive to decide fairly and justly upon applications brought before them; it would be intolerable if they acted otherwise. Nevertheless, Indians and other non-European communities cannot be robbed of their inalienable right to appeal to the judges of the land and to seek their protection. Provincial Councils are sometimes overruled by the Supreme Court and have to submit to its decisions. Licensing Committees cannot expect to have greater freedom. Passive resistance will, at any rate, not help them."

According to the Capetown Agreement the existing licensing laws are expected to be so amended as to give the right of appeal to the Supreme Court from the decisions of the licensing authorities where such right does not already exist and not to take away that right where it does exist.

'Natal Witness' On Indian Education

The *Natal Witness* wrote the following interesting leading article on the eve of the sitting of the Education Inquiry Commission:—

On Monday the Indian Education Inquiry Commission begins its work, and for the first time the people of Natal will be able to discover, without the exploration of blue books, what exactly is being done in the matter of Indian education in the Province. Unless public opinion is a great deal more cynical than we suppose it to be, the discovery will come as something of a shock. It is not merely that, out of 32,000 children of school age, only 9,155 are enrolled, and that this mass of illiteracy is growing year by year. That is a serious enough position in all conscience. But it might be glossed over by saying that Indians are not anxious for education and that their illiteracy is, therefore, their own fault. As a fact, however, the very reverse is the case. Hundreds of Indian children are being turned away from schools because there is no room for them and thousands more whose parents wish them to be educated, remain untaught because there are no schools. Thus the Province, in Mr. Bryan's words is "sustaining deliberately a large section of its population in enforced ignorance." Moreover, the schools which do exist (other than the Government schools) are in many cases insanitary and unhealthy, and in every case grossly overcrowded. In these stifling wood and iron shanties children are herded together and instructed by teachers, some of whom are paid at the handsome wage of £12 to £18 a year—about one-third of the earnings of a native houseboy. Obviously the schools are hardly likely

to raise the children above the level of their homes. And when we attack the Indian for his low standard of living we may well ask ourselves how far are we helping him to improve it. For white children the value of education is never questioned, and it is now surely time to dismiss as mere folly or prejudice the idea that non-European races are unable to profit by it. If we are to uplift the Indian as we have contracted to do, then we must begin by educating him.

Many will piously admit this, and dismiss the matter in the same breath by asking where the money is to come from. In view of the criticisms that have been passed of recent Provincial expenditure on education, this is a natural tendency—and one that may undoubtedly be observed in the Provincial Council itself. One answer will be that "the Union Government ought to do something more"—and perhaps it ought, for it negotiated the Indian agreement without consulting the Province, and it refuses to allow Indians to spread at large over the Union, a step which would very quickly solve the Asiatic problem by dispersing it. But before we attack the Union Government and endeavour to saddle it with our burdens, let us ask what it and the Province are respectively doing at the moment. The result of such an inquiry is startling. The Union Government pays to the Province a subsidy of £5 5s. per scholar for "non-European education." The rate is the same for Coloured and for Indian, and although the money is voted in a lump sum and it is nowhere specifically stated that it shall be spent on the two races in the same proportion as it is granted, the intention is evident. What actually happens to it is shown in the following table:—

Year 1925-26.			
	No. of children.	Subsidy. £	Expenditure. £
Coloured ...	1,771	8,703	20,278
Indian ...	7,362	36,179	17,918
Total ...	9,133	44,882	48,196
Year 1926-27.			
Coloured ...	1,774	8,678	20,059
Indian ...	7,969	38,985	28,429
Total ...	9,743	47,664	48,488

The Province has, in the last two years, diverted from the subsidy some £18,000 intended for Indian education and devoted it to the education of the numerically much weaker coloured population. In other words it has contributed not one penny of its own to educating the Indian, and has misappropriated—or misapplied—a large proportion of the money which the Union Government has handed over to it for the purpose. How long this process has been going on we do not profess to have discovered. But it is obviously quite intolerable that it should continue, and we believe that it will be stopped as soon as the Provincial Council appreciates the position. Morally, the Indian community has a clear retrospective right to a large capital sum, and we can be quite sure that no further assistance will be forthcoming from the Union Government until we have accounted for what we have already had.

To the question of what the province itself should do for the Indian we propose to return. But we may say at once that neither we nor, we believe, responsible Indian opinion, expect immediate miracles. It is not suggested that the expenditure on

Indian education shall be promptly raised to the European level, £17 3s. per head, or anything like it. The path to follow probably lies in the direction of increased grants to Government aided schools inferior though they may be to Government schools in buildings, equipment and teachers. The Indian community, in raising a large sum of money for a training school has shown that it is ready and anxious to help itself. The Durban Corporation, it is to be hoped, will realise the necessity for granting an adequate site and facilities. And the Province, which now is doing rather less than nothing will hardly refuse to do a little immediately, and to admit its obligation ultimately to do a great deal more—as much in its own interest as in that of the Indian.

Asiatic Traders In Transvaal

Johannesburg Town Council Overruled

Important Supreme Court Decision

Law Does Not Permit Discrimination

In the matter of Ahmed Moosa Nanabhai v. the Johannesburg Municipal Council, judgment by Mr. Justice Greenberg was entered in the Rand Division of the Supreme Court on Monday April 2.

The effect is that the objections of Turffontein, supported by the Town Council, have been overruled, and the Town Council is ordered to grant a licence to an Indian trader.

Mr. E. Rogenberg, (instructed by Messrs. Livingstone and McCarthy) appeared for the applicant; Mr. C. T. Blakeway (instructed by Messrs. Moodie and Robertson) appeared for the Town Council.

Applicant had asked for an order directing the respondent to issue to him a certificate in terms of the General Dealers' Control Ordinance of 1926, as amended by the General Dealers' Control Ordinance of 1927, or, alternately, for an order setting aside a decision by respondent refusing such certificate, and directing that the application for such certificate be reheard.

Applicant had carried on business in Sophiatown under a general dealer's licence since 1922, and had been granted certificates by respondent for such licence ever since, need for such certificates was created by legislation. In January he secured premises in Turffontein and made application for a certificate to transfer his business there. On January 28 he received from respondent a copy of a notice objecting to the granting of a certificate on the ground that a licence in respect of the premises for which it was sought would be calculated to cause a nuisance, or annoyance, to persons residing in the neighbourhood. He received no notice of any other objection.

Having recalled objections accepted by the respondent that the new application was in respect of a residential area, where there were already sufficient stores, his lordship proceeded:—"As there is nothing against the applicant personally, the mere fact—if my assumption is correct—that he is an Asiatic cannot affect the question. If the locality is suitable for 15 other shops, it is difficult to see how the locality can be one in which it is not desirable that the business in question should be carried on at all, and was such as applicant has been engaged in busi-

ness since 1916, and as there is nothing against him personally, there seems to be no reason why the locality is not one in which it is desirable that business should be carried on by him.

"No doubt the committee were acting in what it considered to be the best interests of the locality in an endeavour to prevent commercial penetration by Asiatics as a class, but this object cannot be attained under the provisions of the Ordinance."

Respondent was directed to issue to applicant the certificate for which he had applied, and to pay costs.

Nothing New in the Decision

"There is nothing new in the decision," a member of one of the Johannesburg Municipal Licensing Committees said to a representative of the *Rand Daily Mail* when interviewed in regard to the judgment. "It is on the lines of a previous judgment to the effect that licences may not be withheld to an applicant merely because he is an Asiatic."

"I do think that the intention of the Ordinance was to restrict the number of Asiatic traders in municipal areas, but the Ordinance does not expressly state that. In the meantime the Town Councils are left to carry the baby."

Municipalities to Amend the Ordinance

The above decision of the Rand Division of the Supreme Court, says the *Star*, has once again focussed attention in municipal circles upon the measure of control which the local authority is allowed to exercise as a licensing body. Quite apart from the facts in the case under notice various municipalities have come to the conclusion that there is much in the General Dealers' Control Ordinance which needs reviewing, and a committee appointed by the Transvaal Municipal Association is at present considering directions in which the measure ought to be amended. In Johannesburg there is also much dissatisfaction over the provisions of the Local Government Ordinance relating to licences and by-laws, and there is a strong feeling that the position of the local authority leaves much to be desired.

Johannesburg Tramway Question Settled

In accordance with a resolution passed by them at a recently held meeting representatives of the Indian, Coloured and Chinese communities of Johannesburg on April 2, appealed to the Tramway Committee of the Town Council to have the recently promulgated by-law which restricted non-European accommodation on tramcars removed.

The deputation stated in a memorandum submitted by them that the Municipality represented not only the European population, but all the inhabitants. The non-Europeans were entirely disenfranchised and therefore the Councillors were in honour bound to regard themselves as trustees for those who had been denied that privilege. Notwithstanding the fact, these persons were directly and indirectly ratepayers who had hitherto been denied any of the advantages of certain municipal enterprises to whose support they contributed, often proportionately above their means.

The deputation detailed earlier phases of the controversy, culminating in a decision in the community's favour in the Transvaal Division of the Supreme Court in 1914, by which Asiatics and coloured people had the right to use any portion of

the trams; but in order to facilitate the smooth running of the tramways, and in consideration of European feeling, the non-European community voluntarily refrained from using the lower deck and only made use of the upper deck. This right was not questioned until the present by-law was promulgated.

The Council was requested to take the above-mentioned matters into consideration and to repeal the by-law.

The Committee after asking a few questions promised to give the request full consideration.

Notices Removed

We are now informed that the notices recently put up on tramcars prohibiting non-Europeans from using the covered portion of the upper deck have been removed.

Federation Of Ratepayers' Association Up In Arms

Mr. Justice ^{Jaw} Greenberg's Decision Strongly Criticised

At the monthly meeting of the Federation of Ratepayers' Association of Johannesburg Mr. A. Law Palmer criticised the judgment in the Rand Division of the Supreme Court by Mr. Justice Greenberg, who upset the Town Council's refusal to transfer an Indian's trading licence from Sophiatown to Turfontein. Mr. Palmer said it was futile to refuse licences, for the Council was at the beck and call of the law courts, and he advised that men refuse to serve on licensing committees until the committees had absolute power.

In the Indian case decided, went on Mr. Palmer, the committee refused the licence because it would be a nuisance to the residents. Mr. Justice Greenberg observed that the Indian had been accustomed to a trading licence, but his lordship had not considered that the licence had been for the sale in Sophiatown of goods to natives, which, contended Mr. Palmer, did not qualify the Indian for a trading licence in a solely white district. There was strong objection by the Turfontein residents, yet his lordship decided that there was no reason why the Indian should not go to Turfontein though there were already 15 other shops in the locality. Would the Southern Suburbs' inhabitants appreciate that?

"The Town Council," claimed Mr. Palmer, "should have absolute right in issuing or refusing trading licences. There should be no need to come under the jurisdiction of the law courts."

The Licensing Committee, vouchsafed Mr. Palmer, did not lightly turn down an applicant for a trading licence, whatever his colour. His lordship presumed that the committee had refused Nanabhay's application because he was an Indian. That was not so. The committee tried to hold the scales of justice evenly.

"So long as the courts hold the upper hand and can upset the licensing committee's decision to refuse a licence," said Mr. Palmer, "men should refuse to serve on such committees."

The federation, he urged, should pass a strong resolution strengthening the hands of the licensing committee.

Mr. J. Wertheim suggested that the Town Council should ask the Provincial Council to divest them of this onerous and thankless task. He flatly contradicted Mr. Palmer's statement that the licensing committee dealt with cases on their merits. There had been instances where members of the licensing committee had had their minds made up before

they sat.

In many cases, went on Mr. Wertheim, an applicant could not get a fair hearing, because the ward voting power was so very strong that a member of the committee took his seat with a mind not unbiassed judicially. That was an undesirable state of affairs. Mr. Palmer bordered on contempt of court when he criticised Mr. Justice Greenberg's judgment.

Mr. H. Norris hoped that more power would be given to the Town Council. He deplored Mr. Justice Greenberg's judgment, because the wishes of residents affected should be considered more.

Mr. P. C. Bredell (Yeoville) moved :—

"That this federation is in favour of the retention of the Municipal Licensing Board, but that its powers should be extended; that a sub-committee be appointed to consider and recommend amendments to the Control Ordinance, with a view to extending the powers granted the Municipal Licensing Board, and that the sub-committee be instructed to draft proposed amendments and report to the next meeting of the federation."

Mr. H. H. Oldroyd (Yeoville) seconded, and the above was carried by 28 votes to 4, Messrs. Bredell, D. Lefebre and Oldroyd being appointed the sub-committee.

Dr. Tagore On Indians In South Africa

Dr. Rabindranath Tagore in a statement to the Associated Press of India criticises the action of Mr. Habib Motan of Johannesburg who in an open letter states that Indians should not attend the Fort Hare Native College.

Dr. Rabindranath says:—"I have read the letter of Mr. Motan, dated November 19th last addressed to the Agent-General protesting against any Indian being invited to attend the Fort Hare Native College for education. In this letter he states that 'It is humiliating to Indian sentiment and to Indian national honour and civilisation to think that our Agent-General is trying to bring us down to such a low level.' Such a colour prejudice from an Indian who has himself suffered from the racial prejudice of the Europeans is to me revolting to the extreme. It is neither in accord with the Indian sentiment nor with the Indian national honour and civilisation. Our only right to be in South Africa at all is that the native Africans to whom the soil belongs wish us to be there; and to insult them publicly, as Mr. Habib Motan has done in this open letter, both by words I have quoted and by others equally contemptuous is an act which needs immediate repudiation from all right minded men.

Original Correspondence

The Editor, INDIAN OPINION.

Kimberley Indian Political Association

Sir,—With reference to a paragraph appearing in "Notes and News" in your issue of the 23rd ultimo, in connection with the statement of expenditure of the Reception Committee, in which Mr. Ahmed Mohamed states that "he was not supplied with any funds by the above body as reflected in their statement," it is regretted that a misunderstanding has arisen, particularly in view of Mr. Mahomed's magnificent entertainment of delegates. We would point out, however, that neither in our statement nor letter did we imply that monies were supplied to Mr. Ahmed Mahomed but that certain services rendered in connection with Mr. Mahomed's board and lodging arrangements were supplied by the Reception Committee. These items were specified under

the heading: "Services supplied to Mr. Ahmed Mahomed" and were not queried in the first instance when that gentleman disputed having handled other items appearing in the statement.

We would again emphasise that the statement submitted was presented to a meeting of the Reception Committee, of which Mr. Mahomed is a member, for approval before publication.

None are more appreciative of Mr. Ahmed Mahomed's services than the members of this Association and it is unfortunate that a matter that could easily have been explained was not questioned at the meeting of the Reception Committee.

We trust that this explanation will end this matter.

Yours faithfully,

T. V. RAJAGOPAL PILLAY,
Secretary.

[NOTE :—The above controversy is now closed.
—ED. I.O.]

The Story of My Experiments With Truth

[BY M. K. GANDHI]

Part IV. Chapter VII.

EXPERIMENTS IN EARTH AND WATER TREATMENT

With the growing simplicity of my life, my dislike for medicines increased. While practising in Durban, I suffered for some time from debility and rheumatic inflammation. Dr. P. J. Mehta, who had come to see me gave me treatment and I got well. After that, up to the time when I returned to India, I do not remember having suffered from any ailment to speak of.

But I used to be troubled with constipation and frequent headaches, while at Johannesburg. I kept myself fit with occasional laxatives and a well-regulated diet. But I could hardly call myself healthy, and always wondered, when I should get free from the incubus of these laxative medicines.

About this time, I read of the formation of a 'No Breakfast Association' in Manchester. The argument of the promoters was, that Englishmen ate too often and too much, that their doctors' bills were heavy because they ate until midnight, and that they should at least give up breakfast, if they wanted to improve the state of affairs. Though all these things could not be said of me, I felt that the argument did partly apply in my case. I used to have three square meals daily in addition to afternoon tea. I was never a spare eater, and enjoyed as many delicacies as should be had with a vegetarian and spiceless diet. I scarcely ever got up before six or seven. I therefore argued, that if I also dropped the morning breakfast, I might become free from headaches. So I tried the experiment. For a few days it was rather hard, but the headaches entirely disappeared. This led me to conclude that I was eating more than I needed.

But the change was far from relieving me of constipation. I tried Kuhne's hip-baths, which gave some relief, but did not completely cure me. In the meantime, the German who had a vegetarian restaurant, or some other friend, I forget who placed in my hands *Just's Return to Nature*. In this book I read about earth treatment. The author also advocated fresh fruit and nuts as the natural diet of man. I did not at once take to the exclusive fruit diet, but immediately began experiments in earth treatment, and with wonderful results. The treatment consisted in applying to the abdomen a bandage of clean earth moistened with cold water and spread like poultice on fine linen. This I applied at bedtime removing it during the night or in the morning, whenever I happened to wake up. It

proved a radical cure. Since then I have tried the treatment on myself and my friends, and have never had reason to regret it. In India, I have not been able to try this treatment with equal confidence.

For one thing, I have never had time to settle down in one place to conduct the experiments. But my faith in the earth and water treatment remains practically the same as before. Even to-day I give myself the earth treatment to a certain extent, and recommend it to my co-workers, whenever occasion arises.

Though I have had two serious illnesses in my life, I believe that man has little need to drug himself. 999 cases out of a thousand can be brought round by means of a well-regulated diet, water and earth treatment and similar household remedies. He who runs to the doctor, *vaidya* or *hakim* for every little ailment, and swallows all kinds of vegetable and mineral drugs, not only curtails his life, but by becoming the slave of his body instead of remaining its master and thus losing self-control, ceases to be a man.

Let no one discount these observations, because they are being written in sick-bed. I know the reasons for my illness, I am fully conscious that I alone am responsible for them and it is because of that consciousness that I have not lost patience. In fact I have thanked God for them as lessons, and have successfully resisted the temptation of taking numerous drugs. I know my obstinacy often tries my doctors, but they kindly bear with me and do not give me up.

However I must not digress. Before proceeding further, I should give the reader a word of warning. Those who purchase Just's book on the strength of this chapter, should not take everything in it to be gospel truth. A writer almost always presents one aspect of a case, whereas every case can be seen from no less than seven points of view, all of which are probably correct by themselves, but not correct at the same time and in the same circumstances. And then many books are written with a view to inducing customers and earning name and fame. Let those, therefore, who read these books, do so with discernment, and take advice of some experienced man before trying any of the experiments set forth, or let them read such books with patience and digest them thoroughly before acting upon them.

Mr. Ahmed Mahomed Honoured

A Capetown Meeting

A well-attended meeting, under the auspices of the Cape British Indian Council, was held recently in the Independent Hall, Wight Street Capetown, to bid farewell, in the name of the Cape Province, to Mr. Ahmed Mahomed of Kimberley who is leaving the Union for India.

Hadjee Mohamed Khan, President of the C.B.I.C. presided, and among the many prominent members of the community present were included Messrs. Adam Abdullah, S. D. Hoorzook, A. Ismail, S. Gorrwalla, Hadjee Khan Gool, A. Hamid, A. Malik, Adam Essa, Adam Ebrahim, I. Fancy, Adam Wally, P. N. Desai, D. Mancherjee, R. Singh, and Moosa Essa.

After the chairman had explained the purpose of the meeting, various members present, led on by an eloquent speech by Mr. A. Ismail, testified to the great heartedness and fellowship of their distinguished guest of Kimberley. Mr. A. Mahomed had played a worthy part in South African Indian politics, and his philanthropy had earned for him the respect of the non-European and European alike. The meeting also wished Mr. Mahomed a long and enjoyable

life, and that his sojourn in the Motherland would be a happy one and that when he returned to South Africa he would still continue on with his good work.

Mr. A. Mahomed, who was garlanded by the chairman, suitably responded and wished further success to the C.B.I.C. as well as to the S. A. Indian Congress.

The meeting closed with a vote of thanks to the chair. —Communicated.

News From India

Boycott Of Foreign Cloth

That the boycott campaign is gaining in strength and intensity and the people have taken up the agitation in right earnest, will be apparent from the fact, says a Calcutta message dated March 1, that as many as 32 meetings were simultaneously held this evening in 32 wards of the city where the message of boycott of foreign goods specially cloth was preached and a vow taken to translate the resolution into practice. A number of similar meetings were also held in Howrah and the suburbs. Processions with national flags and music paraded the different streets and joined the meetings.

No Tax Campaign In Bardoli

Peasants in the Bardoli Taluka of Surat District have launched under the very able leadership of Mr. Vallabhbhai Patel of Ahmedabad, a no tax campaign as a result of the situation created by the recent enhancement of the land revenue by 23 per cent. The decision was arrived at at a recently held conference at which Mr. Vallabhbhai declared that his correspondence with the Bombay Government did not show that the Government were willing to postpone the collection of the land revenue until the complains were enquired into by an impartial committee demanded by the people. He also explained the serious consequences of non-payment of taxes.

The conference then passed a resolution declaring that cultivators should refuse to pay the land revenue assessment which was, according to them, unfair, and tyrannical, and that they would suffer all consequences peacefully until Government agreed to refer reassessment to arbitration. If the Government were willing to accept the revenue assessment on the old scale, it would be paid without reservation.

The resolution was supported by farmers of different villages, and carried unanimously.

Simon Commission Boycott

In a letter to Mr. Ramananda Chatterjee, Dr. J. T. Sunderland of New York writes, referring to the boycott of the Statutory Commission in India:—

"The 'New York Times,' brings the great word that the Indian National Congress has decided in favour of a universal boycott of the Statutory Commission, and has also declared the goal of India to be Independence. Truly India is rising from her knees to her feet."

In the course of a debate in the House of Lords Lord Haldane, on behalf of the Labour Party, drew attention to the divergence in eastern and western outlooks. He declared that Britain had done magnificent work in the Government of India. They had kept law and order, but he asked what progress they had made in penetrating the Indian mind. Until they found the means of bringing the two outlooks in mutual understanding, he did not think that they would find common ground for negotiating about the constitution of India. He expressed the opinion that the problem could not be solved without much study of the history and development of Indian thought.

At a meeting of the Council of the Parsi Central Association of Bombay the following resolution moved by Mr. Shapurji Gazder and seconded by Mr. E. R. Heerjibehedini, was passed:—

"The Parsi Central Association welcomes the decision of the Indian Legislative Assembly to boycott the Simon Commission and requests the representative of the Association on the Parsi Federal Council to move such a resolution at an early meeting of the Council."

Heavy Price for Law and Order

In the course of an article in *Current History* of New York, Dr. John Jesudason Cornelius formerly of Lucknow University, shows what heavy price a country pays for receiving law and order at the hands of a foreign nation. 'Granted law and order, roads and railways, schools and hospitals,' he writes, 'but when the alien government suppresses patriotism, strangles leadership, hampers social reform legislation, betrays the people's confidence, crushes indigenous industries for selfish advantage, turns the country into a source of supply for raw materials, will you ask why physical degeneracy, social disintegration and economic backwardness are so much in evidence?' This is a powerful indictment of British rule in India but can our 'trustees' deny that other countries whose people were no more united than those of India are, who were in other ways also no more fitted to get responsible government, were given this reform and that under progressive-national governments they became powerful, wealthy and united? And if our trustees had been keen about it and had desired it India too would have attained the status of a dominion and had made as great progress, social, economic and in other ways, as other self-governing countries. But when a Cabinet Minister tells us that 'we conquered India as the outlet for the goods of

General

Mr. N. M. Dutt, curator of State Libraries, Baroda, has been appointed as a Fellow of the London Library Association. Mr Dutt is the first person to get this unique honour in the whole of Asia.

Mr. C. F. Andrews expresses the opinion in an article in *Welfare* that in Great Britain's colonial empire probably no more important question has to be decided to-day as far as Indians are concerned than the issue of the political status of Indians in East Africa, which carries with it the whole racial relationship of East and West, of Asia and Europe—indeed, of the two hemispheres.

Mr. E. Ahmad Shah, a nominated member, of the India Legislative Assembly representing the Indian Christian community in the United Provinces has resigned his membership as he is leaving India for Europe. His Excellency the Governor of the United Provinces has, it is understood, nominated Mrs. Amad Shah to the vacancy created by her husband's resignation. Mrs. Amad Shah will be the first lady in the United Provinces and second in the whole of India to have the privilege of being a member of a Legislative Council.

Dr. Rabindranath Tagore it is understood, will visit Europe in October when he will deliver the Hibbert Lectures at Oxford.

Great Britain,' that 'we conquered India by the sword and by the sword we should hold it' it is easy to understand why India is to-day what she is—illiterate, stricken with poverty and seething with discontent.—*The Leader*.

Humourous Tit-Bits

—Mother: 'Now remember, Willie, there's a ghost in that dark cupboard where I keep the birthday cake.'

Willie (aged) five: 'It's funny that you never blame the ghost when some of the cake goes—it's always me!'

* * *

—Employer (sternly): 'There are two shillings missing from my desk, and only you and I have a key. What have you to say about it?'

Boy: 'Well, sir, let's pay a shillin each and let it go at that.'

* * *

—He was being medically examined preparatory to taking out an insurance policy.

'Ever had a serious illness?' asked the doctor.'

'No.'

'Ever had an accident?'

'No.'

'Never had a single injury in your life?'

'Never, except when a bull tossed me over a fence.'

'Don't you call that an accident?'

'No—the bull did it on purpose.'

—Of the unspoken word thou art master; the spoken word is master of thee.—*Buddhist Proverb*.

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૭૭ ફાઉન્ટન લેન, ડરબન.

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	શી.	પેન્સ.
મરીયાની હકત	૧	૦
(અપાન સરકારે ગુજરાત હલાકાતનું બ્યાન)		
કાળા પાણીની કથા	૪	૬
(કર્તા બોમ્બ યુમનો બહા)		
પુર્વરંભ (પ્રાચીન આર્યાવતની રૂપરેખા		
કર્તા કાકા કાલેલકર)	૩	૦
ખેડાની હકત	૪	૬
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ભાગ્યવા સુષ્ટાઓ	૪	૦
(મરીયાનમાંથી ઉચ્ચ સ્થિતિએ પહેંચેલા બોનું વર્ણન)		
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