

Indian Opinion

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NOTES AND NEWS

A LONDON correspondent of a local paper states:—There are now more Indian Princes in London than there have been for 20 years. They are here to attend a Conference of the Chamber of Princes. The picturesque Maharajah of Patiala, who is the Chancellor of the Chamber, arrived today. He is the second wealthiest of India's Princes. Only nine of the Princes are members of the Standing Committee which is now assembling in London, but 30 others are attending to consider the treaties which bind them to the British Empire. The Maharajah of Patiala's income is estimated at £900,000 yearly. He owns a fleet of 20 motor-cars. When previously in London he brought a mountain of luggage, engaged 100 rooms in a West End hotel, and brought two special cooks to make his curries. The Maharajah of Kashmir, formerly Sir Hari Singh, arrives on Wednesday. His income is £1,000,000 annually. His last visit to the West cost £500,000. "These Royal millionaires, whose amassed wealth and jewels would pay the National Debt of most countries, remain until October."

This reminds us of a speech delivered by Mahatma Gandhi some years back on the occasion of the opening of the Benares Hindu University in which he said:—"His Highness the Maharajah who presided yesterday over our deliberations spoke about the poverty of India. Other speakers laid great stress upon it. But what did we witness in the great pandal in which the foundation ceremony was performed by the Viceroy. Certainly a most gorgeous show, an exhibition of jewellery which made a splendid feast for the eyes of the greatest jeweller who chose to come from Paris. I compare with the richly bedecked nobleman the millions of the poor. And I feel like saying to these nobleman, "There is no salvation for India unless you strip yourselves of this jewellery and hold it in trust for your countrymen in India." I am sure it is not the desire of the King Emperor or Lord Hardinge that in order to show the truest loyalty to our King-Emperor, it is necessary for us to ransack our jewellery boxes and to appear bedecked from top to toe. I would undertake, at the peril of my life, to bring to you a message from King George himself that he expects nothing of the kind."

Mahatma Gandhi writing of the late Mr. Maganlal Gandhi in *Young India* pays a touching tribute to his many great qualities. He says:—"He was my hands, my feet and my eyes. The world knows so little of how much my so called greatness depends upon the incessant toil and drudgery of silent, devoted, able and pure workers, men as well as women. And among them all Maganlal was to me the greatest, the best and the purest. As I am penning these lines, I hear the sobs of the widow bewailing the death of her dear husband. Little does she realise that I am more widowed than she. And but for a living faith in God, I should become a raving maniac for the loss of one who was dearer to me than my own sons, who never once deceived me or failed me, who was a personification of industry, who was the watchdog of the Ashram in all

its aspects—material, moral and spiritual. His life is an inspiration for me, a standing demonstration of the efficacy and the supremacy of the moral law. In his own life he proved visibly for me not for a few days, not for a few months, but for twenty-four long years,—now alas all too short—that service of the country, service for humanity and self-realisation of knowledge of God are synonymous terms."

The *Bihar Herald* understands on good authority that the late Lord Sinha left about a crore and a half. The eldest son, the heir to the barony, has been left Rs. 55 lakhs, two other sons twenty lakhs each, another son and Lady Sinha a monthly allowance of rupees four thousand and each of his three daughters one lakh and the same sum to charity. The entire accumulation, says our contemporary, was from his income at the bar. During his official career he made no savings whatever.

LICENSING DIFFICULTIES

THE decision of the Supreme Court (Natal Provincial Division) in the case of *A. V. Moodley vs. Maritzburg Corporation* which appears elsewhere in this issue is but another proof of the absolute incompetency of the Licensing Officer as well as the Municipal Council to decide such cases. Having no power to pass discriminating laws under the Union Act the Provincial Legislature has tried to achieve the same end by turning and twisting language. But the intention of the administrative body being evil they betray their mind every time. They may or may not be ashamed of it; but we are more concerned about the poor Indian seeking some means of livelihood who is hard hit by it. Think of the untold hardship he has to undergo and the unnecessary waste of time and expense he is put to. This policy of the authorities is justifiably interpreted by the Indian community as being one to make life as inconvenient and as unbearable as possible for the Indian that he may eventually take advantage of the Assisted Emigration Scheme. We have not interpreted the scheme in this light. We would not have given our consent to it if we had. Nor have we understood the Agreement between the Union and the Indian Governments to

be any other than an honourable one and we expect it to be kept honourably by the parties concerned. If the Indian who chooses to remain here is expected to live up to what is called the Western standard fullest opportunity will have to be given him to do so. He can never attain that standard if education facilities are given him as grudgingly as have been by the Provincial Administration. He can never attain that standard if he is molested at every turn he takes to exercise a right which is the natural right of every human-being. He cannot attain that standard if he is to be looked down upon and constantly insulted on the ground of his race or nationality. If these things are to continue for ever there is hardly any hope of the lot of the Indian improving in this country and the Agreement which we are trying to nurture as much as we can will not have a very long life. It is time that steps were taken to remove such difficulties as the licensing difficulties. The latest decision of the Supreme Court points out to the urgent need of it and it also proves what grave injustices the Indian would be subjected to at the hands of the Licensing Officers and Licensing Boards if the Courts of justice were closed to him. Relief in this respect has been provided in the Agreement and the matter should be treated just as important as any other.

Successful Licensing Appeal

Important Supreme Court Decision

Council's Excess Of Discrimination

Maritzburg, June 12.—In the Natal Provincial Division of the Supreme Court to-day, before the Judge-President, Sir John Dove Wilson, and Mr. Justice Mathews, an important decision was given on a licensing appeal.

The parties to the dispute were Arryvigry, Valoo, Moodley v. Maritzburg Corporation.

Applicant, an Indian of Maritzburg, applied for licences as a restaurant keeper and mineral water dealer for premises known as 83 Church Street, Maritzburg. His application (which was in effect for a transfer of the licence from one G. K. Padayachee) was refused, the Licensing Officer, in his reasons, stating that it was "contrary to public interest that additional facilities should be granted or fresh interests created in favour of persons other than Europeans in respect of premises situated in Upper Church Street."

An appeal to the Town Council was dismissed, and applicant now applied for an order setting aside the decision and remitting the case back to the Licensing officer for hearing, on the grounds that

the licences had been illegally refused in pursuance of a policy of racial discrimination.

Mr. Barclay Lloyd, K.C., with him Mr. Von Gerard (of Messrs. Von Gerard & Chapman) appeared for applicant.

Mr. Hime (of Messrs. A. Hime & Co.) appeared for the respondent Corporation.

No Reasons Disclosed

In giving judgment, his Lordship, the Judge-President, said that the record did not disclose any reasons by the Council. It merely appeared that they upheld the Licensing Officer's decision, and adopted his reasons. It had been suggested by counsel that the Council may have been actuated by something else, but in the absence of anything to the contrary it might be assumed that the Council's reasons were the same as those of the Licensing Officer.

The Licensing Officer had very fully and clearly set out his reasons for refusing the licence. He had taken evidence upon his requirement that grounds be shown for giving a licence in the locality to non-Europeans. The reasons which actuated his judgment showed that in his opinion a number of Indian licences in the locality had depreciated the value of the property, and that the policy was to confine such licences to premises in the locality of Retief Street. He stated that it was not desirable that the business contemplated should be carried in the locality in respect of which it was sought (under Section 214 of Ordinance 19 of 1924), and stated that fresh rights to Indians would not be given in the locality, except in very special exceptional circumstances.

Objection To Nationality

It was quite clear, therefore, that the reason for the refusal of the licence was not an objection to the business contemplated, as a business, and it was perfectly clear that the objection to the applicant was that he belonged to a race which was non-European. Apart from that there appeared to be no objection to applicant. The Licensing Officer, in taking the course he had, was proceeding on the powers which conceived to be granted under Section 214 (3) (1) of Ordinance 19 of 1924. While that gave the Council no doubt a very large discretion, it could not be taken, in view of the authorities, that a general power of this kind gave a right to refuse a licence simply on the ground of nationality or race of the applicant.

In the case of *Nanabhai v. Johannesburg Municipality* (11, Prentice-Hall, D 8), where the local authority decided under Section 6 (ii) of Ordinance 12 of 1926 identical with Section 214 (3) (1) of our Ordinance, to refuse an Asiatic a licence upon that ground, Mr. Justice Greenberg had sent the case back, relying upon the case of *Suliman Tayob v. Magistrate, Potchefstroom* (1920 T.P.D., 281), to the circumstances of which his Lordship referred, and portions of the judgment of Judge-President De Villiers. Unless the Legislature has given a municipal body a power to discriminate, it had no power to discriminate between classes of the community. This principle had been laid down in this Court in *Naidoo v. Maritzburg Corporation* (1917, N.P.D.)

Excess Of Discrimination

The licence in this case had been refused solely on the ground that the applicant was a non-European. There had, therefore, been a discretion in excess of the Council's jurisdiction, and the case would be sent back to the Licensing Officer to consider the matter anew.

His Lordship Mr. Justice Mathews delivered a concurring judgment.

The application was accordingly allowed with costs.—*Natal Mercury*.

Provincial Council Debate On Indian Education

Full Subsidy To Be Spent This Year

In the Provincial Council last week, the Administrator moved the insertion of a new sub-head, "The Education of Indian children—expansion, £9,000" in the Education vote.

The Administrator did this to give effect to the recommendations of the Indian Education Commission. Members had read the Commission's report, and would realise why this vote was being increased.

Mr. Johnson thought the Council should have some information as to how the amount of £9,000 was arrived at.

Mr. Bawden expressed disappointment that the report of the Indian Commission was not presented to the House, so that members could give their views upon it. The report should have been brought forward for acceptance or otherwise by the Council.

Mr. Thrash said he was glad they were not going to have an opportunity of discussing the matter. The Commission was to be congratulated that they were able, in view of the diverse opinions held by the members, to come to a unanimous decision.

No one in the House would dispute the fact that the Indians had a great grievance in that sufficient money was not expended on their education, went on Mr. Thrash, and the fact that the Commission had openly tackled the matter, and candidly admitted it, and that the report was openly unanimous, had justified the Executive in laying the report on the table instead of having it specially discussed. He did not think any good purpose would be served by a full dress debate on the subject.

Mr. Pepworth thought Natal had a just grievance against the Government, because he did not think they had entered fairly into the spirit of Union in dealing with this question. The Province, he said, was saddled with responsibility for the education of the Indians; and the Indians were not allowed to spread over the other parts of South Africa. Was that just? He contended that it was not, and he hoped the Executive would give a full explanation as to what they intended to do.

Mr. Dyson said no one went on to the Indian Commission more reluctantly than he did. He felt that they had to deal with a case which had been prejudged by the agreement made with the Government of India by the Union Government.

The policy in the past, continued Mr. Dyson, had been to prevent the development of the Indian population in the matter of education beyond a certain point. He still claimed that that policy at that time was in harmony with the wishes of the majority of the people of Natal.

When the agreement was effected, said the speaker, the Executive first of all sought a conference with the Union Government, and the Commission was eventually appointed. They appointed men who were opponents of the new policy of the Union Government; and considering the matter from the point of view that all sections of the population had a right to education it could not be disputed that they had not given sufficient education to the Indian children.

The Indian community, declared Mr. Dyson, had a right to claim that the subsidy of five guineas per

head for Indian education should be spent on Indian education, and that would be no hardship to the Europeans. He was satisfied that the Education Department could put the salary scale of the Indian teachers on a satisfactory footing, and give the Indian children primary education that would be satisfactory to the Indian community out of the £9,000 it was proposed to place on the estimates.

The Executive, went on the speaker, would ask the Union Government to place at their disposal if it was possible the amount of money standing to the credit of the Indian Immigration Trust Board for the erection of new Indian school buildings. About £4 out of the £5 5s. 0d. would go towards paying better salaries to the teachers of the Government-aided schools.

With regard to the training college, for which a sum of £20,000 had been raised by Mr. Sastri, Mr. Dyson said the desire had been expressed by Mr. Sastri to have it equipped with a staff of Indians under a European head. He (Mr. Dyson) now understood that the present Acting Superintendent of Education was satisfied that he could start the college without having to import teachers from India.

Mr. Macaulay remarked that the hon. member for Dundee had refreshed their memories as to what the report contained.

Many critics of the Council and of the Indian Education Commission, went on Mr. Macaulay, were inclined to overlook the history of the Indian question in Natal. There was a period when the question was in the melting pot; and the Council had rightly adopted the attitude that the time was not ripe for them to make a forward move, because if the Council had spent additional sums in providing additional schools they might have found that these schools were where they ought not to be if the Union Government adopted a policy of segregation.

To-day the position was changed, went on the speaker. He would, however, have been glad to have had details as to the number of Indian children in the province, and the number who were being educated, and also the history of the numbers during the last ten years or so.

He sympathised to a considerable extent, declared Mr. Macaulay, with the attitude taken up by the Superintendent of Education as to the necessity to give improved education to Indian children; but the Council could not be expected, with a magnificent gesture, to vote £50,000 right off. They had not the facilities to-day for the spending of the money; therefore the policy of the Executive to go slowly was a sound one.

Mr. Lidgett emphasised that the £9,000 they were inserting in the estimates was to expand the work. The sum, he said, was not based on anything in particular. They had yet to find out what actual demands were going to be made and the number of children that would come forward. The sum of £9,000 would be quite enough to provide for immediate expansion.

Mr. Hollander said that roughly the number of children in the Indian schools at present was 8,000; and the subsidy of five guineas a head produced £42,000. In the estimates they had provided £33,000; and that accounted for the sum of £9,000 being moved in the Estimates; so that the whole of the subsidy received for Indian children might be spent upon them.

The sub-head was inserted, and the Education Vote, as amended was passed. —Natal Witness.

The Imperial Conference will not meet until 1930 at the earliest, according to the London Daily News Lobby correspondent, mainly because of the General Election in Great Britain and the elections in Australia and South Africa.

Natal's Missed Chance

The Cape Times dated June 1, has the following leading article on the Indian Education Inquiry Committee's report:—

The Natal Provincial Council Committee of Inquiry on Indian education has reported. The Committee does not seek to deny, though it does not candidly admit, the deplorable inadequacy of existing school facilities for Indian pupils. It proposes as an immediate palliative, the extension of grant-aided schools, and higher pay and improved conditions of service for teachers in all Indian schools throughout the Province. The Committee, however, has no idea that Provincial revenues should be burdened with any part of the additional cost. Natal is already short of funds; the Committee will not recommend an increase in general taxation, and sense of shame prevents it from suggesting a special tax on Indians. In these circumstances, the financial recommendations are illuminating: (a) The whole of the Union subsidy received in respect of Indian pupils should in future be applied to Indian Education, (b) A large immediate increase of attendance may be expected. The main stimulus of this anticipated increase is the Cape Town Agreement, the work of the Union Government. Therefore the Union should pay the bill. It is accordingly suggested that the basis of the Union subsidy should for the next few years be changed from the attendance figures of the year last ended to those of the current year. (c) The Union Government should subsidise the proposed Indian Training College on similar lines to the European Training. (d) Money for capital expenditure on new buildings, improvements, and equipment should be provided by a raid on the funds held by the Indian Immigration Trust Board.

That is all. Virtually, the report has nothing else to say. Its omissions, indeed, are the only notable feature of this undistinguished document. There is no description of the defects of the present system, no account of the needs of the several centres and districts, nor any indication in what places action is most urgently required. Everything is generalised down to the very extremity of vagueness. "A more liberal basis" for salary scales, etc., is recommended. But how much more liberal? Not so much as a hint is given, and the very definite proposals of Mr. Kichu's memorandum are not even referred to. No mention is made of the attitude of the Indian community towards the problem, or of the extent to which Indians may be expected to help with funds or services. There is no attempt whatever to formulate any guiding principles for future policy. So slovenly is the report in thought and expression that it cannot even say what it means:

"... the full amount earned by Indian school-going children will hardly be sufficient to finance the proposed alteration of salary-scales in grant-aided schools. Your Committee is of opinion that the total amount of Indian education subsidy should be allocated to that service."

What service? The plain English of the thing is unambiguous: the service in question is the financing of the new salary-scales in grant-aided schools. But what the Committee is trying to say is that it thinks the whole of the Union subsidy received in respect of Indian pupils should be spent on Indian education generally. This example is typical of the report, which suggests the work of men who are either deliberately trifling with the issue or who constitutionally lack the capacity to reach any effective grasp of it.

Considered as a contribution to statesmanship the report is a pitiable joke. Starting from the narrowest possible interpretation of their terms of reference, the Committee tacitly assumes as the basis

of its work that the Provincial Council has no duty but to give effect to contemporary views of the unenlightened mass of local Europeans. This, of course, is the inevitable result of the absurd and disingenuous decision by which the Provincial Executive appointed itself to report to itself. The Committee of Inquiry, being well aware of the danger that it might be charged with carrying into effect its own recommendations, was naturally careful only to recommend on points which fell within the sphere of some authority other than the Provincial. The initial error of personnel has, indeed, vitiated and made worthless the whole investigation. We fully credit the Committee with a genuine desire to do what it can for Indian education, provided it does not entail any additional expense or effort for Natal. The attitude implies a real change from the pre-Agreement policy of restriction, and, pusillanimous as it is, Mr. Sastri probably welcomes it, if only because there is so little else for him to welcome. But this unenterprising desire is not enough in a question of this magnitude. The Natal Provincial Executive had here an unique opportunity for a big-minded endeavour to reach a long view and to lead opinion. Had it resolutely kept in mind such matters as the future relations of Africa and India, the cohesion of the Empire for which its members profess such passionate loyalty, and the evolution of a South African nation from the present diverse and conflicting racial elements into a harmonious whole, it might have produced a report that would have been a light to guide for a generation and more. Instead, it is lazily content to offer to the country a document vague, barren, and perfunctory, which may possibly see the light of half a day in the waste-paper basket before passing into eternal oblivion. Injured self-importance at a fancied slight from the Union Government, combined with traditional anti-Asiatic prejudice, has proved too much for this stalwart Committee. If its members made any effort to rise above these puerile limitations, it was not strenuous enough to make any practical difference to their work. The faint stirrings in them of candour and fair play have once again been swiftly overlaid by the pressure of their environment. The best that can happen to their report is to be forgotten before it can be mistaken in Great Britain or India as a representative of South African political sagacity.

Boycott Of Simon Commission

Some Interesting Facts

The Bulletin of the Indian Information Centre which is published in London with the object of "providing reliable information of Indian life and affairs by recording the essential facts without political bias" publishes in the current number some information of Boycott of the Simon Commission in India which we have no doubt will be read with interest in this country:—

To understand something of the opposition in India to the Royal Commission it is necessary to trace the reaction to the various steps taken by the appointment of the Commission and its functions. The announcement appears to have met with misfortune at every stage. A number of Indian leaders of distinctly moderate schools of thought, who had come to England during the summer, on hearing the rumour that the Commission was about to be appointed, went back with the feeling that they were given the cold shoulder while they were in this country. On their return to India, disappointed and embittered, they were summoned by the Viceroy to Simla, they say, not to give him advice but merely to be informed that the Secretary of State had made

up his mind and had decided upon an entirely British Commission. They were not asked to comment upon this decision, but were asked to go back to their provinces, keep the matter secret and prepare public opinion so that the announcement, when ultimately made, should be favourably received. These leaders felt that they were being treated like subordinate officials called upon to do a difficult and unpleasantly delicate piece of work for the Government. They say they regarded the whole procedure as just one more instance of the attitude of friendliness combined with patronage, of intimacy with aloofness, that the Englishman in India almost invariably adopts towards the Indian. They went back to their homes feeling that the worst expressions used by the extremists about the English were fully justified.

It is widely said in India that the Secretary of State did not consult the Indian members of his Council in arriving at the decision to have a purely British Commission, for even if the Commission was to be a purely parliamentary one, there was still a possibility of appointing to it Lord Sinha, who was one of the initiators of the Montagu Reforms, had worked with the late Mr. Montagu in shaping the Act, and had piloted it through the House of Lords as Under-Secretary of State for India.

The debate in Parliament on the Commission did nothing to help the Liberals in India. Lord Birkenhead emphasised the "impartiality" of the seven members of the Commission, whom he referred to as "the jurors," but he left vague and undefined the powers, the status and the method of selection of the Committee of the Indian Legislatures, nor did Mr. MacDonald's insistent reference to this Committee as "the Commission of the Indian Parliament" help matters. His speech seems to have created confusion in the Indian mind. His message to India accusing the Indian leaders of standing in the way of India's progress towards freedom aroused angry retorts and did not help Moderate leaders to revise their attitude towards the Commission. The Labour Party in Parliament, headed by Mr. MacDonald, did, it is true, put the following proposals to Lord Birkenhead, namely, that the Indian Central Legislative Committee (and it is presumed other Committees) should sit jointly with the Commission; take part in the examination of witnesses and make suggestions to the Chairman on the questions to be put to the witnesses; and should have the right (1) to suggest further examination of the witnesses or call for other evidence in rebuttal; (2) to have access to all papers even of a confidential nature; (3) to be consulted before the Commission made its recommendations; (4) to join in the recommendations if in agreement with the Commission, or, if in disagreement, to record minutes which shall be placed before Parliament; also that when legislation based on the recommendations of the Commission is before the Parliamentary Select Committee, the Indian Committee shall be placed on an equal footing with the members of the Commission. But the announcement that the Labour Party fully agreed with the principle of a purely Parliamentary Commission and that, should it come to power, it will not choose any other mode of dealing with the problem, dashed Indian hopes once more. The Doncaster speech of Lord Birkenhead, delivered just a day or two before the debate on the Commission in the Indian Legislative Assembly, saying that the Assembly may do what it likes, but the Commission will go on its own way, made even a moderate like the Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya speak of the Secretary of State as a "big bully." It completed the creation of the psychologically unfavourable and hostile feeling in which Sir John Simon's offer of joint free Conferences was received. The atmosphere was further aggravated by the fact that a message which the Chairman of the Labour Party sent to the leaders of all shades of

political opinion in India, and in which was enumerated what Lord Birkenhead was spoken of as having agreed to as the price of the Labour Party's co-operation, were not found to be embodied in the offer which Sir John Simon made in his letter to the Viceroy. The result was that even Responsivists like Mr. Jayakar, who up till then had been watching the development of events, have cast in their lot with the boycotters, and the ultimate development of the movement is unpredictable.

Untouchables and the Simon Commission

Mr. Gandhi writes in *Young India*:—"Notwithstanding our opposition, the Commission, backed as it is by British bayonets, will go its own way. Where it cannot get *bona fide* recognition, it will be manufactured for it. Did not a so-called deputation on behalf of "untouchables" welcome the Commission as its true deliverers? Claiming to know the "untouchables" more than the members of the deputation, I make bold to assert that they no more represented the "untouchables" than would a party of Japanese, for instance.

The Story of My Experiments With Truth

[BY M. K. GANDHI]

Part IV. Chapter XVI.

THE BLACK PLAGUE—II

The Town Clerk expressed his gratefulness to me for having taken charge of the vacant house and the patients, and frankly confessed that the Town Council had no immediate means to cope with such an emergency but that they would render all the help in their power. Once awakened to a sense of its duty, the Municipality made no delay in taking prompt measures.

The next day they placed a vacant godown at my disposal, and suggested that the patients be removed there but the Municipality did not undertake to clean the premises. The building was unkempt and unclean. We cleaned it up ourselves, raised a few beds and other necessaries through the offices of charitable Indians, and improvised a temporary hospital. The Municipality lent the services of a nurse, who came with brandy and hospital equipments. Dr. Godfrey still remained in charge.

The nurse was a kindly lady and would fain have attended to the patients, but we rarely allowed her to touch the patients, lest she should catch the contagion.

We had instructions to give the patients frequent doses of brandy. The nurse would even ask us to take it for precaution, just as she did herself. But none of us would touch it. I had no faith even in its beneficial effect for the patients. With the permission of Dr. Godfrey, I put three patients who were prepared to do without brandy under the earth treatment, applying wet earth bandages to their heads and chests. Two of these were saved. Twenty died whilst still in the godown.

Meanwhile the Municipality was busy taking other measures. There was a lazaretto for contagious diseases about seven miles from Johannesburg. The three surviving patients were removed to tents near the lazaretto, and arrangements were made to send fresh cases also there. We were thus relieved from our work.

In the course of a few days we learnt that the good news had had its effect and immediately

cumbed. It is impossible to say how the two patients were saved and we remained immune, but the experience enhanced my faith in earth treatment as also my diffidence in the efficacy of brandy even as a medicine. I know that neither this faith nor the diffidence are based upon any solid grounds, but I cannot efface the impression which I then formed, and which I still retain, and have therefore thought it necessary to take note of it here.

On the outbreak of the plague, I had addressed a strong letter to the press holding the Municipality responsible for the negligence after the location came into its possession and for the outbreak of the plague itself. This letter secured me Mr. Henry Polak, and was partly responsible for the friendship of the late Rev. Joseph Doke.

I have said in the earlier chapter, that I used to have my meals at a vegetarian restaurant. Here I met Mr. Albert West. We used to meet here every evening and go out walking after dinner. Mr. West was a partner in a small printing press. He read my letter in the press about the outbreak of the plague, and not finding me in the restaurant felt uneasy.

My co-workers and I had reduced our diet since the outbreak, as I had long made it a rule to go on a light diet during epidemics. I had therefore given up my evening dinner these days. Lunch also I would finish before the other guests arrived. I knew the proprietor of the restaurant very well, and I had informed him that as I was engaged in nursing the plague patients I wanted to avoid the contact of friends as much as possible.

Not finding me in the restaurant for a day or two Mr. West knocked at my door one early morning just as I was getting ready to go out for a walk. As I opened the door Mr. West said: 'I did not find you in the restaurant and was really afraid lest something might have happened to you. So I decided to come and see you in the morning in order to make sure of finding you at home. Well, here I am at your disposal. I am ready to help in nursing the patients. You know that I have no one depending upon me.'

I expressed my gratefulness, and answered without taking even a second to think: 'I will not have you as a nurse. If there are no more cases, we should be free in a day or two. There is one thing however.'

'Yes, what is it?'

'Could you take charge of the *Indian Opinion* Press at Durban? Mr. Madanjit is likely to be engaged here, and some one is needed there. If you could go, I should feel quite relieved on that score.'

'You know that I have a press. Most probably I will go, but may I give my final reply in the evening? We shall talk it over during our evening walk.'

I was delighted. We had the talk. He agreed to go. Salary was no consideration to him, as money was not his motive. But a salary of £10 per month and a part of the profit if any was fixed up. The very next day Mr. West left for Durban by the evening mail, entrusting me with the recovery of his dues. From that day until the time I left the shores of South Africa, he remained a partner of my joys and sorrows.

Mr. West belonged to a peasant family in South (Lincolnshire), had had an ordinary school education, but had learnt a good deal in the school of experience and by dint of self-help. I have always known him to be a pure, sober, God-fearing, and humane Englishman.

We shall know more about him and his family in the chapters to follow.

Chapter XVII.

LOCATION IN FLAMES

Though my co-workers and I were relieved of the charge of patients, there were many things arising out of the black plague still to be disposed of.

I have dealt with the negligence of the Municipality about the location. But it was wide awake so far as the health of its white citizens was concerned. It had spent large amounts for the preservation of the health of its white citizens, and now it poured money like water for scotching the plague. In spite of the many sins of omission and commission against the Indians that I laid at the door of the Municipality, I could not help commending its solicitude for the white citizens and I rendered it as much help as I could in its laudable efforts. I have an impression that if I had withheld my co-operation, the task would have been more difficult for the Municipality, and it would not have hesitated to use armed force and do its worst.

But all that was averted. The Municipal authorities were pleased over the Indians' behaviour and much of the future work regarding plague measures was simplified. I used all the influence I could command with the Indians to make them submit to the requirements of the Municipality. It was far from easy for the Indians to go all that length, but I do not remember any one having resisted my advice.

The location was put under a strong guard, passage in and out being made impossible without permission. My co-workers and I had free permits of entry and exit. The object was to make all the location population to vacate it and live under canvas for three weeks in an open plain about thirteen miles from Johannesburg and then to set fire to the location. The settling down under canvas with provisions and other necessaries was bound to take some time, and a guard became necessary during the interval.

The people were in an awful fright, but my constant presence was a consolation to them. Many of the poor people used to hoard their scanty savings underground. This had to be unearthed. They had no bank, they knew none. I became their bank. Streams of money poured into my office. I could not possibly charge any fees for my labour in such a crisis. I coped with the work somehow. I knew the bank manager very well. I told him that I would have to deposit with him these moneys. The banks were by no means anxious to accept large amounts of copper and silver. There was also the fear of bank clerks refusing to touch money coming from a plague-affected area. But the manager accommodated me in every way. It was decided to dis-infect all the money before sending it to the bank. Nearly sixty thousand pounds were thus deposited, so far as I can remember. I advised such of them as had enough money to place it as fixed deposit, and they accepted the advice. The result was that some people became accustomed to invest their money in banks.

The location residents were removed by special train to Klipspruit Farm near Johannesburg where they were supplied with provisions by the Municipality at its expense. The city under canvas looked like a military camp. The people who were unaccustomed to this camp life were distressed and astonished over the arrangements, but they had not to put up with any particular inconvenience. I used to cycle to them once every day. Three weeks' stay in the open air evidently improved their health. Within twenty-four hours of their stay they forgot all their misery and began to live merrily. Whenever I went there I found them enjoying themselves with song and mirth.

So far as I recollect the location was put to the

flames on the very next day of its evacuation. The Municipality showed not the slightest inclination to save anything from the conflagration. About this very time, and for the same reason, the Municipality had burnt down all its timber in the market, and incurred a loss of about ten thousand pounds. The reason for this drastic step was the discovery of some dead rats in the market.

The Municipality had to go in for heavy expenditure, but it successfully arrested the further progress of the plague, and the city breathed freely once more

News In Brief

The deck-passengers of the *s.s. Karagola* which arrived at Durban Port last Wednesday are quarantined owing to small-pox cases having taken place during the voyage. They have been removed to Salisbury Island from where they are expected to be released on Monday.

The appeal in the case of Rex vs. Messrs. Medh and Pragjee Deesai was heard at Bloemfontein last Wednesday. The result is yet awaited.

The Rt. Hon. Srinivasa Sastri arrives in Durban from the Transvaal during the week-end and will stay at Mr. E. M. Paruk's residence at Curry Road.

The Indian Trade Delegation has arrived in Durban to-day after an extensive tour of the Union. The delegation proceeds to India by the Indian mail boat sailing on Monday. We wish them *bon voyage*.

Mr. K. F. Kiehl and Miss Gordon who after their Rhodesian tour have recently arrived in Johannesburg are expected to arrive in Durban about the end of next week.

Sporting News

Overport Social Club

The Secretary of the Overport Tennis Club writes:—

A very enjoyable afternoon was spent at the opening function of the Overport Tennis Club, on the 10th, June 1928 which is founded by the Overport Social Club. After the Presidential speech by Mr. S. T. Dhary, who thanked those present and explained the difficulties in obtaining the site and also thanked those who so generously contributed and expressed his heartfelt thanks to the landlord Mr. S. K. Pillay, who came to the rescue in granting the site of a low annual rental. Thereafter Mr. S. K. Maharaj the secretary read a few of the various letters of congratulations received from those invited. The various Clubs and few prominent gentlemen were called upon to speak. It is noteworthy to record the remarks made by a few of how the Overport district is progressing in various respects. The Chairman then called upon Mr. C. Sewduth, one of the Patrons to speak a few words and to formally open the Court, whereupon Mr. Sewduth thanked the Club for conferring the honour and promised that in the near future he would present a trophy to the Club, then proceeded to the entrance of the court and cut the ribbons and struck two balls with a monogrammed racket. After the opening light refreshments were served by the Club and the visitors were musically entertained. The rest of the afternoon was open for the visiting Clubs who partook in the games.

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