

Indian Opinion

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NOTES AND NEWS

WE welcome the arrival at Durban of Mr. S. Surinarayana Rau of the Kola Gold Mines, Mysore. Mr. Rau is a Mining Engineer and he arrives in this country as a Delegate to the Congress of the Mining Engineers of the British Empire, which is to be held at Capetown on the 24th instant. After the termination of the Congress Mr. Rau hopes to spend at least two months at the Rand with a view to studying mining as it is carried on in this country. We hope Mr. Rau will have a pleasant stay in South Africa.

An inspection of the proposed site for the new early morning Indian Market in Durban was made recently by the Marketmaster and Councillor M. Cornelius. The site is Corporation land over three acres in extent at the junction of Victoria Street Extension and Warwick Avenue. The site was suggested by Mr. Cornelius, and the estimate for the building of the market is understood to be £1,500. The scheme, if it is adopted, will mean the banishing from the gutters of Victoria Street the picturesque but unhygienic "squatter" market. It is also understood that part of the scheme will be the widening of the present bridge over the railway line in Victoria Street. On this point the Railway Administration and the Town Council recently came to an agreement.—*Natal Mercury.*

A scheme to simplify and improve the existing system of controlling and issuing trade licences in Natal will be discussed at a conference of provincial licensing officers to be held in the Durban Town Hall, on Monday April 7. The president of the Natal Municipal Association (Councillor W. M. Goodwin, Newcastle) will preside. Mr. W. H. Pitcher, licensing officer, Estcourt, will submit a memorandum which will form the basis of the discussion at the conference. The terms of reference of the conference are: "To discuss the whole question of the licence laws applicable to Natal and the practice and procedure in regard to the issue of trade licences thereunder, with the object of formulating and submitting recommendations for consideration of the Natal Municipal Association."

The *Natal Advertiser* writes:—

There is no sign of any diminution in the native boycott of the municipal beer halls. The latest development is a strongly worded resolution of protest against the municipal monopoly of beer sales, adopted at a mass meeting of the Durban branch of the Natal Native Congress. This resolution, which has been communicated to the Town Clerk, reads: "That the Natal Native Congress (Durban branch) has no connection whatsoever with the beer boycott, but that the sale of beer as a money making concern is a bad principle, and that this meeting has decided to request the president to petition the Government against the sale of kafir beer and the withdrawal of the monopoly scheme. That this meeting requests the members of the Durban Town Council to introduce measures

to uplift the black race other than the sale of kafir beer which is degenerating and barbarous, whatever the pecuniary benefit."

OUR GIRLS


IN a previous issue we referred to the opening of the Mitchell Crescent School as a High School for our Girls. Hitherto the facilities for the education of our girls have been very meagre and we have more than once appealed for an extension of those facilities. The Indian parents have always been averse to sending their girls to mixed schools. And this aversion no doubt accounts for the considerable illiteracy that exists amongst the older girls.

Mr. Hugh Bryan, the Superintendent of Education, in opening a High School for our girls, has taken a step that has been hailed with delight by the Indian community of Natal. But that is not all. Nothing would be more gratifying to Mr. Bryan than to see that the Girls' High School is being well attended.

At one of the meetings of the Indo-European Council, one of the lady members, who happens to be a Teacher at the school, mentioned that the attendance at the school was not encouraging. We are informed that the number of girls attending the school is 38. This is certainly a most discouraging piece of news. Some of the lady teachers in the school have served well at the Carlisle Street Indian School. Many of our students who were successful in the two Cape examinations owe a great deal for their success to these ladies. And our girls are therefore extremely fortunate in securing the services of these ladies. They are sincere in their work and their one object is to see an army of educated girls. It is therefore imperative that these noble ladies should be encouraged in their work. We cannot but admit that the school offers a golden opportunity to our girls. We sincerely hope the Indian parents will seize

this opportunity. The future of the coming generation can be assured if our girls receive their education.

A LAST APPEAL

 NCE again a crisis is confronting the Indian community of the Union generally, and the Transvaal section of the people in particular.

Once again it finds itself arraigned on certain charges; called upon to justify itself. No peace! No rest! Well may our people be excused if to high heaven goes up the cry "How long, Lord? How long?"

As has often been pointed out, our difficulties all turn upon the point of status.

The point was emphasised by Mr. Ritch when appearing before the Rooth Commission in 1919. The point is being stressed by the Transvaal Indian Congress in its statement to the Select Committee of 1930.

A ghetto people; aliens and undesirables, to be tolerated only to the extent that it cannot be exterminated! A Naboth, whose little vineyard, even, may not be left to him! Is it to be always and ever thus?

Storm and then lull, during which the people is encouraged to enjoy the Fools Paradise of a false security; during which the forces of intolerance and reaction do but gather fresh strength for a further attack.

The door to any further influx being closed, we were to be afforded the ordinary facilities for so-called "upliftment" (vide the "Gentleman's Agreement.") Not unreasonably, many construed this as a sort of waiver of the licensing and trading restrictions imposed under the 1919 Statute. Certificates were granted, licences were obtained and paid for, capital invested, commitments made. But, apparently, the "upliftment" has proceeded too rapidly! Has been taken too literally! Has included a dimension too many! And so the promised "upliftment," the implied improved status, the recognition of the Indian unit as an integer to be builded into the body corporate, is to be clogged with the stipulation, "provided you do not move outside of your Ghetto restrictions, provided you do not encroach upon the trading reserves, and of course, the fixed-property privileges, of the enfranchised." This may mean, nay assuredly will mean, red ruin to by far the majority of Indian traders, if the forces of reaction are

allowed to prevail. It must entail nothing short of beggary for the whole families of a people whose crime is—it has been said of us, for us—that they possess virtues, not vices, for which they are feared.

Must we ever be confronted with the irony of "The Pious Editor's Creed"—of believing in Freedom's cause, as far away as Paris is—but not too near our own hearth? Must Power continue to be a synonym for oppression of the voiceless and unrepresented, instead of being, as it should be, the handmaiden of Service, the prerogative of the Protector? How long, Lord? How long?

Indian Social Service Committee And Mr. V. Lawrence

On the morning of the 14th instant, when we were about to go to Press, we received a lengthy article from Mr. Lawrence, the Chairman of the Social Service Committee, purporting to be a reply to the two leading articles we had written. We would have gladly published the article in this week's issue, though it contains no answer to our leading articles, but for the fact that it has already appeared in the columns of our contemporary the *Indian Views* on the 14th instant. One would have expected in all decency, from Mr. Lawrence to await the publication of his lengthy article in our columns before rushing elsewhere. It was humanely impossible for us to publish the article on the 14th March. This incident all the more strengthens our case against the Indian Social Service Committee that all is not well within.

Coloured Women And The Vote

General Hertzog Meets Deputation

Capetown, (Reuter):—An interview took place between a deputation from the African National Bond and General Hertzog on the Women's Enfranchisement Bill, and the following statement on the matter has been issued by the Bond to Reuter's Agency:—

The deputation told the Prime Minister that although they were not against the franchise being extended to European women they had come to voice their disappointment that the coloured women were excluded, as the promise made by the Prime Minister two years ago was not merely to bring forward a Bill for the enfranchisement of European women, but also for civilised coloured women. They felt that the right thing to have done was to await the result of the Native and Coloured Persons' Rights Bill, which, in their opinion, would have prevented another colour bar being placed on the Statute Book.

Lot Of Prejudice

The Prime Minister, in his reply, stated that the reason why the vote could not be given to the coloured women was that there was a lot of prejudice which, he hoped, the deputation realised, and they must not be in too great a hurry and thereby spoil their chances. It would take time, and all they

could do was to plead and further the cause. He said that the white man's prejudice could be overcome. Apart from this feeling, however, the vote could not be extended to the coloured women to-day under the present Bill, because Parliament in 1928 rejected the Coloured Persons' Rights Bill at the instance of the Opposition.

General Horzog regretted that this should have happened, and hoped the error would be rectified. In the meantime, however, they could only give rights to coloured persons if they knew who were coloured and who were natives. He had fought tooth and nail to save the term "coloured person," defined in the Coloured Persons' Rights Bill, and he had been compelled to abandon the Bill at the third reading because he had realised that he could not obtain the necessary two-thirds majority.

General Hertzog hoped, however, the coloured women would come into their rights. At the present time, however, the coloured women could not be given the vote, since to give the vote to the coloured women would be to open the door to the native women.

The Prime Minister further told the deputation that, with reference to his promise made two years ago it still held good, but it could not be carried out until the Native and Coloured Persons' Rights Bills were passed. He instanced the position in the Transvaal and the Free State, where the coloured people had no franchise, and how could the vote be given to their women? He advised the deputation to educate their people on the matter, and he was certain that it would be solved to the satisfaction of all concerned.

But in time they will defeat their own objects. We are governed by a democracy, and, as far as concerns the native, by an ignorant democracy. Our democracy rules the native by means of bureaucracy, the Government native officials being ruled by a democracy which knows nothing of the subject. If you want to govern people you must study them and their ambitions, and it is the duty of the officials to study the native mind. To do this is beyond the average voter, but we can see that the officials of the Native Affairs' Department are experts. At one time the officials knew the languages and we had such men as the Stanfords, the Brownless and the Taborers in charge. We have changed all that, and we send magistrates with no experience of the native into Tembuland.

"We should study the effect upon the native of his contact with civilisation. What are the results upon men who leave their wives and families and come to work in the towns? What happens in the Reserves when they return? It is by these results that the native community is being moulded. This is a matter of the greatest interest to us, and the problem should be a matter of private study as well. It is a problem being worked out in constant and varying phases. The world is watching us and it is our duty to shape a policy whereby the white and black races can live happily. We shall be judged by our success or failure. Before we claim our rights we must see that we have discharged our duties."

At the close of the address a discussion took place, and Lady Dalrymple thanked Mr. Webber for his interesting speech.—*The Star*.

Segregation Will Not Work

Mr. Walter Webber's Address

Mr. Walter Webber was the speaker at the monthly meeting of the Parktown branch of the Women's South African Party held recently at "Blandford," Parktown, the residence of Mrs. Frank Raleigh. Lady Dalrymple presided and there was a large attendance. Mr. Webber first dealt briefly with the three Native Bills now before Parliament. The drafts, he said, had frequently been altered and would be altered in detail, and he, therefore, preferred to speak on the Native question in general.

The Native question was always with us, and was the greatest problem of the country. We heard a great deal about maintaining European civilisation and we must all admit that for many generations to come it would be necessary for the white man to rule. What exactly did we mean by maintaining European civilisation? Did we mean the civilisation emanating from Europe or mean only civilisation for the Europeans in South Africa?

Arguments were used by many in favour of keeping civilisation from the Native. "But," said the speaker, "we cannot get rid of the Natives. We have to live with them. Compulsory segregation will not work. It was tried in 1830 when the Europeans first came in contact with the Bantus in the Eastern Province of the Cape Colony. It broke down and led to wars." The Act of 1913, he continued, did not mean compulsory segregation and it might have worked, for the native is as keen on avoiding contact as the European. "We cannot keep civilisation from the native. Attempts have been made to limit his progress, as for example by that awful law—the Colour Bar Act—which says to 75 per cent. of the inhabitants of the country 'Keep back; we won't allow you to win wealth,'

Death Of Mr. J. Balaram

We regret to record the death which occurred at Dr. Mc Cord's Mission Hospital, Berea, of Mr. J. Balaram, on Saturday last at 5 p.m. His remains were cremated under Hindu rites at the Cato Manor cemetery on the following day, Sunday.

Mr. Balaram was ill for over three months and suffered great pain. He was removed to this hospital where he was operated upon and although the operation in itself was successful, he gradually sank, and on the ninth day after the operation he died.

The late Mr. Balaram was an exceptionally popular young man among the Indian community and in Indian business circles throughout Natal he was well known. He was employed by the South African Oil and Fat Industries Limited, Jacobs, as commercial traveller and their sole Indian representative for Natal, and had very energetically served this firm for over twenty years.

During his long and painful illness, this firm spared no endeavours in assisting towards his recovery, and this consideration and attention on the part of such a big company, and especially the personal interest taken by Mr. C. Lyons, Director, are deeply appreciated.

The late Mr. Balaram was a member of the Indian Merchants' Club, known as the Oriental Club, Isipingo. He was a very charitably disposed man and will be missed by many a poor person. For some time he held the position of Treasurer in connection with the Hindu Temple, Durban.

The funeral was attended by over five hundred men and practically all the Indian organisations were represented.

We extend to his sorrowing widow and his brothers our heartfelt sympathy.

TRANSVAAL INDIAN CONGRESS STATEMENT

TO BE SUBMITTED TO PARLIAMENTARY SELECT COMMITTEE

The following is the statement to be submitted on Tuesday next by the Transvaal Indian Congress, as representing the Indian community of the Transvaal, to the Parliamentary Select Committee now sitting at Capetown to inquire into the Transvaal Licensing Question:—

GENTLEMEN,—The Transvaal Indian Congress, a representative organisation of the Indian community of the Transvaal Province, the signatures of whose duly authorised officers appear at the foot hereof, desires to submit for the kind consideration of this Select Committee the following statement:—

When moving the appointment of this Select Committee the Honourable the Minister (and Chairman of this Committee), is reported to have observed that for the last eighteen months there had existed a state of confusion on the Rand in regard to Indian trading rights and to have added that there were between three hundred and four hundred on the Rand illegally occupying stands on Proclaimed Land and illegally exercising trade thereon.

The Transvaal Indian Congress has endeavoured to obtain detailed information on this point and have furnished me with the following statistics which are now submitted to the Select Committee.

WHOLESALE MERCHANTS

(a) There are about 36 Wholesale Merchants. These are established in the City proper and have been in business continuously from 10 to 30 years.

They represent an aggregate capital of £3,000,000, invested in stock and in addition to outstandings. In most instances they have carried on the premises occupied by them from the beginning of their establishment. They pay import duties on considerable purchases from Overseas running into big figures and, in addition, are extensive and valued customers of local European houses.

Wages paid assistants aggregate approximately £1,600 a month are regulated by and conform to the requirements of the law. One, at least, such wholesale house, Messrs. Teikamias Brothers employs a fairly large European staff under European supervision including six commercial travellers.

RETAIL GENERAL DEALERS

(b) Within the City and including the Suburban Areas about 800. Capital invested approximately £320,000. With perhaps the exception of the small number of Oriental Silk Merchants located in the City proper, the Indian General Dealers carrying on business in suburban areas cater principally for the working class trade and, it is generally conceded, serve an extensive and appreciated need. They are admittedly accommodating, helpful to the poorer section of the community in times of stress and of unemployment and meet the demand of the public that frequently has to purchase in extremely modest quantities and for very little money. This class of trader constitutes a not inconsiderable proportion of customers upon whom the European wholesale houses rely for their turnover.

In issuing certificates for licences, the Johannesburg Municipal Council has been careful to consider the class of neighbourhood for which Indian applicants apply and in practice to endeavour to restrict the granting of new applications to areas known to be chiefly non-European areas or those occupied by the poorer sections of the European community.

REEF AND OTHER PORTIONS OF THE PROCLAIMED AREA

(c) The figures furnished in respect of this field are approximately as follows:—

SPRINGS: 16	BRAKPAN: None	BENONI: None.
BOKSBURG: 1	BOKSBURG NORTH: 1	GERMISTON: None.
Between Springs and Johannesburg, e.g. Denver, Oloveland etc.,		
LANGLAAGTE: 6	MARAISBURG: 3	ROODEPOORT: 22.
KRUGERSDORP: 24	RANDFONTEIN: None.	

On the Western side and outside of either of the above Areas proper:

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS

From as far back as 1885 the principle that in regard to trading rights and privileges, the Indian trader must be held to enjoy similar opportunities to those enjoyed by traders generally has in practice been recognised.

The Townships Amendment Act and the Gold Law of 1908 it is true by implication may be construed as having deprived them of that right over the area affected. Nevertheless, up to June 1919, that is the enactment of the Asiatic Land and Trading Amendment Transvaal Act, the Indian trading community was still uninterfered with and carried on their business without let or hindrance. The net result of the last mentioned Statute, read in conjunction with Acts 34 and 35 of 1908 were summarised in the report of the Asiatic Inquiry Commission of 1921 in the following terms:—

OUTSIDE OF PUBLIC DIGGINGS PROCLAIMED UNDER THE GOLD LAWS

1. They cannot own fixed property anywhere in the Province, either directly or indirectly, i.e. through nominal trustees or limited liability companies, excepting in such localities as the Government may for sanitary reasons assign to them for purposes of residence.
2. They can acquire leasehold rights with respect to fixed property.
3. They can obtain general dealers licences to trade anywhere.

INSIDE PUBLIC DIGGINGS PROCLAIMED UNDER THE GOLD LAWS

(After the promulgation of Acts 34 and 35 of 1908 and Act 37 of 1919.)

- (1) They cannot own fixed property, including stands inside and outside townships directly or indirectly, i.e. through nominal trustees or limited liability companies, anywhere within a public digging except in such localities as the Government may for sanitary reasons assign to them for the purpose of residence.
- (2) They can continue to acquire leases with respect to stands outside townships which have been granted under the Mining Laws prior to 1908.
- (3) They cannot acquire leases in respect to stands outside townships granted after the Gold Law of 1908 came into force.

- (4) They cannot acquire leases with respect to stands inside townships whether now held under the Gold Law title or under a title converted into freehold under the Townships Act No. 34 of 1908.
- (5) They can obtain trading licences to carry on a trade on any of the stands mentioned in (2) and (6) but not in respect of (3) and (4).
- (6) Under the provisions, respectively, of Section 77 and subsection (3) of Section 131 of the Gold Law of 1908, they are safeguarded in the rights they acquired with respect to stands inside and outside townships prior to the passage of that law.
- (7) British Indians who on the 1st of May, 1919 were carrying on a duly licensed business on proclaimed land, or in townships, are exempted from the above disabilities as to trade and residence; they and their bona-fide Asiatic employees, as well as their successor in title, are left undisturbed in their businesses, so long as the latter are confined to the same township in which they were being conducted at that date.

The provisions of Section 2, Act 37, 1919 in regard to the registration of mortgages in favour of Asiatics have been strictly observed and enforced. In the very few cases where any such mortgage has been registered at all, sworn affidavits have been required by, and furnished to, the Registrar of Deeds.

The provisions of the same section regarding the ownership of fixed property by any company or other corporate body in which one or more Asiatics have a controlling interest has likewise been observed and enforced.

It is respectfully urged that any consideration it is proposed to give to suggestions for amending Act 37 of 1919 should not exclude the following submissions respectfully advanced in regard to the Gold Law of 1908.

Act 35 of 1908 is entitled:—"An Act to consolidate and amend the law relating to Prospecting and Mining for Precious Metals and Base Metals and to provide for matters incidental thereto."

Reference to the text of the marginal "sub-headings" disclose that:—

"Section 130 (1) purports to embody the prohibition against the acquisition of rights, under this Act by coloured persons,"

and

Section 131 is intended to impose "restriction on residence of coloured persons on proclaimed land in "districts of Class A excepting in bazaars etc" and saving to those then in lawful occupation the rights then already acquired.

It is not proposed to embark upon a judicial examination of or disquisition upon, every possible construction that the ingenuity of the lawyer might perhaps discover in an endeavour to shew that the rights it was designed to withhold from coloured persons did not include the hitherto recognised rights of Indians to trade as theretofore, outside of the bazaars and locations to which for purposes of residence, only, the law had relegated them.

It is significant, however, that where "trading is specifically referred to in the statute in question, it is so done in Chapter X, under the heading of "STANDS OUTSIDE TOWNSHIPS" and in respect of "Trading Stands" i.e. certain sites upon ground held under mining title to be selected by the Board referred to in the Act, i.e. the sites of what are now known as Concession Stores. Such stands may be allocated to Europeans only.

Only by attaching a most extensive and comprehensive meaning to the word "right" occurring in Section 130 can the rights of Indians to trade e.g. in Market Street, Johannesburg, as theretofore enjoyed by them, be regarded as henceforth taken away and lost.

It is also to be observed that for at least 10 years, the Indian trading community in question were apparently allowed to carry on and to expand their businesses and to increase their obligations without any suggestion of illegality in connection with this Statute.

To put it no higher: The Gold Law of 1908, if its correct interpretation be that for purposes of trade as well as of residence Indian occupation of areas such as Market Street, Johannesburg, is made illegal, was allowed to lie inactive, and the Indian traders lulled into a false sense of security.

That position continued to obtain up to 1919, in which year following the recommendations of the Rooth Commission, Act 37 of 1919 was passed.

Now, after an interval of another ten years—the ten years cycles strike one as remarkable by way of coincidence:—Our unfortunate people are once more having their position brought into review.

We rather welcome the event, and for the reason that we think the time has arrived for a complete and very radical reconsideration of the whole matter. To employ a term the Great War brought into considerable vogue, this Indian question calls for reorientation.

It will be recalled that we have to go back to 1885—to ancient history—to find the first chapter in the long story of Statutory Disabilities imposed upon the Indians of this Province. That, gentlemen, is nearly 50 years ago! Law 3 of 1885 speaks of "Coolies," a class of immigrant very popular in those days on the sugar plantations of Natal, and one it was perhaps anticipated might filter across into the Republic. The terms "Coolie" and "Arab" were loosely used and not always accurately applied in those days. It may, also, not be incorrect to say that ideas concerning India and Indians were somewhat narrower and less informed than they have since become. Be that as it may, it will also be recalled that the statutory restrictions actually imposed did not go beyond restriction upon residence and, that, as explained in the published communications that have since become history, for sanitary reasons.

A lot of water, and, may we add, of blood—has flowed since those days. We think we may, without offence, claim that our outlooks have expanded, that barriers have crumbled away, that many of our old time prejudices and fears were bogies that had no life save what we ourselves imparted to them, that our warring jealousies and rivalries when allowed expression discovered to us that we had but injured and destroyed an integral portion of the larger organism of which we, too, were part—in short that the interdependence existing, the action and interaction obtaining between the constituent parts of the organism we call human, was wider, more vital than we had suspected, that differences hitherto regarded as antagonistic and even irreconcilable were more truly complementary each to the other. The human family paid a high price, in travail or in treasure to learn this lesson; perchance it has not even been learnt

**AVERAGE NUMBER OF ASIATICS EMPLOYED IN CONNECTION WITH EACH CLASS OF INDUSTRY
IN THE CAPE, NATAL AND TRANSVAAL PROVINCES FOR THE YEAR 1924-25.**

Class & Description of Industry.	Private Firms.			Government & Municipal Concerns & Railway Workshops.		
	Cape. Persons.	Natal. Persons.	Transvaal. Persons.	Cape. Persons.	Natal. Persons.	Transvaal. Persons.
1. Treatment of raw material the produce of agricultural and pastoral pursuits (ex- cluding tanning)	7	225	7	—	—	—
2. Process in stone, clay, earthenware and glass	1	413	7	—	—	—
3. Working in wood	33	506	—	—	5	—
4. Metal, Engineering, machinery, cutlery works	7	492	11	—	169	1
5. Preparation, treatment & preserving of food, drink, condiments and tobacco	34	4526	28	—	—	—
6. Production of Clothing (excluding boots & shoes) textile fabrics & similar articles	235	610	142	—	60	—
7. Books, paper, printing and engraving	7	338	2	—	—	—
8. Vehicles (mechanically propelled and otherwise) fittings & parts of vehicles	5	56	2	—	7	—
9. Ship & Boat Building & repairing	—	15	—	—	4	—
10. Furniture, Bedding and Upholstery	—	17423	23	—	—	—
11. Drugs, chemicals (including fertilizers and by-products) paints, varnishes and allied products	3	770	5	—	—	—
12. Surgical, dental and other scientific instruments and apparatus	—	—	—	—	—	—
13. Jewellery, timepieces, and platedware	—	17	—	—	—	—
14. Heat, light and power	2	101	3	1	70	—
15. Leather and leatherware	18	178	2	—	—	—
16. Building and contracting	54	32	—	—	637	—
17. Other Industries	—	15	—	—	—	—
	423	8712	232	1	952	2
TOTAL—MALES.	390	8125	225	1	837	2
TOTAL—FEMALES.	33	587	7	—	115	—

NOTE:—No Asiatics were returned as employed in the Orange Free State Province.

We have, we hope, made clear that the charge of "alien" is no longer reasonably tenable. Children of the soil, whatever their antecedents, cannot be "aliens" in the land of their birth. Nor can one fail to be struck by the Europeanisation, especially in Natal, of the South African born and South African bred and educated majority; of the astounding adaptability they have evidenced; of their ability to surmount the disadvantages under which they have had to make progress; of their fitness to play a useful and honourable part in the future history of the land of their birth and adoption; of their keen and intelligent interest in its problems. *Pari Passu* with the disposal of that charge goes, in our respectful view, that other charge of undesirability.

We have ventured to point out that within a decade or two at most, our Indian element will all have become children of the soil—South African in the widest sense. All indications point to their forging ahead the most rapidly. Except by means that are unthinkable, their extinction, their elimination, is impossible. Nor is a policy of segregation based upon racial or colour considerations any more practicable. Ghetto prisoners sooner or later burst their bonds, and Ghettos give up not only their dead but their living also; and while dead pasts may bury their dead, the ghosts of bad pests have been observed to haunt the posterity of those who saw no further than their own day.

To what end, then, is our Plea directed? To the end that you may be pleased to abandon the old narrow view for the broad view. To consider whether in this year of grace, in 1930, the time has not arrived for a thorough overhauling of the old ideas and preconceptions concerning this "Indian question." To ask yourselves whether the deductions expressed in such disabling legislation as, for example, Law 3 of 1885, Laws 34 and 35 of 1908 are not to-day at least based upon premises that are at variance with Truth, Justice and Wisdom?

You will be urged by representatives of various interests, and by others moved by race and colour prejudices, to tighten still further the restrictive bonds upon Indian activity and growth.

You will be told that the Indian has defied the Law as it stands both in regard to trading and land-holding, and that he has broken through the limitations the law imposed upon him against encroachment upon European preserves.

We do not doubt that figures can be prepared and arguments adduced to make out some sort of case on such lines. But, again, we appeal to you to lift this question from off the narrow, petty sectional platform on to a higher plane; to view it in its larger truer perspective; to regard it with the far-seeing eye of imagination; to look ahead, to build for the to-morrows, not only for to-day. We ask you to consider the lessons of history and to say whether a dominant section has ever succeeded in subjecting a sometime servient section to *permanent* helotage? We ask you to remember that the inherent impulse towards

freedom and natural expansion have always resulted in the bursting of such bonds, of the disappearance of these artificial restrictions. How should it be otherwise? Is life not ever breaking down the walls of environment? Is it a matter for surprise that a class whose natural and healthy energies are suppressed by artificial restrictions should seek by ingenious devices to find loopholes and vents through which to overcome them? Legislation may properly be directed to the eradication of pests; towards suppression and correction of crime and immorality. Are we a pest? Are we criminals? Does our standard of morality suffer by comparison? We are human, sharing perhaps with other classes the defects of our qualities, but comparisons do not leave us at a disadvantage. We are of the same Aryan stock. We shew a record of past high performance. With reasonable encouragement and fairplay we claim to be capable of much valuable contribution to human endeavour and human progress to-day and in the future.

Only through the eye of prejudice and narrow self-interest are we seen to be the undesirable thing you are urged to regard us and treat us as being.

One clause—the most important in our respectful opinion—of the Capetown Agreement reads as follows:—

UPLIFTMENT OF THE INDIAN COMMUNITY

"The Union Government firmly believe in and adhere to the principle that it is the duty of every civilised Government to devise ways and means and to take all possible steps for the uplifting of every section of their permanent population to the full extent of their capacity and opportunities, and accept the view that in the provision of educational and other facilities the considerable number of Indians who will remain part of the permanent population should not be allowed to lag behind any other sections of the people."

That clause records the solemn adoption of a principle; the committal of the Union Government to a solemn duty; to an obligation, you will readily admit, it were shameful to dishonour. We urge that every argument however specious or plausible, be jettisoned and relentlessly rejected if it be found, in however small a degree, to be in conflict with the principle of that agreement.

We respectfully submit that we are now, at least, morally entitled to claim a repeal of the laws under which we still stand branded with the stigma of undesirability.

We ask you to resist any pressure to recommend the extension of existing restrictions to areas such as Springs to which, according to the ruling of the judiciary, they do not apply.

We confidently submit that you will refuse to be party or privy to the imposition upon us of additional disabilities, but on the other hand that you will be convinced that justice and equity impel you to recommend the removal of our burdens.

We have the honour to subscribe ourselves,

M. D. BHAROOCHI, PRESIDENT.

P. K. DESAI } JOINT HON.

S. M. DESAI } SECRETARIES.

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Transvaal Indian Football Association

The 34th Annual General Meeting of the above Association will be held at No. 2 Trades Hall, Kerk Street, Johannesburg on Friday the 28th March 1930, at 8.45 p.m.

Business:—

(a) To read and confirm Minutes of

the previous Annual General Meeting and to deal with business arising therefrom.

(b) To read and confirm Council's Annual Report and Treasurer's Financial Statement.

(c) To amend and modify rules.

(d) Election of Officers.

(e) To deal with Correspondence.

WILLIE ERNEST, President.

K. NARANSAMY, Hon. Secretary.

HIMDAD KHAN, Hon. Treasurer.

WANTED

INDIAN CONCERT ARTISTS
SOLOISTS, DUETS, TRIOS,
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