

# Indian Opinion

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## NOTES AND NEWS

**D**ISCUSSING the Indian problem in South Africa in its editorial columns, the *Diamond Fields Advertiser* states that Dr. Malan's progress has been backward. "Few men, even in politics," says the paper, "have ever so completely turned from the lilies and languors of virtue to the raptures and roses of re-acton. It is hardly conceivable that the same politician who in a moment of vision helped to fashion the Agreement with the Government of India could have become within a year or two the sponsor for the Asiatic Trading Rights Bill, a cynical misnomer for a measure which abrogates rights and contemplates confiscation. Indians in India are not so completely obsessed with their own problems as to be indifferent to this signal display in South Africa of racial ill-will, complete forgetfulness of Imperial obligations, and readiness to treat its own covenants as scraps of paper. Dr. Malan may steam-roller his Bill through Parliament, but in his heart of hearts he must know that what is morally wrong cannot be politically right.

The Licensing Committee of the Wakkerstroom Town Council last month issued a certificate to an Indian for a general dealer's licence, the building to be erected according to plan. The Indian thereupon took his certificate to the magistrate and obtained a licence. It afterwards appeared that the requirements of the law relative to advertising had not been fulfilled, the notice period not having elapsed, after which only the committee could deal with the matter. The consequent legal question was referred to the committee, which recommended that it be dealt with by the full Council, and that the licence should not be granted. When the matter came before the Council, only four members were eligible to deal with it. The chairman informed the Council of the position, and asked Councillor Hoffman to take the chair. The committee then dealt with the case and refused the licence. Subsequently, on a recommendation of the General Purposes Committee, it was adopted that its last meeting was irregular owing to Mr. B. Lourens, who is vice-chairman, not being asked to take the chair, in place of Mr. Hoffman. There the matter rests for the time being. Interesting developments are expected.—*Rand Daily Mail*.

The Johannesburg Public Health Committee recently heard an application by an Indian for a licence for a native eating house at George Goch Station. The police, objecting, said there were already enough eating houses in the neighbourhood, and that the locality was unsuitable. To enable the applicant to produce documents to prove his right to trade there, the hearing was adjourned.

A protest meeting of the Indian women of Pretoria was held at the Tamil Institute on the 25th May. Mrs. Bob Maharaj presided and Archicammaal acted as Secretary. Among those present were Mesdames Ramlal, O. T. Pillay, M. V. Pillay, Joshi, V. Pillay, P. M. Padayachy, Peters, Anthony, M. Pillay, P. Obetty and Lugenberthy. After some of the ladies had expressed their sympathy, the following resolution was unanimously carried:—

"That this meeting of the Pretoria Indian women were shocked and deeply grieved to hear the heartrending

news that Mrs. Sarojini Naidu, the leader of the civil disobedience campaign, who was struggling for the freedom and liberation of India on non-violent principles, was sentenced to nine months' imprisonment by the Indian Government; and, for other brave men and women, prays Almighty to crown their non-violent battle with victory."

The meeting terminated with the singing of national songs.

## TECHNICAL EDUCATION FOR INDIANS

**F**OR some time past the Natal Workers' Congress in co-operation with the Natal Indian Teachers' Society, has been conducting Continuation Classes in the evenings for the benefit of those who are engaged in various avocations during the day. The classes which are being held at the Hindu Tamil Institute have been an unqualified success; for, a little over 200 students are in the attendance books.

With the Wage Board determining the wages of employees in various industries and the insistence of the apprenticeship Committees upon every Apprentice to pass the sixth standard, the Congress felt that the Indian workers were at a distinct disadvantage. Very few Indian Schools had previously taught Indian children up to the sixth standard and as a result the majority of the Indians employed in various industries and trades had never reached that standard. Realising that the Indians should be given an opportunity to educate themselves to the sixth standard so as to conform to the terms of the Apprenticeship Act, the Natal Workers' Congress conceived the idea of inaugurating these Continuation Classes. There are eight teachers including a lady teacher engaged and the income derived from the classes is barely sufficient to cover their travelling expenses. Much credit is due to these teachers who after five hours of hard work at their respective Schools, have been giving two hours a day thrice a week for the last twelve months. It is a great sacrifice, and they deserve the gratitude of the Indian community.

Now that the Continuation Classes have come to stay, the Congress is directing its attention towards the opening of Technical classes. As a matter of fact, the Congress, we are informed, has been in close touch with Principal Narbeth of the Natal Technical College for some time with this end in view. The Technical Classes will indeed be a great boon to the Indian youths and we are sure that fullest advantage will be taken of them. We learn that in about six weeks time the Technical Classes will be commenced. The Natal Technical College requires every student, who intends entering a Technical Class, to be in possession of the sixth standard certificate. If he is not in possession of such a certificate, the student is required to pass the sixth standard examination which the College sets. An examination is to be held during this month. The Congress and the Teachers' Society have arranged with Principal Narbeth to set a similar examination, at about the same time, for Indian youths. We are sure that quite a large number of our youths will sit for this examination. With the number that successfully pass this examination, the Congress has made arrangements to commence the Technical Classes. An announcement giving the date and venue of the examination will be made in these columns in our next issue.

We would appeal to our youths in Durban to avail themselves of these Technical Classes:

### THE CALL TO ACTION

**T**HERE will be a sigh of relief at the news that the Congress delegates, backed of course by the influence and co-operation of Sir Kurma Reddi, have succeeded in gaining some respite, at least, from the enactment of the Transvaal Asiatic Tenure (Amendment) Bill. Experience has shewn, however, that these delays are not wholly advantageous. Our people have an unhappy tendency towards allowing themselves to be lulled into a false sense of security; towards construing a temporary cessation of hostilities as a permanent Peace. Excusable it may have been, but the past has undoubtedly proved it to have been unwarranted and unwise. In the present instance, there is no excuse. Dr. Malan has pledged himself to Parliament that the Bill is to be re-introduced as it stands, early

next session. And, Dr. Malan is a man not easily deflected from any course he makes up his mind to pursue. He will also be justified in reminding us that we have had fair warning.

Once again, therefore, we find ourselves confronted with the question that was Tolstoy's "What must we do, now?" Seemingly, the time for talking is past. We have urged, we have pleaded. We have employed reason; we have appealed to the Government's highest instincts and on the loftiest grounds. We have urged consideration of our claims in the light of equity, justice, fair-play. We have gone as powerless children go to their father for help and assistance, confident in the father's righteousness, and relying upon his natural sense of duty. With what result? Our claim to be treated as children of the state is rejected; the relationship repudiated. We are not even step-children, we Asiatics with our brown bodies albeit 80 per cent. of us are born here. Children, forsooth!

A foreign "coloured people," rather, an unwanted addition to the local black and coloured population, whose presence is resented and who if they cannot be "persuaded" to leave must be kept in their place together with the aboriginal black races, must be made to live down to the Transvaal ideal of "No equality in Church or State between whites and non-whites."

Perhaps, after all it is as well so. The mother-bird turns out the fledgling from the nest only so that it shall be compelled to learn to fly. When the father refuses shelter to his son, the son learns to comport himself as a man. "Our friend, the enemy," is a phrase full of deep significance and expresses a real if somewhat subtle truth.

And so, we are thrown back upon ourselves, driven to look ourselves squarely in the face, confronted by our conscience, forced to determine not merely whether it is worth while to carry on from the point of view of emasculated opportunities to earn money or even a livelihood, but whether we can claim to retain the smallest vestige of self-respect if we continue to submit to insult upon insult directed against our ancient Motherland, our pedigree and our character. For, reduced to its elements this is what it comes to. Every fresh

enactment of the nature of this Bill is a reiteration of our "undesirability," a sort of rebranding of the community as "pariahs," a fresh affront to India as a nation, and to every South African of Indian descent. Nay, more, it implies that culture, ability, qualifications, are all of no account when opposed to considerations of colour and race. Robbed of the rights we are entitled to share as civilised members of the community—sacrificed to make a European (voters') holiday—confronted with the almost certain prospect of segregation, humiliated and degraded as no self-respecting people can suffer and live, "What must we do now?" Tyrants forget that there are none so desperate as the victims they have despoiled to the point of having nothing more to lose. It is, perhaps, only too true that in the immediate past material riches, and concern for the loaves and fishes have occupied us more exclusively than was good for our moral health, but now that we have been forced back to normal and are able calmly to take stock of our position, to see that there is no relenting on the part of the Union Government, no hope of intercession by the Imperial Government and, making all allowances for Sir Kurma's goodwill and tireless efforts to help us, but scant power to do so in face of the forces arrayed against him, we have at long last to act, to assert our manhood, to demonstrate that we are not wholly dead to the calls of honour, dignity, self-respect; that we have not sunk so low that Indians may be spat upon again and yet again with impunity and without asserting themselves in protest. We have our weapon always at hand. It is a weapon we have used before, one that never rusts, never grows obsolete; the weapon of self-suffering, of civil disobedience. All the portents seem to point to its once more being called into action.

I know that soon my word will cease to reach the people, all the instruments I possess will have been snatched away from me, but they cannot snatch away one thing from me and that is my unshakable faith in my cause.

M. K. GANDHI.

## Our Letter From India

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT)

Calcutta, April 19.

### Now Or Never

"If Mr. Gandhi fails to attain his goal owing to national apathy, India will not be able to gain independence for generations to come." Pandit Motilal Nehru made this declaration, addressing a public meeting over which he presided at Allahabad last week. The time had come, said the Pandit, for the nation to make a united stand against the bureaucracy and everyone should keep before him the ideal of Mr. Gandhi who had vowed he would not return to Sabarmati till Swaraj had been achieved. It was not necessary for every one to manufacture salt to defy authority. There were other ways in which the national movement could be helped. Ill-health had prevented him from following Mahatma Gandhi on his march but he assured the gathering he would not fail in the hour of trial.

### Indian Problem In Transvaal

#### LAND OWNERSHIP

Sir Kurma Reddi, Agent to the Governor General in South Africa who went to Simla on Tuesday evening from Madras, understands the *Statesman's* own correspondent at Simla, will discuss the problems affecting Indians in South Africa with Sir Fazil Hussain, the new Member of Emigration. With regard to the situation which has arisen in the Transvaal over the trade licensing laws, it is understood Sir Kurma will ascertain the Government of India's view as to the lines of approach towards a common solution with the Union Government. Mr. J. D. Tyson who was deputed in February last to make special representations to the Union Government and to help the Transvaal Indians in their fight against the judgments of the Supreme Court in respect of the occupation of proclaimed ground in the Transvaal, has been keeping the Government of India fully informed of the progress made by the Select Committee of the Union Parliament. His reports will be reviewed by the Viceroy, in consultation with Sir Kurma Reddi, Sir Fuzil Hussain and Mr. G. S. Bajpai. Sir Kurma will thus be given an indication as to lines on which it will be advisable for him to proceed in the matter. Although Sir Kurma Reddi, who sails on April 21, will not meet Mr. Tyson, who is returning to India on April 21, or have the benefit of a personal discussion with him on the latest position in the Transvaal in particular and in South Africa in general, he will have the advice of the Government of India, who have kept in touch with the latest developments. If the Union Parliament hastens the Bill in respect of the ownership of land and trading rights in the Transvaal efforts will then be made, it is understood, to see that there is no clause in the measure, which will have the effect of prejudicially affecting the legitimate rights of Indians. This is regarded as a problem requiring much delicate negotiation with the Union Government.

### Faith In Mahatma

An esteemed correspondent and now a guest in one of His Majesty's prison houses for over one year awaiting the result of a long-drawn trial thus writes to a Calcutta Daily in the course of a letter:—

Things are moving very fast indeed and our country's fate seems to be hanging in the balance. That the country has still faith in the Mahatma has been demonstrated by the ready response to his clarion call again after the lapse

of ten years. It remains to be seen whether Lord Irwin will go down to history as another Lord Durham or as another Chelmsford of Rowlatt Bills and Jallianwalla Bag memory. He has already given some proof of his statesmanship in the Crerar-Patel incident. Next ten months will decide what a Labour Cabinet and a Conservative Viceroy can do. If they fail I shudder to contemplate the consequences.

### Invitation To Indian Women

The Women's Indian Association has received the following from Madame Mour Hamadra Bey, President, Ras-el-Naba, Beirut, stating the objects of the Arab Women's Conference to be held at Damascus and containing an invitation from the Oriental Arab Feminist Academy:—

Our Association has decided to hold a great Eastern Conference in the City of Damascus, which is the key of the Eastern Arab countries. It will be held on July 3, 1930. We hope that you will honour us by sending delegates from your Association (the Women's Indian Association) or by arranging to send delegates from various Associations in your country of which you know. It is open to the members of such Associations even in their individual capacities.

The objects of the Conference are:

1. To foster national unity among the women of the East and to make them follow in the footsteps of the women of the West.
2. To improve and enrich the Languages of the East.
3. To encourage indigenous industries.
4. To take what is good from the civilization of the East and the West and banish what is evil in them.

### Alarming Death Rate In Madras

In the course of a review on the report of the Administration of Madras Corporation 1928-1929, the Government states that the number of deaths recorded during the year exclusive of still-births, rose from 22,364 in the previous year to 26,715 that is from 43.3 to 50.5 per 1,000 which is the highest rate on record since 1905 excepting the two influenza years 1918 and 1919.

Although the year was generally unhealthy, as indicated by the increased deathrate throughout the Presidency, this ever-rising rate, says the review, is a most serious reflection on the administration of public health in the city, and demands immediate and earnest consideration. The death-rate among infants increased from 237.6 in 1927 to 286.8 per 1,000 which is the third highest period in the decade ending 1928.

## A New Way With Asiatics

In a leading article in its issue dated May 21 *The Star* (Johannesburg) writes:—

The object of existing legislation in the Transvaal is twofold; to prevent Asiatic ownership, either direct or indirect, of fixed property, and to close certain areas to Asiatic trading. The Bill which is to come up for its second reading to-day (unless it is withdrawn,) in spite of the drafting committee's claim that it "conforms as much as possible to what might reasonably be taken as the country's accepted policy," goes beyond this in a number of important respects, the chief of which are as follows: The Bill

(1) Proposes the segregation of all Asiatics, both for residential and trading purposes, in specified areas within five years, all Asiatic fixed property not transferred to a lawful holder to be confiscated by the State.

(2) Removes Asiatics' present rights of leasehold, under which they can lease property

anywhere in the province except on proclaimed land and in certain townships having restrictive clauses.

As regards segregation, Law No. 3 of 1885, which was never fully enforced, related, so far as it dealt with residence, only to those Indians whom it was thought desirable to quarantine for reasons of public health, while general segregation by compulsion for trading purposes has never even been attempted. As Sir James Rose Innes observed from the Bench as long ago as 1904, "the mischief purported to be aimed at was an insanitary mode of life in the midst of a European population, not an inconvenient competition with the European trader." The interference with leasehold rights seems quite new and quite without warrant. These two major blows are followed by a third, which is hardly less damaging. The Bill gives no protection to the successors in title of present owners of business or properties even when legally held or conducted; which means that they will only be realisable at bankrupt prices. Whether the Bill withdraws the protection of that kind which the Act of 1919 gave is obscure: but it may be so.

We have this position, then. The Bill introduces into Transvaal law (already, one would think, illiberal enough) new restrictive principles of the first importance. These principles will involve the economic ruin of the Asiatic trading class by two means. Asiatics will be compelled to dispose of their property to "lawful holders" (i.e., Europeans) at bankrupt prices, and they will be both cut off territorially from the clientele which they have carefully built up and fostered through many years, and also prevented from substituting other customers for those they lose. This may be convenient to a few European traders into whose hands the present Asiatic turnover will gradually pass. But it cannot possibly do any good to anyone else. The termination of Asiatic business will mean unpleasant jolts for their suppliers, banker, landlords, retail merchants, wholesale merchants, to say nothing of the large section of poorer European consumers for whom the Asiatic tradesman specially caters. Thus to the detached observer the Select Committee appear to be making a mountain out of a molehill. Especially is this so when it is remembered how inflated are the accounts which European commercial representatives are wont to give of Asiatic "encroachment." As a fact, figures put up by the Revenue Department show (1) that although the population of the Johannesburg magisterial area is increasing, the number of general dealers' licences issued in respect of it is dwindling; and (2) that the proportionate decrease is heavier in the case of Asiatic licences than in that of non-Asiatic licences.

It is thus extremely difficult to see the Bill in any other light but that of a gratuitous persecution of a small and on the whole useful section of the community. The popular impression, which a certain type of politician has been at pains to put about, that a huge and swelling volume of illegal trade is being carried on by Asiatics in the Transvaal is almost entirely false. The volume is, as far as the evidence goes, not large and not increasing; and the extent of the illegality is probably not particularly large either. Certainly some part of the intention of previous legislation has miscarried. But not, it appears, for the most part because Asiatics have infringed its provisions, but because they have managed to achieve ownership or occupation of property by methods distinct in substance and in law from what the Act prohibits, or in which the licensing authorities have acquiesced. In cases where a clear infraction can be proved, no one can object to the prescribed penalties being inflicted. Further, if there is anything to be said for the existing law, there is also something to be said for closing up loopholes which allow of its

evasion. That is one thing; but it is quite another to make the occasion a pretext for novel and ruthless discriminations against a defenceless and already sufficiently down-trodden class.

The framers of the Bill, moreover, have ignored all inter-Imperial considerations, failing alike to consult the Indian Government over a clear departure from mutual engagements now in force, and to pay the least heed to the heightened embarrassment bound to be caused by their action to the Viceroy already beset with difficulties of a pressing and complex character.

## News Of Independence Struggle In India

### Pro-Gandhi Demonstration

Bombay, Thursday.—The first demonstration of sympathy with Gandhi by Parsees as a community occurred this evening in Bombay in the form of a procession of fifty thousand, mostly Parsees, and including two thousand women, through the main thoroughfares of the city. A portrait of Gandhi was carried at the head of the procession. The demonstrators bore placards inscribed "no conference without Gandhi. No peace possible without the co-operation of Gandhi." There were frequent cries of "Gandhi kijai!" (Long Live Gandhi.)—Reuter.

### Gandhi's Little Joke

Bombay, Sunday.—Mahatma Gandhi, for the first time since his imprisonment, was allowed to see his wife in Yerwada gaol. She was accompanied by a convert, Miss Miraben Slade (a daughter of Admiral Slade.)

Gandhi was quite cheerful, and laughed when his wife asked him if it was true that he had vanished from his cell for a few hours and visited his seminaries.

Gandhi's diet is goat's milk, grapes, dates and oranges. He has been assigned a personal attendant, gets two newspapers daily, and spins for six hours.—Reuter.

### 15,000 Volunteers' Raid

Bombay, Sunday.—Fifteen thousand volunteers rushed a police cordon during the course of a final raid on the Wadala salt depot. The military were called in and the raiders driven back, 25 being slightly injured.

Those arrested include eight Sikh women and Mrs. Munshi, wife of a former member of the Indian Assembly, who was taken into custody earlier. A number of the raiders succeeded in securing quantities of salt. They were called off in the afternoon by a bugle call sounded by Congress volunteers. Altogether, 40 arrests were made, including 11 women.—Reuter.

### All Now Quiet In Wadala

Bombay, Later.

All is now quiet at Wadala, and the military have been withdrawn. The leaders of the raid estimate that 150 raiders were slightly injured. They pay tribute to the restraint of the police. All the women arrested have been released.

### Accidental Shot Causes Riot

Peabawar, Sunday.—Seven people were killed and nine wounded when the police and military were compelled to fire on a mob that attacked them. The

attack was a sequel to the accidental discharge of a soldier's rifle, which resulted in a woman being wounded and her two children killed.

### 106 Raiders Injured

Dharasana, Sunday.—Mounted and foot police yesterday repulsed a determined salt raid by followers of Gandhi, 106 of whom were injured.

### 97 Sentenced To A Year's Hard Labour

Madras, Sunday.

Some 132 volunteers were arrested at Veleranyam for being members of an unlawful assembly. The leader was sentenced to a year's rigorous imprisonment and a fine of 500 rupees (£37 10s.) or a further three months' imprisonment. Ninety-six others were sentenced to a year's rigorous imprisonment. Five were discharged after expressing regret, and the remainder were sent to a Borstal institute for two years.

### Moslem Riot In Bombay

Bombay, Tuesday.—A riot in the Bhandi bazaar, the Moslem quarter, began after a Mahomedan hooligan stoned a dog which was walking with its master, a European police sergeant. The sergeant chased the man and was stoned by a large crowd.

Five thousand Moslems then stoned the police quarters and the police fired. Twenty-one rioters were wounded, two fatally.

Police reinforcements also fired when they were stoned on the way to the scene of the riot. The situation is now under control. Most of the shops are closed. British troops were called out.—Reuter.

### Fatal Riots In Bengal

Dacca (Eastern Bengal), Tuesday.—Six of the 30 Indians who were injured as the result of the rioting here on Sunday have died. The communal riots were caused by a Moslem boy being hit while playing with Hindu boys.

Further communal disorders involving deaths have caused such a serious situation that the local authorities have telegraphed to the Viceroy for "adequate police, so that the people may feel that they are living under British rule."

### Armoured Cars Out In Bengal

Dacca (Eastern Bengal), Sunday.—Communal riots which broke out as a result of a Moslem boy being hit while playing with Hindu boys, were succeeded by numerous outrages, in consequence of which armoured cars are patrolling the city, and strict regulations have been proclaimed.

The tension was aggravated when Mahomedans paraded the streets carrying a severely injured co-religionist, who was said to have been killed by Hindus.

Assaults followed throughout the city. Mahomedans set fire to and looted Hindu shops in the bazaar, and also houses, but were beaten off with brickbats and lathis.

Mahomedans came out of the mosque at sunset and set fire to the Hindu temple, a number of people being later removed to hospital.

### Volunteer Camp Demolished

Lucknow, Tuesday.—Four people are reported to have been killed and 30 injured in serious troubles to-day. Fourteen policemen have been taken to hospital. Curfew has been promulgated.

It is officially announced that volunteers came into conflict with the police and military in the busiest centre of the city. The crowd were pushed back, but reformed when the police and military withdrew.

The mob attacked a police outpost; and the police

in self-defence fired 57 shots at short range. The mob divided, and hostile gangs paraded the city.—*Reuter.*

### Disobedience Meetings Banned

Madras, Sunday.—An order has been issued prohibiting for two months meetings and demonstrations in Madras in connection with the civil disobedience campaign.

Surat, Sunday.—A similar order to that issued at Madras, but which will operate for one month only prohibits the carrying of sticks and weapons, and gatherings are not to exceed four persons within the village near the Dharasana salt works.—*Reuter.*

### 500 Women Pickets Stop Football Matches

Calcutta, Sunday.—Scenes unprecedented in the history of Calcutta football were witnessed when all the league matches had to be postponed owing to 500 women pickets descending on the playing grounds and obstructing the main entrance to the pavilions. They prevented the players leaving the pavilions and refused to be moved by the entreaties of the players and officials of the two Indian clubs. The police did not interfere.

### Last Raid Of The Season

Bombay, Monday.—Yesterday's salt raid was the last of the season owing to the fast approaching monsoon, which will make the salt depots inaccessible.

A batch of seventy-two salt raiders, out of eight hundred awaiting trial at Worli in consequence of raids, have been sentenced to three months' rigorous imprisonment.

### Newspapers Asked To Suspend Publication

Allahabad, Thursday.—The *Pioneer* states that the president of the Congress has circularised provincial committees instructing them to suspend publication of all Nationalist newspapers and to picket Anglo-Indian newspapers which do not suspend publication.

### Sedition Charge

Nagpur, Thursday.—Abhayankar, president of the Central Provinces Congress Committee, has been arrested on a charge of sedition.—*Reuter.*

## Asiatic Tenure Bill Postponed

By leave of the House Dr. Malan, Minister of the Interior, made a special statement in the House of Assembly on the Transvaal Asiatic Tenure Act Amendment Bill.

"This Bill," he said, "is considered necessary in the public interests for the purpose of avoiding all possible misunderstandings. Owing to its importance and the complexity of the subject matter this Bill will necessarily require the careful consideration of the House, but as such consideration appears to be impossible at this stage owing to the anticipated early prorogation of Parliament, the postponement of the proposed legislation until next session seems to be inevitable.

"As it is advisable that there shall be no uncertainty in the minds of those concerned with regard to future procedure, I desire to give the following assurance:—

"(1) The Bill will be reintroduced into the House at an early stage next session;

"(2) In view of the fact that the Bill was

submitted to the House by a Select Committee to which the subject matter was referred it will be reintroduced in an unmodified form so that any amendments proposed will have to be moved in the ordinary way in Committee of the whole House;

"(3) Consequent upon the postponement of the Bill it is my intention when amendments are considered to move that the date fixed in Section 6 in connection with the voluntary registration of illegal businesses shall be altered to a suitable date subsequent to the enactment of the Bill. It is, however, my intention subject to the approval of the House, to let the remaining date specified in the Bill stand, and consequently to make the Bill retrospective in its application as from the dates mentioned."

The relative section of clause 6 referred to by the Minister permits coloured persons in illegal occupation of land to retain occupation until April 1935, provided that such coloured person has voluntarily registered with the Minister before the first day of September 1930. It is this latter date which the Minister intends to alter in consequence of the postponement of the Bill.—*The Star.*

## Indian Standowners In Marabastad

*The Rand Daily Mail* dated May 30 writes:—

To-morrow will be the last day of the six months' grace given by the Pretoria Municipality to Indians in the Marabastad Bazaar, during which time they were required either to sell their stands or take personal occupation of them. If this is not done, the stands will be forfeited to the Pretoria Town Council.

The Town Clerk's notice to this effect, which was served on November 27 last, was described as "a terrible shock" to all standowners, as there was no condition as to personal occupation in the previous leases nor in the stand permits. Deputations to the Town Council were of no avail, as the standowners were represented by two distinct bodies—each claiming to speak with authority, and the two giving divergent views.

"We cannot think that the Council would enforce such a condition at this stage, because it was not originally a condition of the grant. This new condition is a great hardship and injustice," the Indians declared. "The Indian bazaar was laid out as a refuge for Indians, where we could own property undisturbed so long as we carried out the law. We deny the right of the Council to cancel in the case of the man who is in India and has buildings on these stands, or even in the case of the man who lives in the Transvaal and has stands in the Bazaar."

### Temporary Relief For Indians

A last-minute change of front on the part of the Pretoria Town Council has given the Indian standowners of the Marabastad Bazaar temporary relief.

The six months' grace expired on May 31, but a few days before the end of the month the following letter was addressed by the Town Clerk to the legal representatives of the Indians:—"With reference to your letter, I would inform you that it is not the intention of the Council to enforce the notice served on various standholders in the Indian Bazaar. The question is receiving the further consideration of the Council."

This gives the Indians concerned a little breathing space, but it is impossible to say whether the Council



cil will go back on its original decision, or stand by its declared policy, when the notice was served, of "One man, one stand." In view of the general tightening-up of legislation in connection with Asiatics in South Africa, however, it seems likely that the "victory" of the Indians will be short-lived.

## Mr. Tyson's Statement To The Select Committee

The following is the statement presented by Mr. J. D. Tyson, Acting Agent of the Government of India, to the Select Committee appointed in connection with the Transvaal Indian licensing question:

I am grateful to you, Mr. Chairman, and the members of the Select Committee, for allowing me and, before my arrival here, Mr. Baring, to be present at the sittings of the Committee and for permitting me now to attend and make a statement. The office of the Agent of the Government of India in South Africa was created for the express purpose of securing continuous and effective co-operation between the two Governments, and it is the wish of the Government of India, as it is my own, that, while I am acting as their Agent here, I should assist, not only the Union Government but also this Select Committee to the best of my power. It is in this spirit that I offer and ask you to receive this statement.

2. Before coming to the terms of the Committee's reference I should like to make a few general observations on the subject of trading by Indians in the Transvaal with a view to bringing into their true perspective the problems before the Committee. As an index of the dimensions of the problem I would draw the attention of the Committee to the fact that the entire Indian population of the Transvaal falls short by several thousands of the increase of "whites" in Johannesburg alone during the inter-censal period 1921-1926: the census of 1926 showed that there were 18,905 more whites in Johannesburg than there had been five years before; the census of 1921 (the last Asiatic census here) showed that there were only 13,405 Indians in the entire Province of the Transvaal.

3. Writing before the census of 1921 the Asiatic Inquiry Commission, in paragraph 92 of the Report, state: "There seems to be a strong and widespread impression throughout the Transvaal, particularly in the country districts, that the number of Indians in the Province has greatly increased during recent years, and fears are entertained that the influx is still continuing. But a careful consideration of the evidence tends to show that there are no solid grounds for those fears." It will be recalled that the members of the Commission, in paragraph 96, computed that "there cannot be more than 12,800 male Asiatics (including Chinese) entitled to be in the Transvaal, but many of these would be absent in India at any given time." In that number there may be 600 Chinese males of 8 years and over. As the Committee used, as their basis of reckoning, registrations under the Transvaal Act 2 of 1907 (which provides for compulsory registration of males over sixteen years of age and voluntary registration for males over eight years of age) they must be held to have contemplated a figure of 12,800 males of eight years and over, of whom "many" might at any given time be absent in India. In that number there may be 600 Chinese males of 8 years and over. It was with this figure in mind

that the Commission, in paragraph 224 of their report, remarked: "In the Transvaal, the evidence and statistics which have been summarised in this report should go far to remove the misconception and allay the ill-founded alarm prevailing amongst some sections of the community regarding the 'Asiatic menace.' It seems inconceivable that, in the circumstances mentioned, the few thousands of Asiatics in that Province and their descendants could ever succeed in swamping the European population, as has been so frequently and emphatically asserted." The Census of 1921 amply justified the Commission in these findings, since it disclosed a figure of 11,056 Asiatic males of all ages of whom only 9,359 were Indians) actually in the Transvaal. My point is that this very strong evidence of the Lange Commission that there was no fear of an influx is more than borne out by the census.

4. The figures of "Asiatics" and "whites" (and of Indians so far as they can be extracted from those of "Asiatics") in the Transvaal are summarised below:—

### Census Figures

Census.	"Asiatics"	Indian.	European.
1904	11,321	—	297,277
1911	11,072	10,048	420,562
1921	15,991	13,405	543,485
1926	—	—	601,622

The 10,048 Indians enumerated in 1911 comprised 8,050 males and 1,998 females: the figure 13,045 in 1921 comprised 9,359 males and 4,046 females.

5. Turning from the Provincial figures to those of individual towns, it may surprise the Committee to learn that whereas the European population of "Johannesburg and Suburbs" (a phrase used by the Census Department) rose from 151,836 in 1921 to 170,741 at the census of 1926, an increase of over 12 per cent. in five years, the Asiatic population of Johannesburg had increased by under 37 per cent. in the thirty-four years prior to the census of 1921. The special "Asiatic" census of Johannesburg, held in 1896 by the Republican Government, showed a figure of 4,556 Asiatics, of whom 3,890 were males and 666 females. The census figures for 1921 show, for Johannesburg and suburbs, an "Asiatic" population of 6,229—an increase of only 1,073 since 1896. The figures both for 1896 and 1921 include Chinese.

6. A table showing the number of Europeans and Asiatics in the principal towns of the Province at the time of the 1921 census forms Annexure No. 1 to this Statement. It will be seen that, except Johannesburg and Pretoria, the Indian population is absolutely and relatively insignificant. For the twenty urban areas cited there are 39.6 Asiatics per thousand Europeans; for the rest of the Province, the figure sinks to 27.7 per thousand Europeans.

7. In considering these figures the Committee will no doubt remember that the influx of new Indian immigrants to South Africa from India, and to the Transvaal from other provinces of the Union, has been virtually closed by the Union Immigrants' Regulation Act (No. 22 of 1913); that the provisions of that Act regulating the introduction of minor children from India have been stiffened by the amending legislation of 1927, whereby, as settled at the Capetown Conference, such children can no longer be introduced if the mother remains in India; and that in 1928 the Union Government received from the Indian community an undertaking that illicit entry of Indians into the Union would be discountenanced by the South African Indians themselves. Conditions would, therefore, seem to militate even more strongly now than they did at the

time of the Asiatic Inquiry Commission against the risk of an Indian "influx" into the Transvaal.

8. It is also pertinent to point out that the old criticism of the Transvaal Indians, that they maintained one home in South Africa and another in India, no longer holds good. In 1911, according to the figures of the Census Department, only 30.5 per cent. of the Indians in the Province were born in South Africa; by 1921 the proportion had risen to 43.6 per cent. I am dealing now only with the Transvaal. If I was to refer to the South African figure the percentage would be much higher. That was nine years ago, and there can be little doubt that the process will for the future be quickened by the provisions of the Act of 1927 restricting the entry of minor children whose mothers remain in India. These provisions will in the long run tend both to reduce the number of minor children introduced and to increase the proportion of Indians whose family life is altogether passed in South Africa. In other words, the Transvaal Indians, whose fate is to a great extent in the hands of this Select Committee, are largely and increasingly a South African community—a community in respect of which the Union Government stated in the Agreement of 1927 that they firmly believed in and adhered 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 remain part of the permanent population should not be allowed to lag behind other sections of the people."

(To be Continued)

## Malay Women And Property

A protest against the injustice done to Malay women in the Transvaal under the Transvaal Asiatic Tenure Bill was made by a deputation of Malays to General Smuts and Mr. Duncan. The deputation was led by Dr. Abdurahman.

In 1924, the deputation pointed out, it was decided in the Appellate Division that a Malay was not an Asiatic. A deputation led by Dr. Abdurahman went to General Smuts, who was then in power, and pointed out that a Malay was always regarded as a South African, even in the Transvaal, and had never come under the Asiatic laws. They asked him to make this clear. Act 12 of 1924 was accordingly passed exempting Malays from the operation of Asiatic laws, and entitling them to own land. In the new Bill, Act 12 of 1924 was so amended as to insert the word "male" before the word "Malay."

This meant that no Malay woman was entitled to own land in her own name, even after the death of her husband. A Malay girl or woman could not own land. If she became a Christian she could own land. If an Asiatic was a Christian and married a Christian girl then she could own land, but if the Asiatic was Moslem and married a Malay girl she could not own land. The Bill excluded Syrian women.

The reason for its introduction was that a few Malay women married Asiatics in the Transvaal, regard to the prevention of these few women following assurance of their husbands all the Malay

(1) The Bill are being penalised.  
House at an early stage.  
(2) In view of the General Hertzog but to Capetown from the

Transvaal to see him he said he could only see them in Pretoria. It was then decided to go to General Smuts and Mr. Duncan.

Mr. Duncan promised that the matter would be handled in the Select Committee when the Bill was brought up again next session.—*The Star*.

## Indian's Right Of Entry Government Decision Challenged

A certain amount of misapprehension, as to the rights of domicile, or the right to enter the Transvaal, on the part of Indians, which had existed, but had been removed by recent decisions of the courts, was referred to by Mr. Justice Tindall, in a considered judgment delivered in the Transvaal Provincial Division of the Supreme Court, at Pretoria, in the application of Sali Mahomed against the Commissioner for Immigration and Registrar of Asiatics.

The applicant applied for specific performance of an undertaking, given in 1929 by the respondent, to register applicant's minor son, Ebrahim Mahomed, provided the applicant brought his wife to the Transvaal by June, 1930, and for an interdict restraining the respondent from deporting applicant's wife and minor daughter. The wife, with the minor daughter, had duly arrived. The Acting Registrar, however, had replied that the undertaking was given contrary to the law, under a misapprehension that the applicant, having held and abandoned domicile in the Transvaal, could again assume domicile here, an assumption which had been shown by recent decisions to be wrong.

His lordship held that in the circumstances of this case, the applicant was entitled to a temporary interdict restraining the respondent from deporting Ebrahim, the son, until the respondent had ascertained the view of the Minister as to granting Ebrahim exemption under the Act of 1913; but as regards the applicant's wife and minor daughter, who had also been allowed to enter under the same wrong assumption, it would be contrary to the law to allow them to remain, and the application failed.

In the event of the Minister's reply as to Ebrahim being unfavourable, the interdict would be continued, pending action to be instituted within 14 days.—*Rand Daily Mail*.

## Viceroy On New Ordinances

### Attack On State Revenue

The Calcutta correspondent of *The Star* writes:—

The Government of India has introduced more drastic remedies for the political situation. Lord Irwin promulgated two new Ordinances to protect shopkeepers from picketing, to stop the movement for the non-payment of taxes, and to deal with attempts to tamper with the loyalty of soldiers, police and other Government servants.

These measures have long been contemplated, and have been delayed to give the Congress Party an opportunity to stop their revolutionary activities. The Ordinances will apply immediately to the Bombay Presidency, but may be extended to any part of the country.

If the measures do not achieve their object the Government will probably declare the Congress Party unlawful.

The Viceroy, in a statement, refers to the recent decision of the Congress to inaugurate a "no tax campaign," and to begin a movement for the refusal of payment of land revenue.

Lord Irwin declares that such an attack on the



revenue of the State would cause suffering to the people, and that the movement "is fraught with dangerous consequences." He adds that the taxes against which the movement is aimed are sources of provincial revenue. Non-payment would deprive the local governments of a considerable part of their resources.

Referring to the picketing Ordinance, the Viceroy says that Congress activities against liquor and British cloth are being carried out by methods of intimidation and intimidation similar to the tactics being used to induce Government servants to resign.

No action, he adds, will be taken against legitimate efforts to improve the sale of Indian manufactures.

A Renter's cable from Simla says that the statement accompanying the Ordinance against instigation to the refusal of the payment of certain liabilities says: "Clearly no Government can contemplate the non-payment of its dues." The Viceroy appeals for the support of those who desire to resist the "plain threat against the orderly progress of stable government."

Referring to the boycott of liquor shops, the Viceroy says, "I have nothing but respect for preachers of temperance; nevertheless, it is unlawful to endeavour to enforce views by fear."

He also condemns the "unscrupulous" efforts to induce Government servants to resign.

## Pretty Wedding At Pretoria

(CONTRIBUTED)

A very pretty oriental wedding took place at the residence of Mr. P. Moorogasm, Asiatic Bazaar, Pretoria, whose brother Mr. Soobiah Padayachy, got married to Miss Valliamani Padayachy, daughter of Mr. Ponnusamy Padayachy of Springs.

The bridal party arrived from Johannesburg late on Saturday evening (May 17) at the residence of the bridegroom. The actual ceremony of the marriage was set down for Sunday the 18th at 10-30 a.m., and on Saturday night a musical entertainment was held, which was provided by Messrs. Papa Dass, Bhana, Bhadrow, Singh, James, Mack, C. B. Pillay, M. Pillay (Jnr.)

At 11 p.m. they were joined by Messrs Moorogasm and Coomaras of Johannesburg. Mr. Moorogasm is the South African dramatist and Mr. Coomaras is the great Transvaal singer. The evening ended with a very fine musical entertainment. Indians of all denominations were present. Johannesburg, Germiston, Benoni, Boksburg, Springs were well represented.

On Sunday, according to the appointed time by the Pandith for the actual ceremony, a big crowd of men and women gathered at the beautifully decorated Pandal to see the finality of the pretty wedding.

Messrs. V. A. Nayagar, and R. K. Padayachy acted as Pandiths in charge of the ceremony. They performed their Eastern ceremonial rites admirably. Mr. V. C. Padayachy who acted as the M.C. for the function discharged his duties wonderfully. Messrs. Moorogasm, and P. M. Padayachy, the brothers of the bridegroom received their guests in a splendid manner.

The local prominent Indians who were present were Messrs. V. S. Pillay, V. S. Moodley, C. Gundasamy, C. T. Pillay, V. A. Nayagar, R. K. Padayachy, Reddi, M. Padayachy, V. P. Pillay, A. Pillay, I. D. Naidoo, I. N. Naidoo, C. R. Naidoo, C. B. Pillay, Puckery, Lutchmanan, Krishna Pillay, Moothusamy,

Pillay, Goondoo Padayachy, G. S. Frank, A. C. Chetty, Coopan, R. A. Palayachy, V. M. Moodley, V. Moodley, Rumsamy, Pillay, V. Naidoo, G. Padayachy, Coopoo, N. S. Naidoo, M. U. Pillay, S. A. Pillay, Perumal, B. Maharaj, R. Lugenberthy, A. D. Thompson, Moosa Ebrahim, Shaikahmed, Essop Aekoojee, Essop Jheba, Moosa Suliman, Ally Bhai, Cassim Keshavjee, Rungbee Keshavjee, Rama Naran, V. D. Patel and many others. At the termination of the wedding the married couple received many representations.

## Vacancies For Indian Teachers

The attention of those interested is invited to the list of vacant posts in Schools for Indian children appearing in a supplement to the *Transvaal Provincial Gazette* of the 28th May, 1930.

Applications must reach the School Boards not later than the 14th June, 1930.

Copies of the supplement may be obtained on application to the various School Boards in the Transvaal, or to the Secretary, Transvaal Education Department, Pretoria.

F. S. MALAN,

Secretary,

Transvaal Education Department.

## AN AGE OF "NERVES"

### THE RESULT OF MODERN CONDITIONS

Have you noticed how nervous people have become nowadays? A well-known physician says that half the patients who come to him are nerve starved. Restlessness, disturbed sleep and headaches are only a part of what the patients suffer—the worst is their agony of mind. The right way to treat this misery of starved nerves is to build up your blood by taking Dr. Williams' pink pills. The new, rich blood created by these pills feeds and strengthens the nerves, and so removes the cause of nerve troubles.

Read the tribute of Mrs. S. Rawlinson, of 23, Railway Side, Hightown, Castleford, who states:—"Three years ago I suffered a complete nervous breakdown; I could not eat or sleep, and all strength and energy seemed to leave me. The least thing alarmed me. I became practically helpless. I tried all kinds of medicines without avail, until a neighbour recommended Dr. Williams' pink pills. Before I had finished the first bottle I felt a little better. I persevered with the pills, and gradually regained my strength. My appetite returned and I began to sleep well. Now I feel altogether a different woman."

You, too, can build up your nerves by taking Dr. Williams' pink pills. Of all dealers, or direct from Dr. Williams' Medicine Co., P. O. Box 604, Cape Town; 3s. 3d. for one bottle, or six for 18s. post free.

