

Indian Opinion

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SIMON COMMISSION REPORT

ITS RECOMMENDATIONS

THE recommendations in the second volume of the Simon Report contain the ideal of federation for all India; the abolition of diarchy; special treatment for the North-west Frontier Province; full and ample powers for the Governor-General as an impartial authority; the remodelling of the Provincial Legislatures; the continuation of communal representation; the extension of the franchise to 10 per cent. of the population; the increase in the number of women voters; the substitution of a Federal Assembly for the present Legislative Assembly, its members to be chosen by the Provincial Councils; the retention of the Council of State; additional functions for the Federal Assembly in the sphere of finance; unity in the Central Executive—the Commission is strongly opposed to the principle of diarchy in the Central Government when it is proposed to abandon it in the Provinces—; modification in the procedure which insures the control of the British Parliament over India; maintenance of a British element in the Indian Army; the separation of Burma from India; and various steps for securing the participation of the Indian States in a slowly evolving scheme of Indian federation.

Army In India

No part of the Report is more important than that which deals with the Army in India. "The Army in India is the only effective barrier between India and the dangers without her gate. The land frontier of India exposes her in the North-West to the constant pressing danger of a magnitude without parallel in any other part of the Empire."

The Report comes, therefore, to the conclusion that "the protection of the frontiers of India, at any rate for a long time to come, should not be regarded as a function of the Indian Government in relation to the Indian Legislature, but as a matter of supreme concern to the whole Empire—a function which can only be effectively organised and controlled by Imperial agency."

Tribute To Britain

The Commissioners pay great tribute to what Britain has done for India. "It is a tremendous achievement to have brought to the Indian sub-continent, and to have applied in practice, the conceptions of impartial government, of the rule of law of respect, for equal civil rights without reference to class and creed, and of disinterested and incorruptible civil service. These are essential elements in any State which is advancing towards well-ordered self-government.

"In his heart even the bitterest critic of British administration in India knows that India owes these things mainly to Britain."

Strong objection is taken to the "arbitrary demands of a fixed time-table," and, therefore, the 10 years' time limit underlying the Montagu-Chelmsford Report finds no support from Sir John Simon and his colleagues.

Federal Assembly Of India

"We have proposed to transform the Assembly and Council of State into bodies representing the

Provinces. We have rearranged finance with a view to meeting provincial needs. We have introduced such elasticity as we can into the structure of the Central Government and we have carried the development of self-government in the Provinces to the furthest practicable point."

The Commissioners suggest the creation of some new constitutional machinery, which may enable the Indian States to become more closely associated with British India for the purpose of dealing with matters of common concern.

The Commission proposes to attain this object by remodelling the Provincial Constitution on lines which give it a reasonable chance of natural and healthy growth, without threatening it in advance by further inquiry. The Report urges the extreme importance of adjusting Provincial boundaries, for which task it recommends that a Boundaries Commission should be appointed by the Government of India at the earliest possible date.

Legislative Councils

The Legislative Councils at present are too small, and the Report suggests that the number of members in the case of the more important Provinces should be enlarged to between 200 and 250 for the present. It urges that communal representation should continue with the reservation of seats for depressed and other special classes, such as Europeans, Anglo-Indians, Christians, Universities and planting labour.

As regards women, the Commission says that they should be left a fair field and no favour and that the Provincial Legislatures should have power to amend their Constitution.

Women Voters

Further, the Commission proposes that the franchise should be extended to 10 per cent. of the population, with a qualification for women voters, but is against the introduction of second chambers for the Provinces.

North-West Provinces

It considers that unified control is essential for the North-West Provinces, with suitable representative institutions and due provision for Hindus and Sikhs.

Central Legislature

As regards the Central Legislature, it is proposed to substitute a new body, entitled the Federal Assembly, mainly chosen by the Provincial Councils, including parts of British India which cannot be included in the area covered by the Provincial Councils. The Commission attaches very great importance to the method of proportional representation to be used in connection with this Federal Assembly.

There are weighty reasons, says the report, for retaining the Council of State as an integral part of the Central Government. It is, therefore, proposed that the Council should continue as at present, with seats allotted to federal units and existing legislative and financial powers.

The two Chambers of the Central Legislature should remain as at present, but additional functions

should be performed by the Federal Assembly in the sphere of finance.

Governor-General-in-Council

As regards the Governor-General-in-Council, the Report declares against a diarchy or divided responsibility. The Governor-General would continue to be, not only the representative of the King-Emperor in all formal and ceremonial matters, but the actual and active head of the Government. Until the Provinces of India have established themselves by the working of unitary Governments as self-governing units, the ultimate form of the Central Government of India cannot be finally determined.

Dealing with the authority of the Government, the Commission urges that the Government case should not go by default and that means should be considered whereby the widest publicity should be obtained for reasonable account of the activities and decisions of the various Governments in order to counteract the gross misrepresentations put forward.

British Troops And Civil Service

Dealing with defence and internal security, the Report declares that for a very long time it will be impossible for the Army to be entrusted with the task of defending India or to dispense with the very considerable British element, including in that term the British troops of all arms and a considerable proportion of the regimental officers in the Indian Army and the British personnel in the higher commands. The Commissioners recommend that the security services, namely the Civil and Indian Police services, should continue to be recruited upon an all-India basis by the Secretary of State, with power to require Provincial Governments to employ these services in such numbers and in such appointments as he thinks necessary after discussions with the Provincial Governments and the Government of India. The rights and prospects of officers now in the Service should be carefully safeguarded.

In the concluding paragraph, the Commissioners emphasise that no allusion has been made to the recent events in India and that the whole of the principal recommendations were unanimously agreed to before those events occurred. They had not altered the line of the Report on that account, for it was necessary to look beyond particular incidents and take a longer view.—Reuter.

Commission Burned In Effigy

Karachi, June 23.—Effigies of the members of the Simon Commission and the officers who presided over the Abbottabad court-martial were publicly burned at Gathwall to-day at a soldier's celebration.

A bundle of papers, intended to represent the Report of the Simon Commission, was cremated after denunciatory speeches.—Reuter.

Sir Kurma Reddi To Speak

At City Parliament Society

The outcome of the negotiations between Mr. Denis Fagan, Prime Minister of the City Parliamentary Debating Society, and Sir Kurma Reddi, Indian Agent-General for South Africa, will be the first public appearance in Maritzburg since his return from India of Sir Kurma on August 7, when he will address the society on a resolution dealing with the governance of India.

The form which the resolution will take has not yet been decided upon, but it will be one that is sure to create an interesting discussion.

The debate has been arranged for August 30 as to give the local scholastic community an opportunity of attending.—*Natal Witness*

SUBTERFUGE, TRICKERY AND WILE

IN our last issue we fully dealt with the accusations made against the Agent of the Government of India, Sir Kurma Reddi, by Dr. Potgieter. In addressing a meeting of his constituents, Dr. Potgieter laid false charges against the Transvaal Indians. In the course of his remarks Dr. Potgieter said:—"The Asiatic subjects of the Union had, by subterfuge, by trickery and by every wile, persistently and consistently sought to evade and circumvent the Union laws."

We propose to examine the charge laid against the Transvaal Indians by Dr. Potgieter. Dr. Potgieter was one of the members of Select Committee appointed by the Parliament to inquire and report upon the position created by the judgments regarding the residence on or occupation of fixed property by Indians or other persons belonging to the native races of Asia on proclaimed ground in the Transvaal. A deputation of the Transvaal Indian Congress appeared before the Select Committee and submitted a statement to it. The members of the deputation were examined by the Select Committee. Advocate P. Millin K.C., who represented the Indians of the Transvaal Province, was at length examined by the members of the Select Committee. It was maintained that the Indians had evaded Law 3 of 1885 and Act 37 of 1919, which prohibit them to own fixed property and also prohibit them to reside on and occupy fixed property on proclaimed land. Law 3 of 1885 enacted that Asiatics shall not be entitled to own fixed property in the Transvaal. The right to acquire property in trust in the names of Europeans was recognised by the Government, and this practice was actually countenanced by the Transvaal Government in 1897 and the first trustee was a public official appointed by the Government. The right to acquire property by limited companies was also recognised by law. Therefore it would be wrong and unjust to say that the Indians in the Transvaal have evaded the laws with regard to owning land.

With regard to Indians illegally occupying stands on proclaimed ground and carrying on trade thereon, Mr. Millin in his evidence fully explained the history of the Gold Law of 1908 and maintained that successive

Governments had always allowed the presence of Asiatics in the teeth of sections 130 and 131 of the Gold Law of 1908. It was the Government's policy and not mere apathy that brought about the non-enforcement of these provisions. It was a deliberate policy on the part of the Government. Mr. Millin proved this by quoting the evidence of Mr. Herbert Hamel, the Mining Commissioner of Boksburg, which he gave before the Select Committee on the disabilities of British Indians in the Transvaal in April 1919. In the course of his evidence Mr. Hamel said:—"I think the policy in the past has been that the existence of townships on proclaimed ground took the traders in such townships out of the provisions of Sections 130 and 131. In reply to a question by Mr. Duncan, Mr. Hamel said:—"As far as I am aware, Section 130 of the Gold Law has only occasionally been invoked in regard to traders on mining ground, Indians and others, but not in townships. There is no reason at all why it should have been treated almost as a dead letter, except as a matter of policy."

All well-informed persons knew what the law was but they also knew that as a matter of administrative policy the law was not being enforced. With regard to Act 37 of 1919, it is true there was the recommendation of the Select Committee that the Government should enforce the law in future, but even after 1919 the Government continued the previous policy of non-enforcement of the law. The Receiver of Revenue accepted the licence fees and the licences were issued to the Indians up to the year 1929.

All this was made clear before the members of the Select Committee in the presence of Dr. Potgieter, and the members of the deputation rightly maintained that the Indians had never evaded the laws. Knowing this very well Dr. Potgieter has the audacity to run before his constituents and make irresponsible statements in order to prejudice the minds of European voters against the Indians. We think that those who are bent upon to do injustice to the Indians should adopt at least clean methods in their propaganda against them.

"PROVE YOUR COURAGE"

EUROPEANS are wont to protest that Indian psychology passes their understanding; they are also given to quoting Kipling's time-worn and somewhat weather-beaten slogan about East being East, and West West, etc. The protest is as often as not made in a spirit of self-complacency and self-gratulation as if to suggest that nescience or ignorance are legitimate matters for pride on the part of superior persons who have adopted them from choice. It becomes necessary at times to recall that the Latin equivalent of the Greek "agnostic" is "ignoramus." We of the East are reputed to be at least a resourceful people. Confronted as we now are with the prospects of a struggle for a self-respecting existence, it behoves us to see that we avoid any such pitfall of assumed superiority based upon corresponding lack of understanding.

Two thousand years of Christianity have obviously failed to make the Western world Christian. The Spirit of The Christ has leavened but little the lump of its old-time pagan materialism. Take for example the simple question of "colour," here in South Africa. Considerations of a common spiritual pedigree resulting in a spiritual kinship of such doctrines as that men, irrespective of race and colour, are spiritual entities—souls—their respective bodies but habitations for subserving the soul's growth, any such, if ever they were apprehended, very evidently no longer are. The body itself, the colour of its skin, are the determining factors. Character, capabilities, qualifications are as nought when weighed in the scale against colour. Indeed, indications have not been wanting to suggest that their presence not infrequently aggravates the offence. White is Right! That men are more than their bodies, the differences in the complexions of which are but accidentals not essentials, is one phase of Truth and Reality still to be perceived and realised by the "Superior" Western.

Another example of the conventional pagan outlook is that of "The Mailed Fist." "Material gains, self-aggrandisement, self-gratification are the "Jewels of Desire" scrambling in fierce competition for which, men and nations war with each other in a lurid murk of lust, passion, envy and hate. The body and its desires! They, the real objects of worship, of subservience; brute

force the means for securing the sacrifice necessary to appease those usurping idols. 'Ahimsa'—harmlessness; 'Kshanti'—infinite patience; 'Dhana'—universal love that arises from recognition of God in all beings—these "paramitas," or virtues, are veritable strangers outside the gates of Western civilisation, its ideals and outlook. The "great war" opened to the accompaniment of much talk concerning ideals as its motive; its conclusion witnessed a vulgar scramble for spoils. The democracy the world was to have been made safe for, was promptly, and when necessary, forcibly, put back into its place.

Yet there is at least one quality that appeals to the temperament of the West which it were well for us to remember, the quality of Pluck. It is not altogether the same thing as courage but it is akin to it. It implies the bull-dog determination to conquer, plus the capacity to "stick it out" in the face of punishment. Pluck, especially in the smaller and weaker, appeals irresistibly. It is one of the surest portals through which the heart of the Western may be reached, whereby his sympathy and assent may be secured. India, to-day, is setting the world an object lesson in Pluck at its highest and rarest. We in South Africa may also be called upon to prove our courage and our endurance. There is a spiritual democracy in which we are interested parties, a democracy in which even the despised Asiatic, regardless of his brown body, has a place. The world—even the South African world—must be made safe for that, and if the call comes to us, let it not be a call that shall find us wanting.

Reply To Dr. Potgieter.

Mr. P. K. Desai, secretary of the Transvaal Indian Congress, in an interview with a *Natal Witness* representative severely criticised Dr. Potgieter for his "unwarrantable attack" on the Asiatics in the Transvaal. Dr. Potgieter had charged the Asiatics with having "persistently and consistently sought to evade and circumvent the laws by subterfuge, by trickery and by every wile."

The whole of these charges, said Mr. Desai, is denied. They are a travesty of the truth.

Dr. Potgieter in his speech undoubtedly referred to the new Bill which was introduced into Parliament at the last stage of the session, but which was postponed until next session.

This Bill, Mr. Desai said, proposed drastic changes and imposed undue hardships on Indians, and restricted their existing rights.

Dr. Potgieter was a member of the Select Committee and knew full well that responsible Indians not only denied that there was any evasion of the laws by them, but stated that they did what the laws permitted them to do.

Restricted Residence

Mr. Desai instanced the fact that the Courts ruled that the intention of the old Dutch Republic was to restrict residence of Asiatics for the purpose of sanitary reasons only, but not to interfere with their rights of free trade.

Even in the old days, he said, the right to acquire property in trust in the names of Europeans was recognised by the Government. This practice was actually countenanced by the Transvaal Government in 1897, and the first trustee was a public official appointed by the Government. The right to acquire property by limited companies was also recognisable by law.

Where do evasions, subterfuge and trickery come in? asked Mr. Desai. If what Dr. Potgieter stated was correct, they surely would find wholesale punishment meted out to these alleged offenders.

"I can just imagine the intention of the doctor," Mr. Desai said. "Before the country has had an opportunity of studying and learning the implications of the Bill, Dr. Potgieter wanted to cloud the issues and work up a campaign against the Indians."

Unjustified Attack

The *Natal Witness* in its issue of 20th June writes editorially:—

Time and again the less responsible of South Africa's public men make ill-considered statements which shock the country. The latest to do so is Dr. Carl Potgieter the Nationalist member of Parliament for the North-east Rand. In a speech on Tuesday at Cloverdale, a village in his constituency, Dr. Potgieter launched an attack on Sir Kurma Reddi, the Agent-General of the Government of India in South Africa. The attack was as undignified as it was uncalled for. Sir Kurma Reddi, declared Dr. Potgieter, had the impertinence to stump the country to express in public his disapproval of the accepted policy of the Union in connection with the treatment of Asiatics in the Transvaal. Impertinence was an unhappy word to use. Yet it is one which can be applied, and with justification, to that portion of Dr. Potgieter's speech in which he lectures Sir Kurma on manners and good taste. Sir Kurma Reddi, said Dr. Potgieter, ought to know that it was a gross and unforgivable breach of etiquette for the representative of one Government to comment in public on the policy of another Government or to seek to influence the public of a foreign State in regard thereto. Surely Dr. Potgieter, in speaking in such terms of a gentleman to whom he himself refers as the "most honoured of the Union's Asiatic guests" is himself guilty of an impertinence. And we have no doubt that because of it he will receive a rap over the knuckles from the leader of his party. And he deserves it. To say that Sir Kurma has been stumping the country to express his disapproval of the Asiatic Bill is grossly inaccurate—such a statement is merely pleasant food for a notoriously anti-Asiatic section of South Africans to feed upon. Sir Kurma Reddi has done nothing of the sort. In an interview with a representative of the *Natal Witness* on Wednesday the Indian Agent-General denied emphatically that he had stumped the country or that he had ever accused the Government of any perpetration of injustice. He further denied having disapproved of any accepted policy of the Government; not only had he not expressed disapproval in public, but he had never uttered it in private. And we have no reason to disbelieve Sir Kurma Reddi. In one or two of his speeches, we admit, there has been evidence of what might be taken as a certain uneasiness with regard to the Asiatic Bill. We ourselves are unable to view the passing of the Bill next session with equanimity.

But Sir Kurma Reddi has definitely expressed his complete confidence in Dr. Malan; and he is convinced that justice will be done to the Indian in the Transvaal. In spite of this Dr. Potgieter attacks Sir Kurma Reddi bitterly. In doing so he himself has committed a "gross and unforgivable breach of etiquette." For, as Dr. Potgieter has told his constituents, Sir Kurma Reddi is the most honoured of the Union's Asiatic guests. And Dr. Potgieter is one of his hosts.

Aryan Benevolent Home

Ninth Anniversary Celebrated

The ninth anniversary celebration of the Aryan Benevolent Home took place in the presence of a large gathering of Indians and Europeans at Mayville on Sunday afternoon. The interior of the school hall was profusely decorated with flags and bunting, and his Worship the Mayor of Durban, Councillor A. Lamont, was in the chair, and other personages present included Sir Kurma Reddi, the Indian Agent-General, the Mayoress, Colonel Lewis, Councillor H. H. Kemp, Advocate A. Christopher, Mr. B. M. Singh and Mr. George Hindson, grantee of several Indian schools.

Mr. Satyadev, president of the institution, speaking in Hindi, welcomed the Indian Agent-General and other visitors and thanked the Mayor for having kindly consented to preside over the afternoon's function. The brief presidential address dealt very concisely with the manifold activities of the benevolent home, as well as the school, both of which, he said, were maintained by public charity and an annual grant from the Provincial Administration.

The President then referred to Mr. Alex. Eaton's promise last year that the Durban Town Council would try and render monetary aid, but he regretted to say that nothing had been done in this connection.

He pointed out that at present certain structural alterations were being contemplated by the committee, but, owing to financial difficulties, it was impossible to carry out the plans. Mr. Satyadev issued an appeal to the Indian public of Natal to come to the committee's rescue. After referring to the attendance at the school, the President observed that the institution was the only one of its kind in Natal which imparted education in English, Tamil and Hindi, and he was glad to say that every section of the Indian community was taking full advantage of the facilities afforded at the school.

Mr. Satyadev garlanded the Mayor and Sir Kurma Reddi, and presented bouquets to the Mayoress, Councillor H. H. Kemp, Colonel Lewis, Mr. B. M. Singh and Mr. George Hindson, grantees of the Aryan Benevolent School. The Mayor, after congratulating the President and officials of the school and home on the praiseworthy work they were doing, promised to do his utmost to obtain a grant.

Sir Kurma Reddi said that every section of the Indian community of Natal appreciated the noble work that was being done by the home as well as the school, and hoped that the Town Council would not fail in its duty towards the poorer section of the general community. He agreed that Mayville was not an integral part of the Borough of Durban, but pointed out that most of the inmates of the benevolent home were found on the streets of Durban, and, therefore, the Town Council's duty towards the inmates was an imperative one.—*Natal Mercury*.

Governor-General And The Indians Of Umzinto

His Excellency the Governor-General, accompanied by Her Royal Highness Princess Alice and suite, visited Umzinto on the 19th June. The local Indian community took the opportunity of welcoming the Royal party at the Indian Sports Ground. There was a large attendance of Indians. Mr. A. W. Graham, Resident Magistrate for the division, introduced His Excellency to the members of the Indian community.

Mr. A. B. Paul said:—"Your Excellency, on behalf of the Indian community of this district, I desire to express in a few words their welcome to you on this auspicious occasion. We admire and appreciate your efforts at all times for the welfare of the Indian people of the Union, and now on the eve of your departure we wish you Godspeed and every happiness in your well-earned rest."

The Governor-General thanked Mr. Paul for his words and said that he was pleased to know that they were prosperous, but more pleased to learn that they were law-abiding subjects. The school children sang the National Anthem and amid cheers the Royal party left by road for Durban at 4-30 p.m.

News Of Independence Struggle In India

Prisoners To Be Released?

Calcutta, June 19.—In spite of the realisation that sweet reasonableness is wasted upon Congress members, there are plain indications that the Government is determined to make one more attempt at conciliation after the publication of the second volume of the Simon Commission's Report, which contains the Commission's recommendations.

The Government is expected to make an offer to withdraw their emergency measures about picketing and intimidation and the Press Ordinances, and to release purely political prisoners on condition that the civil disobedience movement is called off altogether. By making such an offer the Government evidently considers they will have nothing to lose.

World opinion is with Great Britain on the Indian question, and, if such offers are rejected, the Congress leaders will stand condemned universally as impossible people.

The attitude of the Indian National Congress Working Committee remains undetermined. The abstention of the Mahomedans from the civil disobedience movement is at present a source of great anxiety to Hindu Swarajists, who are busy making anxious endeavours to enlist Moslem support—but unsuccessfully. Meantime the gravest importance is attached to the Congress Committee's recent statement—vague by design—regarding a definite attempt to tamper with the loyalty of the police and troops as part and parcel of the Congress programme.

Pundit Motilal Nehru In Bombay

Bombay, June 21.—Five hundred police charged with lathis dense masses of volunteers who were congregating on the Maidan Esplanade in defiance of the official prohibition orders. Numerous spectators were mixed up with the demonstrators, who had foregathered in expectation of exciting scenes at the review of the so-

called Nationalist Militia Volunteer Force by Motilal Nehru.

The police withdrew, but returned and charged when the volunteers again attempted to carry out their programme. Altogether over 200 people were removed to hospital. Motilal Nehru remained on the spot throughout until the crowd dispersed. Fifty thousand volunteers are now flocking back to the Maidan.

Rain Disperses Monster Procession

Bombay, June 22.—To-day was fixed for a monster procession of Gandhi's supporters in sympathy with the sepoy of the Garhwali Regiment who were recently court-martialled on account of their unsatisfactory behaviour during the rioting at Peshawar.

The Congress "War Council," in defiance of the official ban, planned all the details of the demonstration and the police took elaborate precautions and blocked all the roads from Congress headquarters where a company of the East Lancashire Regiment was posted.

Then down came the monsoon rain and everything was literally washed out.

All is quiet at present.—Reuter.

Bombs Exploded In Indian Cities

Simla, Thursday.—Bombs were exploded in five different northern cities last night, namely, at Lahore, Iyalpur, Unjranwalla, Sheikpura and Amritsar. One policeman is reported to have been seriously injured.

—Reuter.

Simon Report Criticised

Simla, Tuesday.—Reports received up to now from various parts of India show that the Simon Commission recommendations have caused general disappointment among Indian politicians and the Indian Press.

Even the Liberal organ, *The Allahabad Leader*, describes them as "repulsive."

The Congress attitude is typified by the headline in the *Nationalist Bombay Chronicle*: "An Atrocious Document"

A message from London states that comments in the newspapers this morning deal generally with the broad outlines of the Simon Commission's report. The plan of a Federal solution is generally approved, and the necessity for eventually bringing in the Indian States is recognised, while opposition is expressed to the separation of Burma, which was expected, and no regret at the proposed extinction of dyarchy.

On the general proposals contained in the report, opinion is not unanimous, for while *The Times* describes it as "the most hopeful advance of our generation towards the solution of the problem of India" the *Daily Herald*, which is frankly critical, considers the Commission has evaded the main issue, and says its proposals are not for self-government.

Army Question

The Conservative papers are gratified that the importance of the Army question is realised, though they consider the suggested solution will require close scrutiny, and doubts are expressed as to the wisdom of the proposals regarding law and order in the Provinces.

—Reuter.

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Mr. Tyson's Statement To The Select Committee

(Continued from page 198)

15. Taking first, as a basis, the figures of general dealers' licences, and bringing up to date the figures for four magisterial districts in which Indian competition is said to be severe, we have the following table:—

General Dealers' Licences

LICENCES HELD BY "ASIATICS"			
Magisterial Area.	1920.	1923.	1929.
Krugersdorp	139	115	88
Potchefstroom	99	78	35
Volkcrust	25	19	22
Zeerust	54	47	65
	<u>317</u>	<u>259</u>	<u>210</u>

These figures speak for themselves. (Those for 1920 and 1923 were supplied to Sir George Paddison's Deputation in 1926; those for 1929 have been supplied by the Revenue Department). The position as between "Asiatic" and European holders of General Dealers' licences in these areas in 1929 appears from the following figures obtained through the Revenue Department:—

General Dealers' Licences

	1929.	
	Magisterial Area "Asiatics"	Municipal Area "Asiatics"
Krugersdorp	88	39
Potchefstroom	35	27
Volkcrust	22	14
Zeerust	65	15
	<u>210</u>	<u>95</u>

Figures obtained through the Revenue Department show that in the municipal area of Vereeniging there were 45 general dealers' licences in the hands of "Asiatics" in 1919; the number at present is 40 according to Mr. Lalle. Figures supplied by the Revenue Department in respect of Klerksdorp municipal area are as follows:—

General Dealers' Licences

	1919.	1929.
Indian	18	16
European	46	47

It is difficult to see why such figures should cause alarm.

16. It has been alleged that in Ventersdorp, Rustenburg, Standerton and Ermelo, Europeans are being "exterminated" as traders. So far as can be gathered from the Revenue Department's figures of general dealers' licences issued, the European is holding his own in these districts, with the exception of Standerton.

General Dealers' Licences

Municipal Area (Year)	Figures for 1919. (or earliest subsequent available figures)		Figures for 1929. (supplied by Revenue Department).	
	European.	Indian.	European.	Indian.
Ventersdorp (1926)	59	48	119	49
Rustenburg (year not given)	141	90	108	59
Standerton (1921)	81	35	82	64
Ermelo (1919)	66	17	89	30

17. The figures for the Magisterial District of Johannesburg are of special importance for the purposes of the Committee. The figures for 1919 in respect of this area are quoted in paragraph 100 of the Asiatic Inquiry Commission's Report. Allowing for a re-classification of licences since the date of that Report (butchers and fresh produce dealers, whose licences were apparently in the total figures of "general dealers' licences" in 1919, are now separately classified) it will be found from the table given below that, while the population of the Johannesburg area is increasing the number of licences in existence is decreasing; but the decrease is more marked in the case of "Asiatic" licences than in the case of non-Asiatic licences. Licences held by Asiatics (of whom about three-quarters are said to be Indians) have fallen by 336, or 23.5 per cent., as against a decrease of 946, or 16.5 per cent. for non-Asiatics. The figures for 1928 have been obtained through the Revenue Department, and it may be added that the year 1928 has been selected as being the last year during which applications for certificates were generally adjudicated upon by the municipal authorities in Johannesburg. It is understood that the magisterial area of Johannesburg—to which these figures refer—has remained unaltered in extent during the period in question. Some figures have been put up by the City Council people themselves and with regard to those I would only say they were given for the last three years, and I think they are figures for applications for licences. It will be difficult to compare them with my figures because figures for applications for licences do not mean the number of people to whom licences have been granted. One remembers that evidence was given before the Asiatic Inquiry Commission to the effect that European applications were granted as a matter of course but Indian applications were refused as a matter of course, if for new licences. That evidence referred to the position in Durban, but the position is much the same in Johannesburg.

FIGURES OF GENERAL DEALERS' LICENCES IN THE MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT OF JOHANNESBURG.

1919.	1928.
Figures supplied by Receiver of Revenue to Asiatic Inquiry Commission.	(Figures supplied by Receiver of Revenue.
Total number of General Dealers licences issued 7165	G.D. licences 5052 Butchers 481 Fr. Pr. Dealers 350 Total —5,883 "Asiatics"
General Dealers licences issued to "Asiatics" 1430	G.D. licences 915 Butchers 77 Fr. Pr. Dealers 102
	—1094 Decrease, —336 or 23.5 per cent.
G.D. licences held by non-Asiatics 5735	Licences held by non-Asiatics 4789 Decrease, 946 or 16.5 per cent.

The figures for butchers and fruit produce dealers refer only to cases where such licences are held apart from General Dealers' licences.

The Receiver of Revenue computes that the figures for "Asiatics" in this list refer to Indians to the extent of about three-quarters. In addition it may be mentioned that, according to figures for the same area supplied by the Receiver of Revenue, there were 686 licensed Indian hawkers and pedlars in 1919 against 685 in 1928.

18. All the foregoing figures refer to general dealers only; it is as general dealers and, where the businesses are separately conducted, as fresh pro-

duce dealers that Indians compete most keenly with traders of other races. Thus out of 45 Indian businesses of all kinds carried on in Potchefstroom in 1920, 36 were general dealers; and though on the same date there were only 16 European general dealers in Potchefstroom, there were 107 European businesses altogether, including produce merchants, butchers, barbers, bakers, drapers, and 60 classed as "miscellaneous" of which the Asiatic Inquiry Commission stated (paragraph 107) that they included "bootmakers, auctioneers, second-hand dealers, refreshment rooms, garages and businesses not generally undertaken by Asiatics." The point is strikingly illustrated in the figures of shops given in paragraph 19 below. Moreover a mere enumeration of the licences issued may convey an exaggerated impression of the number of business actually involved. In many cases all the partners in an Indian business are holders of trading licences in respect of the same shop. Indians sometimes go over to India and it suits them that the other partner should have a licence so that he can carry on in his business. Licences are sometimes taken out and not utilised. Thus the forty general dealers' licences held by Asiatics in Vereeniging municipal area at present represent, according to the Receiver of Revenue, only 21 general dealers' shops. Similarly 16 general dealers' licences in the Klerksdorp municipal area represent 12 general dealers' shops, while at Krugersdorp the 35 general dealers' licences held by Indians represent only 21 shops and 4 tables in the market square; there are, it is understood, two more shops which have no licences as yet and do not therefore affect the case.

(To be Continued)

Sastri Nursing Home

The Editor,
INDIAN OPINION,
Phoenix, Natal.

Dear Sir,—As honorary president of the proposed Nursing Home for Asiatic and Coloured women (to be called the Sastri Home), and on behalf of the Indian community in Johannesburg may I beg some space for the enclosed article which appeared some time ago in *The Star*, setting out the history of this project.

After a disappointing month following the first committee meeting, when no subscriptions whatever have come in, except from two European members of the committee, one from the "Women's Reform Club" and the proceeds (£10) of an entertainment which fell flat owing to the organisers having to be absent at Capetown with the deputation concerning the Asiatic Bill, a meeting of the committee was held again last week at which a distinct spirit of effort was raised amongst the Indian and coloured members. Offers to collect money, to give furniture and service, such as plumbing, and carpentering alterations in the Home were eagerly made. This spirit was probably raised by the fact that the Agent-General, Sir Kurma Reddi, had that day definitely advised no formal opening of the Home until money and promises of money had been obtained sufficient to cover a year's working of the Home. This would mean, with all preliminary expenses of alteration and furnishing, the monthly rent of the house, and matron's salary and the housekeeping for one year, at least £500. After that the Home should pay its running expenses out of patients' fees of 2/6 to 3/6 per day. (This is a nursing home and not a free hospital. For only in those conditions can be ob-

served the various sectarian regulations which could alone make the home an acceptable refuge from the great cosmopolitan hospital here—or from a cramped home where a valuable life is lost for want of professional nursing).

The Countess of Cromer, mother of the Hon. Evelyn Baring, had kindly consented to open the Home during her present visit in June. But on the Agent-General's advice the formal opening is now postponed until about August 25th, when Lady Cromer will again visit Johannesburg for the express purpose of attending the ceremony, at which Sir Kurma Reddi and staff will also be present.

There is therefore some eight weeks in which to collect the necessary £500. In the meantime the rent of the house is being paid with great difficulty and the Matron-Sister has established herself in the empty house, has taken one patient for luck and is managing for a time without any salary whatever. May I appeal to Natal Indians to help their Transvaal compatriots to achieve this most necessary institution? In this uneasy period for the Indian community it behoves all sects and political groups to achieve strength by unity. The secretary, chairman and committee cannot help but think that nothing makes for harmony better than a communal effort of such a nature as this.

If I may so put it, it does seem as if Africa would have to be the lasting home of many thousands of Indians. We have heard lately that members of the race who have returned to India are not finding their life made easier or happier. It would be wise, therefore, for the Indian community to invest money in this country in such substantial progressive comforts as hospitals and schools, without which there can be no stability. Moreover the constant fight going on in South Africa on a colour basis is bound one day to end in victory for right and justice. To give up the struggle now is to miss happy solutions awaiting us.

I should not have ventured to say so much had not we who are working for this project been greatly cheered yesterday by the arrival of the following inspiring message from that great Indian patriot and world statesman, the Right Honourable V. S. S. Sastri. The cable which was sent from London, reads as follows:—

"You honour me too highly indeed to associate my name with memorable project. Pray accept my cordial gratitude and appreciation for noble humanitarian effort worthy your unselfish devotion to cause of poor helpless people. Convey Sigamoney and colleagues my loving congratulations their high endeavour. I appeal earnestly to all Indians to support institution with utmost liberality for their own sake and good name of Motherland.—SASTRI."

May we, members of the committee, hope that not only in Johannesburg but wherever Indians and other Asiatics are in South Africa, and also from the wealthy Indians of the Mother-country, financial help will quickly arise so as to make the opening ceremony in August a complete success. It has been our aim, apart from this first year of concerted effort, to give this Asiatic Home a dignified independence of European assistance, except in so far as natural help will be obtained through an annual street collection or by way of Government grant, if obtainable. Mr. Sastri's message should send this appeal to the hearts of all Indians and others of the Asiatic community.

I am,

Yours faithfully,

Johannesburg,
June 14th, 1930

ETHELREDA LEWIS.

Licensing Appeal Dismissed

Decision Upheld At Weenen

Some little time back Mr. Goolam Mahomed Kajee applied for a licence for premises in Boshoff Street, lately occupied by the late R. D. Hanson, and owned by Mr. Watling, of Estcourt, but was refused by the licensing officer for the township.

On Friday his appeal was heard by the Town Board, consisting of Messrs. R. M. Buchan (chairman,) P. J. van Rooyen, J.P., M.P.C., J. H. C. Torlage, J. J. van Zuydam and K. G. M. Tavenor. The other member of the Board, Mr. Ben Slayen, being an objector, did not sit.

Mr. A. A. K. de Waal, of Messrs. Hellet and de Waal, appeared for appellant; while Mr. J. M. K. Chadwick was on the side of the objectors, who were local storekeepers.

After hearing arguments for and against the Board upheld the licensing officer's refusal to grant the licence.—*Natal Witness*.

YEARS OF PERIL

WHEN GIRLS ARE IN THEIR 'TEENS

"How quickly she's grown; that girl needs watching!" is an everyday phrase, because in their early 'teens it is quite common for girls to outgrow their strength, and mothers should watch the health of their daughters at this time. For it is when the strength is sapped by too rapid growth that anaemia develops.

The first signs may be noticed by peevishness, languor, headaches, and perhaps a craving for sweets, or eye starch. The face becomes pale, breathlessness and palpitation follow, with low spirits.

At the first symptoms of anaemia, mothers should act at once. Neglected anaemia often leads to decline, but if you see that your daughter's blood is enriched, there need be no cause for anxiety. The first blood-enricher ever discovered is Dr. Williams' pink pills. The pure red blood created by these pills will quickly banish all signs of anaemia. They will build up your girl's health and ensure for her a healthy, robust womanhood.

Give your daughter a course of Dr. Williams' pink pills now. Make her strong and vigorous like the thousands of girls throughout the Kingdom who have been rescued from the clutches of anaemia by 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.

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