

Indian Opinion

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Indian Opinion

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 22ND, 1908.

The Second Chapter

THE second chapter in the history of the Indian campaign in the Transvaal, though it opened under somewhat violent auspices, bids fair to close satisfactorily. The work of construction is going on, as it should do, gradually and steadily. Indians are beginning to realise that it is now a point of honour under the voluntary offer to give 10 fingerprints and that the whole struggle was in connection with the Asiatic Act itself and not with the mode of identification. The principle of re-identification having been granted, the mode of it could not be a matter of grave consequence. As the *Natal Mercury* has very rightly put it: "The passive resistance struggle has established the right of unrepresented minorities to be consulted as to legislation specially affecting them." But in order to have this right respected, Asiatics have now to show that they deserve to retain what they have fought for. We are, therefore, glad to notice the dignified, intelligent and reasonable attitude

taken up by the large body of Asiatics. They have been during the past 10 days, assisting the Registrar in going through his work as quickly as possible by taking applicants to the Office and by keeping order about its precincts. The Asiatic officers have more applicants than they can cope with.

The Chinese, who seemed to be keeping aloof, have accepted the Indian position. There remains only the Pathan element, but, as time goes on and as their suspicion is gradually removed, we have good reason to believe that the Pathans too will fall in with the terms. The Government, it must be confessed, have been respecting Asiatic prejudices so far as they do not interfere with complete identification. It is to be hoped that by the end, or, rather, long before the three months are out, every Asiatic in the Transvaal will have been voluntarily registered. The onus will then again be thrown upon the Government of fulfilling its obligation towards those Asiatics who are entitled to reside in the country as a respectable, law-abiding, and not an undesirable, portion of the inhabitants of the Transvaal.

Mr. Smith's Report

MR. HARRY SMITH, Principal Immigration Restriction Officer, is always thorough in everything he does. He has sent to the press an advance copy of his report for 1907. The Act is carried out through three places in the Colony, namely at the Port, at Charlestown, and at Van Reenen. There is nothing new in the report that is striking, but the papers presented by Mr. Smith show a steady decrease in the introduction of fresh Asiatics who can pass the Education test or can enter as wives and minor children of domiciled Asiatics. "The number of persons," states Mr. Smith, "declared ineligible as Immigrants, through defective education, was larger than in any previous year." The admissions, as shown by Return M, allowed on approved tests were 81 in 1907, against 144 in 1906 and 157 in 1905. And yet Mr. Smith wants to draw the cordon tighter around Asiatics and advises that the Section be amended "in the direction

of giving power to the Department to nominate the language in which the test is to be written." If this means anything, it means that, a knowledge having been gained that a particular Asiatic is versed in the English language, he should be tested, say, in the French language. If this is what Mr. Smith means, we call it legalised dishonesty. It would be more becoming to say, "We do not want you at all, no matter what your qualifications may be," than to resort to subterfuges of the kind mentioned by Mr. Smith. Mr. Smith has incidentally mentioned the fact that, during 1907, 6,489 indentured Indians arrived in the Colony, including 3,742 males, 1,641 females, and 906 children. So long as this abnormal and gigantic immigration continues, it looks very much like straining at a gnat and swallowing a camel to talk of educational tests. Let indentured immigration be stopped, and the Asiatic question will vanish into thin air, not only in Natal, but throughout South Africa.

THE ESTICOURT LOCAL BOARD AND its Medical Officer very **Wanted** churlishly refused permission, the other day, to Indian applicants who wanted to cremate the body of their deceased friend or relative. They had, we understand, to go from pillar to post. They ultimately appealed to the Government, who sheltered themselves behind red tape, and referred the applicants to the Local Board, against whose decision the applicants had appealed. No one seems to have thought anything of the feelings of the mourners, who had a dead body on their hands. It is such lack of imagination that unnecessarily embitters the relations between Europeans and Indians. We trust that the Indians concerned will not allow the matter to rest where it is, but continue to agitate until, between its Medical Officer, the Local Board, and the Government, the matter is satisfactorily settled. We might draw the attention of the Local Board to the fact that a much more important and bigger body, like the Municipality of Durban, has always placed facilities in the way of Indians wanting to perform funeral rites.

Registration Notes

Office Overcrowded

[SPECIAL TO INDIAN OPINION]

The registration proceedings under the voluntary settlement are now in a satisfactory position. The friction with some of the officials that at first existed, partly owing to misunderstanding, partly to nervousness, partly to the cases into which it is now wiser not to enter, has practically disappeared, and all is going on smoothly. The Transvaal Indians are amazed at the "to do" that has existed in certain circles in Natal on the question of finger prints. Not one has been compelled to give them. Those who have given them, including the leaders, have done so quite voluntarily and as an act of grace, whilst those who have not given them have claimed exemption as being able to pass the education test under the Immigrant's Restriction Act, or as conscientious objectors, the latter believing that they have reluctantly taken an oath against the giving of finger-prints under any circumstances. Amongst these are the bulk of the Chinese, who, at first stood out against registration, under the impression that they would be compelled to give the full ten digit-impressions. Several heated meetings were held of the Chinese Association, and feeling was rendered more acute as it was felt that the authorities were not looking with any too favourable an eye upon the Chinese as they were not British subjects. However, on Saturday last, they were convinced that there was nothing in their fears, and their suspicions were allayed by the Registrar, who accepted single thumb-prints from all Chinese who declared themselves to be possessed of religious objections to the digit impression principle.

Registration, since then, has been proceeding very satisfactorily. By Saturday, at 1 o'clock, over 600 applications had been received, or more than during the whole five months of "registration" under the now defunct Act. On Monday a record was created of 211 applicants to be attended to. In fact, the number of applicants has often exceeded the means adopted by the Government to receive the applications, the weakness having especially been felt in the finger-print expert department which was, at one time, badly undermanned. In order to save time and energy, application forms for Chinese are being partially fitted up at the hall of the Chinese Association, thumb prints and other particulars being given at the Von Brandis Square office.

Several prominent members of the community have made it their business to attend during certain portions of each day in order to facilitate op-

erations, either in the capacity of interpreter, or to explain the present position to the ignorant, or as communal police, to keep order within and without the office. Every effort is, in fact, being made to co-operate with the Government and a splendid example of common-sense and patriotic feeling is being displayed. There are, indeed, very few people, entitled to them, who claim the privileges that have been instituted. To-day, the only recalcitrant section of the community is that of the Pathans and the soldiers who have allied themselves to these. They have quite failed to appreciate the position and are talking a great deal of nonsense. No one gives them much heed, and it is probable that shortly they, too, will see the reasonableness of a settlement that respects everyone's deepest feelings.

Registration certificates were not available until late on Wednesday, owing to printers' delays.

It is expected that registration will commence in Pretoria on Monday next, and in other places, through the local resident Magistrates, as arrangements can be made.

Registration proceeded on Tuesday with clock-work regularity, and a new record was set up, the total number of applicants for registration being 213. On Wednesday, owing to the officials being shorthanded, the applicants numbered 194 only.

The Pathan leaders waited upon Mr. Keir Hardie on Tuesday evening, but owing to a misunderstanding he was prevented from seeing them. It is understood that he has asked them to write to him concerning their grievances, if any, to Pretoria.

The Assault Upon Mr. Gandhi

Accused Sentenced

On Wednesday afternoon, 19th inst., at 2-15 p.m. before Mr. Jordan, in 'C' Court, Johannesburg, Mir Alam Khan (Pathan) and Abdool Rahman (Konkni) appeared on a charge of assaulting Mr. M. K. Gandhi and Mr. Essop Ismail Mia, at or about 10 a.m. on Monday, the 10th inst., in Von Brandis Square with intent to do grievous bodily harm. Accused were defended by Mr. Van Diggelen, and Mr. D. J. Schuurman appeared for the Crown. Mr. Gandhi was not present.

Both accused pleaded "not guilty." After hearing evidence on both sides, the Magistrate found both accused guilty, and sentenced them to three months' imprisonment each with hard labour.

[Note—We hope to publish a full report of the above case in our next issue.—Ed.—I.O.]

The National Congress President *

A Review

Mr. Rash Behari Ghose, the President of the last Congress which ended in disturbance at the meeting in Surat in December, is an English scholar whose equal it is difficult indeed to find in India to-day, and whose superior, impossible. His written and his spoken word are classics, and when we remember that English is to him a foreign tongue, the taunt of "Babu English" falls a little flat, for those who remember how badly the average Englishman speaks his own language. Dr. Rash Behari's wonderful command of English is well matched by his profound knowledge of law, and in India, the "land of law," so to speak, he is regarded as a master among masters. But his intellectual genius would have been a curse instead of a blessing, had he applied his extensive knowledge and marvellous faculties of concentration to the furtherance of his own private ends, and to-day he stands out in the public eye, not as the remarkable English scholar, not as one of the foremost Indian jurists of the day, but as the statesman and the patriot, and it was because of his statesmanlike and patriotic qualities that he was selected as the leader of progressive India at this trying epoch of its growth. Those who have believed that the Congress represents the views of only the "failed B. A." and the youthful educated classes of India must realise the dangers of so gross an error, when they observe this stalwart of 62 years caustically criticising the very Government which he is called upon to help in a crisis, and which depends for expert knowledge in his own domain upon no one so much as himself. Messrs. G. A. Nateson & Co. have performed a public service in reproducing selections from the speeches and lectures of this noteworthy son of India. The portrait published in the brochure under review seems to be characteristic of the original, and we can heartily recommend the purchase of this little volume to the readers of these columns.

* "Speeches of Dr. Rash Behari Ghose"—an exhaustive and comprehensive collection, with a biographical sketch and a portrait.—G. A. Nateson & Co., Esplanade, Madras. Price: annas 12.

A FAULTY STATESMANSHIP. We may try our best to look at the question from the same point of view as that taken up by Boers and Britons in the Transvaal, and to realise all that is meant in the determination to build up a white man's civilisation in South Africa. But it must be a faulty statesmanship which cannot work to that end without wounding the susceptibilities of loyal subjects of the King.—*Times of India.*

The King's Subjects

Selections from the English Press

The *Star* (London), writing before the settlement, says :

The Liberals who killed Chinese Labour are not "perfectly calm" with regard to the wrongs of the British Indians. We ourselves are not calm at all, perfectly or imperfectly. We are on the contrary, very gravely perturbed by what appears to us to be the most serious question which the stewards of the Empire must face. We cannot condone any failure on the part of the Liberal Government to protect the King's subjects whose skins happen to be dark against injustice inflicted by the King's subjects whose skins happen to be white.

The truth is that the colour question is a fault in the Imperial fabric.

We cannot compel the white colonists to admit the British Indian; but we can compel them to treat with justice and fairness the British Indians whom they have already allowed to take up their residence and establish their trade in the Transvaal. These men are the King's subjects, and they cannot be wronged without shaking the foundations of British rule in India.

The *Statist* adds :

Just now we are showing not only unconsciousness of the difficulty, but an almost incredible levity in giving offence to the whole Indian population. We would ask our readers how any reasonable Englishman can expect that the natives of India shall be loyal to a Crown which positively refuses to respect their rights in another part of the Empire. Our rulers of both parties think so little of the Indian problem, bristling as it is with untold dangers, that in pure lightness of heart they allow a mere handful of white settlers in a black country to impose upon our Indian fellow-subjects in that black country humiliations of which they complain so loudly. It is enough to make the most convinced Imperialist despair of the Empire.

The *Northern Star* writes as follows :

So far as Indians in the Transvaal are concerned, the legality or otherwise of the anti-Asiatic movement is not all-sufficient. The natives of our vast Indian Empire are British subjects equally with the Transvaalers. Our continued successful rule depends almost vitally on the truth of that thesis. And so soon as we endeavour to draw a line of demarcation between the status of Indians at home and Indians in other parts of the British Empire, so surely do we undermine the reputation for absolute loyalty and justice which forms the rock on which our prestige rests.

The *Sheffield Daily Independent* remarks :

It is perfectly natural, and perfectly right, that there should be in this country a great deal of sympathy with these Indian fellow-subjects of ours.

The *Manchester Guardian* very rightly opines :

We imagine, that the real reason of the Indian opposition is not this detail about the finger-prints. Now that the Transvaal is under the British flag the Indian feels that he ought to have rights there at least equal to those that he enjoys at home. Political rights he may not aspire to, but he does object to limitations being placed on his right of residence and trade.

The *Daily Express* has the following :

The Transvaal's legislation against Asiatic immigrants certainly calls for protest on the part of all people who love fair play. The Home Government has adopted a strange policy in the case of this colony.

Justice between man and man is the corner stone of the British Constitution. We must not irritate India to please Pretoria. Imperial impartiality demands a uniformity of system. To allow the Transvaal a freedom in regulating its own affairs which involves injustice to other portions of the Empire is not sound policy. We hear a great deal in modern times of the advisability of following the line of least resistance. This is opportunism, naked and unashamed. But it has unfortunately become the creed of the party which at present holds power. It is none the less pusillanimous in theory and disastrous in practice. No Government is entitled to sacrifice principle on the altar of expediency.

Lord Ampthill's Question

In the House of Lords

London, February 17.

In the House of Lords to-night Lord Ampthill asked if the Government would invite the Colonies to a Conference regarding the treatment of Asiatics.

Lord Elgin pointed out that the matter was informally discussed at the Colonial Conference, and it would be most difficult to convene another at present.

The Imperial Government welcomed the action of the Transvaal and Canada, and thought it would be unfair to enter into a fresh discussion so soon after the settlements had been arrived at.—Reuter.

Mr. Gandhi

Messages of Sympathy

Letter from Lord Selborne

Amongst those who have tendered expressions of sympathy are General Smuts, who sent a cordial telegram and Lord Selborne, who addressed the following letter to Mr. Gandhi :

Dear Mr. Gandhi,—I received the news of the ruffianly assault upon you with great regret and indignation when I was on trek, and I am indeed glad to learn on my return that you are progressing favourably.

Pray accept the expression of my sincere sympathy and best wishes for your speedy recovery.

Believe me,

Yours truly,

(Sgd.) SELBORNE.

The following is the text of a resolution of the Ebenezer Congregational Church, passed on Thursday, 13th inst :

At a church gathering of the Ebenezer Congregational Church, held in the Ebenezer Church, on Thursday, 13th February, 1908, a unanimous standing vote was passed by the members as a token of their heart-felt sympathy with you in your suffering as the result of the recent brutal assault you experienced at the hands of your countrymen for whose welfare you fought so courageously.

The members convey their sympathy—and assurance that they remember you in their prayers—and pray the Almighty to speedily restore you to health and strength again.

(Sgd.) WM. D. PITT,

Church Secretary.

The Japanese Canadian Agreement

The following is the full text of the formal undertaking given by Count Hayashi, the Japanese Foreign Minister, to the representative of the Canadian Government :

"In reply to your note of to-day, I have the honour to state that, although the existing Treaty between Japan and Canada absolutely guarantees to Japanese subjects full liberty to enter, travel, and reside in any part of the Dominion of Canada, yet it is not the intention of the Imperial Government to insist upon the complete enjoyment of the rights and privileges guaranteed by those stipulations when that would involve disregard of special conditions which may prevail in Canada from time to time. Acting in this spirit, and having particular regard to the circumstances of the recent occurrence in British Columbia, the Imperial Government have decided to take efficient means to restrict emigration to Canada. In carrying

out this purpose, the Imperial Government, in pursuance of the policy above stated, will give careful consideration to the local conditions prevailing in Canada with a view to meeting the desires of the Government of the Dominion, as far as is compatible with the spirit of the Treaty and the dignity of the State. Although, as stated in the Note under reply, it was not possible for me to acquiesce in all of the proposals made by you on behalf of the Canadian Government, I trust that you will find the statement herein made a proof of the earnest desire of the Imperial Government to promote by every means within their power the growth and stability of the cordial and mutually beneficial relations which exist between our countries. I venture to believe also that this desirable result will be found to have been materially advanced by the full exchange of views which has taken place between us, and it gives me special pleasure to acknowledge the obligation under which I have been placed by your frank and considerate explanations regarding the attitude and wishes of your Government."

Mr. Keir Hardie

In the Transvaal

The Feeling in India

[SPECIAL TO INDIAN OPINION]

A Special Representative of INDIAN OPINION waited for a few minutes upon Mr. J. Keir Hardie, M.P., on Tuesday afternoon, at the Langham Hotel, where the famous Socialist Labour leader was staying for a few days.

He expressed himself very sympathetically as to the outcome of the recent struggle, especially inquiring whether there was any likelihood of a recrudescence of the expressed determination, in certain quarters, to drive the Indians out of the Colony, and was much relieved to obtain a reassuring reply. His panacea, generally, for the colour-problem is, as is well-known, to pay all men, who are equally capable of performing a particular task, a like wage.

He referred parenthetically to his recent trip to India, stating that the public mind there was very much agitated over the Transvaal trouble. Mr. Keir Hardie emphatically stated that, in his opinion, no subject of popular discussion had aroused such a deep feeling of resentment as that of the treatment of the Transvaal Indians.

Mr. Keir Hardie's known sympathies with forlorn hopes probably account for his reception, shortly after the above interview, of a deputation from the recalcitrant Pathans.

Correspondence

Transvaal Indians' Unanimity

The Editor, INDIAN OPINION.

Sir,— We the undersigned, have noticed, in the various reports published about voluntary registration, that the Mahomedans were holding aloof and that the Hindus alone had accepted the compromise effected between General Smuts and Messrs. Gandhi, Naidoo, and Quinn. That, however, is not so. Apart from a few who have not understood it, Mahomedans as a body have accepted it. Nor was there anything new in the compromise, seeing that voluntary registration was always offered, the question of finger prints as such having never formed an indispensable part of our objections. Indeed most of the leaders, both Hindu and Mahomedans, have already registered, and letters have been received from all parts of the Colony approving of the compromise. The very first men to register on Monday were Mahomedans.

So far as South Africa is concerned, happily, on non-religious matters, there are no differences between the two communities.

We are, etc.,

EMAM A. K. BAWAZEER,

Chairman, Hamidia Islamic Society.

M. P. FANCY,

Hon. Sec., Hamidia Islamic Society.

ESSOP ISMAIL MIA,

Chairman, British Indian Association.

SYED MUSTAFA,

ALLIDHAI AKOOJI,

M. E. NAGDEE.

Johannesburg,

13/2/08.

Passive Resisters

Delagoa Bay Landowners

At the ordinary meeting of the Lourenco Marques Camara Municipal held on the 14th inst., a letter was read from the Landowners' Association in response to a communication from the Camara to the effect that the request of the Landowners' Association, that prosecutions for non-compliance with the fencing by-laws should be arrested, could not be acceded to. In this letter the President of the Land Owners' Association intimated that he felt it his duty to the members of the Association he represented to advise them to unite in passive resistance to what he termed the "illegal imposition of the Commission."—*Guardian*.

India's Right to be Considered

"The Tribune" Speaks Out

In past years, says the *Tribune* (London), the Indian Government has made repeated representations as to the treatment of Indians in the Transvaal, and it may well do so again. These representations can, of course, be ignored; that will depend upon Whitehall. If India cannot act as Japan would do, however, there is no doubt that the addition to other grievances, of so glaring an act of racial discrimination, so patent a breach of all forms of Imperial equality, would greatly aggravate the most serious of our governmental problems, and might injuriously react upon us in other ways.

On the other hand, we must recall again and again the fact that when the Transvaal has said its word, and England has said its word, there is India to be considered. We have a right to demand of Canada, Australia, and South Africa equally that while they remain within the circle of the Empire, while they enjoy the armed protection which costs us two-thirds of our annual expenditure, their affairs shall be conducted in such a way as at least not to endanger the safety of the whole fabric. And India in particular has the right to ask that, while she maintains a Government and an army for the defence of her interests, those interests shall really be defended. It is necessary that this thought should be put clearly, for if the trouble be allowed to pass to-day unheeded it will assuredly present itself again in the early future in much more threatening form.

THE HINDUSTAN REVIEW. The January number of the *Hindustan Review* (Allahabad) opens with a critical survey of "The Proposed Reforms in India" by Mr. S. H. Swinny, well-known as the editor of the *Positivist Review*. It is followed by an interesting sketch of the life-work of the great Italian patriot, Joseph Mazzini, by the Rev. M. Macnicol M.A., which deserves the attention of educated Indians. In his paper "In the Name of Justice," Mr. B. J. Wadia, Barrister-at-Law, discusses some of the questions connected with the recent deportations of Lala Lajput Rai and Ajit Singh. Mr. Parmeshwar Lall, M.A. Barrister-at-Law, presents the first instalment of a series on "Egypt as I saw It," which will be of interest to Indian Nationalists.

THE INDIAN WORLD. This interesting monthly keeps up its excellent reputation as a first-class production, both as regards literary matter and general appearance. The December issue contains the full text of Dr. Ghose's speech at the Surat Congress, which, unhappily was never delivered owing to the break-up of the meeting.

Sir Liege Hulett's Views

A Tax on Indian Clerks

Sir Liege Hulett, in a speech made at Greenwood Park on the 17th inst. said:

Now, he had said that indentured labour was necessary, but a great deal could be done by legislation, and a determination on the part of the Colonies to work together, to control it. There were now thousands of Natal-born Indians, and how was it that they were not on the land? Whose fault was it? Not the fault of the farmer, but of the townsman. - They saw their stores and their offices filled with coolies—Natal-born Indians. He said that was wrong, and that it was there that European labour should go. He would put a tax, if possible, upon every Indian who was employed in office work, or in occupations which could be undertaken by Europeans; until they had the Indians in the position that Indians, or Kaffirs, should be placed. They should try by every possible means to get the natives, and also by every legislative means to get the Indians who were now free to re-indenture. In that connection he pointed out that they were more and more re-indenturing, and last month a hundred more re-indentured than became free. It was becoming more difficult for the coolies themselves to make a profitable occupation of the land, and they found them coming in, now that they were able to do so, to be re-indentured. By the re-indenturing of those here, and by arrangements for the repatriation at the expiry of their indentures of those who did not want to re-indenture, they would settle this Asiatic question as far as labour was concerned. When they came to consider the Arabs, that was a quite distinct thing, and he was willing to do everything possible to minimise that, which he considered a frightful condition of things. It was principally due, however, to the white traders themselves, the shopkeepers in Durban giving unlimited credit to every coolie almost who liked to go and ask for credit to open a store in the country. In every possible way they should endeavour to stop the introduction of these Arabs, and free Indians should be stopped by law from coming into this country. He asked whether it was fair if those who were conducting industries or agriculture should be assailed as if they were committing a crime if they employed indentured servants. If they wanted to take away their labour, they must get something in its place; if they had not the Indians, they must have something else. Kaffirs were not to be got. The chairman had suggested that farmers should build houses on their land for natives. It was well worthy of serious consideration, both by himself and all other farmers. If they could get Kaffirs on their land,

and obtain their labour, it would be better for planters, natives, and the Colony. It would have to be done gradually, and he suggested that something in the way could be done with regard to the Colonial-born Indians.—*Natal Mercury*.

The Indian Trader in South Africa

The following special article appears in the current number of the *Christian Patriot* (Lovedale):—

The extraordinary haste with which the newly-created Parliament in the Transvaal rushed its first piece of legislative work through indicated the feeling cherished towards Indian traders by the average South African. The present agitation is one of the outcomes of this hurried legislation. I am not prepared to say that there is not some ground for this feeling; but the fact remains that there are two sides to every question, and it is a good thing to be able to look at a problem all round.

The object of this paper is to try to show up the other side,—the benefit to be derived from the Indian trader.

And, first of all, I must premise that the aim of the Government in a free country should be to promote the greatest good of the greatest number.

Now, the main outcry against the Indian trader comes from the white trader, storekeeper or shopkeeper. He is hit the hardest by banyan competition and he naturally cries out the loudest. The trading community being fairly numerous and not unduly given to bashfulness or self-effacement, their united outcry makes a good deal of noise. But, after all, they are only a section of the community, and what hurts their pockets by moderating their profits is not necessarily injurious to the community at large. Mrs. Fawcett in her book on political economy tritely illustrates this by imagining that all the candle-makers in Paris petitioned the King of France to pass a law compelling every citizen to exclude daylight from his house. In support of their case they represented that the benefit to their trade would be enormous, because of the increased demand for artificial light, and consequent run on candles.

One has a lurking suspicion that the outcry of the white trader community in South Africa savours somewhat of the hypothetical candlemaker spirit and is more concerned with the lining of private traders' pockets than with the commonwealth.

Residents in South Africa who have had experience of running a *ménage* in other Colonies wonder why it is so costly to live here as compared with say New Zealand, Australia, or Canada, colonies in which there is practically no cheap labour. There appears to

be some essential element lacking in the structure of our South African social system. If we are to believe two men, both authorities in their own line, the Indian immigrant seems well fitted to fill the unoccupied niche. Mr. Wilcocks, the irrigation expert, whom Lord Milner brought from Egypt to report upon the possibilities of irrigation development in South Africa, said in his report: "The Kafir is not a worker and developer of anything. He will never learn from the European, for the European in South Africa does not work, with his hands, but he will learn from the Indian." And Benjamin Kidd, the sociologist, in his study of social problems in South Africa, points out that what is required here to bring the cost of living down to a normal figure is a large class of people to bridge the gap between the highly-paid white trader or mechanic and the unskilled native. In his measure the Indian immigrant appears to fill this gap. He settles in a South African dorp in which the storekeepers are among the leading men of the community both civically and socially. They are well-to-do, and, in consequence, independent. Competition has never been wide or keen enough to call into existence, for the public benefit, the thousand and one conveniences so ingeniously and assiduously catered by tradesmen in other civilized lands. Those who have known no other home than South Africa are not conscious of the conveniences of civilized life withheld from them; far otherwise is it with Europeans crossing the sea to make their homes in this country. To them the Indian trader is, in his modest way, a god-send. He brings from day to day a regular supply of fresh fish, fruit, vegetables, to one's very door; he is civil, dependable, and moderate in his charges. Is it cause for wonder that the average householder, who is not a tradesman, appreciates the increased variety set before him at his board, or that the much-to-be-sympathised-with lady of the *ménage* blesses the Indian for simplifying her difficult problem of housekeeping?

From these points of view it does not appear to be for the good of the commonwealth that the Indian trader be driven from our midst. Rather let those in authority see to it that both his trading and living are carried on hygienic lines, so that he may be no menace to the health of the community. One hears of overcrowding in insanitary dwellings, and of articles intended for human consumption being kept in such dwellings. By all means let us make an end of such undesirable conditions with prompt thoroughness; but let us not be hustled into the short-sighted policy of driving a humble, useful, industrious class out of the country at the self-interested outcry of one single section of the community. Better reasons must warrant a policy so drastic.

Sir George Farrar on the Settlement

Important Pronouncement

Speaking at Johannesburg last week, Sir George Farrar, M.L.A., Leader of the Opposition, said:

The policy of the Progressive Party had been criticised in regard to the settlement of the Asiatic question. Now that was no party question, because the people of the country were unanimous in agreeing to the law of 1907, and that law had got to be carried out. The law provided for the exclusion of any further Asiatics from this country, and protected the vested interests of those Asiatics who acquired them prior to 1902. Some people said "Turn them all out," but many of those who were here before the war would know that these people acquired certain rights under Law 3 of 1885 passed by the late Republic, and Uitlanders who had no political rights moved the Home Government to protect the rights of those Indians. (Hear, hear.) In this new law they had to protect the rights of those Indians who were legitimately in the country, which was the same position they took up as Uitlanders. The next thing they had to do under this law was to provide an efficient method of registration so that no further coolies could come in from Natal or elsewhere.

THE GOVERNMENT'S ADMINISTRATIVE METHODS.

Now this was the difference between themselves and the Government. They were unanimous in insisting that the law should be carried out. But the Government took a certain method of carrying the law into effect by regulations which were part of the law but were not submitted to Parliament. These regulations were not submitted to them in opposition, and therefore the Government was solely responsible for them. Had the Government consulted the Opposition at the outset as to the way the law should be carried out they would have been able to advise them so that there would have been no climbing down whatever. (Applause.) The Government had blundered in regard to the carrying out of these regulations; they had been misguided by their officials, who had not appreciated the great difficulty of dealing with people like the Indians. If there had been any climbing down the Opposition were not to blame, because the regulations were never submitted to them. (Hear, hear.) Naturally, when the Government came to them he (Sir George) said "Why did you not come six months ago and we could have advised you so that you would not have placed the country in the position it is in to-day?" (Applause.) When the Government asked him what he was going to do he said it was no party question.

He might have said: "You only consult us when you are in the cart, and you must get out the best way you can;" but the Opposition thought that was not the way to treat a question of this sort. They said this was a great question for the future of this country, and they were prepared to sink party differences and support the Government in this compromise with the coolies. He said that in the highest interests of the people of this country and in the true interests of their party they did absolutely what was right.

Licensing Appeal

Chinese' Transfer Refused

"Because they were Asiatics"

A special meeting of the Durban Town Council, sitting as a Licensing Board, was held on the 13th instant, says the *Mercury*, to consider an appeal against the Licensing Officer's decision upon the application of Gumption and Wing, both Chinamen, for a retail licence transfer from 4th avenue to 143, Umbilo Road. The Mayor (Mr. C. Henwood) presided, and there were also in attendance: Mr. Walter Greenacre (Deputy Mayor), Hon. Mr. R. Jameson, Sir David Hunter, Messrs. J. Ellis Brown, L. Baumann, C. R. Bishop, G. A. Riches, S. Deane, A. G. L. Houghting, H. Payne, E. W. Evans, and F. C. Hollander.

The reasons for the Licensing Officer's decision were as follow:—"Whilst it would be wrong for an official to heed popular clamour to the extent of being unjust towards any section of the public, whether coloured or otherwise, and whilst I have not, and will not, pledge myself to refuse to issue new licences or transfers to Asiatics under all circumstances, yet, in cases like this one of Gumption and Wing, where no considerations or reasons of an exceptional nature have been urged, I felt I would be equally to blame were I to ignore the well known wishes of the people of the Umbilo Road district, and to grant a transfer to their neighbourhood. The transfer was, therefore, refused on the grounds that applicants are Asiatics, and that I did not consider it desirable to increase the number of Asiatic licence holders in the Umbilo Road district."

Mr. Ness Harvey appeared for the appellants.

Mr. Molyneux, Licensing Officer, was examined by Mr. Harvey. Witness said the report of the Sanitary Inspector did not affect him. He refused the transfer because the applicants were Asiatics. The proposed transfer was practically equal to a new licence. It was common knowledge in the Umbilo district that Asiatics were not wanted, although

he had not been approached on the subject by residents. His objection was to any Asiatic, and not the applicants in particular.

Gumption, a Chinaman, said his business was that of a retail grocer. He came to Durban in 1866. Witness knew Wing, and he was a partner of Wing. Recently he had inserted an advertisement in the newspapers that he had gone into partnership with Wing. He simply applied for a transfer of the business. He had never appeared before the Law Courts on any charge.

Wing, also a Chinaman, was called to give evidence, but witness said he could not speak English. The services of the witness were dispensed with.

The Licensing Officer did not address.

Mr. Harvey urged that it would be exceedingly hard lines were the appellants not to succeed. The Licensing Officer had said, whilst it would be wrong for an official to heed popular clamour to the extent of being unjust towards any section of the public, yet in this case, where no considerations or reason of an exceptional nature had been urged, he felt he would be equally to blame were he to ignore the well known wishes of the people of Umbilo Road district. The Licensing Officer, however, had admitted that no Umbilo Road residents had spoken to him on the subject, and no witnesses were brought against the appellants. The Licensing Officer simply said, "I am not going to take the responsibility of giving an Asiatic a licence," and probably quite rightly, too. The Licensing Officer wanted the Council to take the responsibility of granting a licence. The sole reason of refusal of the licence was that the appellants were Asiatics, and he submitted that the Council should in justice allow the appeal.

The Council retired, and were absent for some time.

Returning, the Mayor said: The Board have taken into their due consideration the granting of the licence. They have gone over the evidence and discussed the matter very fully and they have, by a majority, decided to uphold the Licensing Officer's decision; therefore, the licence is refused.

The *Progressive Monthly* for February has a clever skit under the title of "Alice in Blunderland," dealing with the Asiatic crisis in the Transvaal. General Smuts is the "March Hare," General Botha the "King of Hearts," the "Queen" disguises the Attorney-General, the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies is the "Knave of Hearts," and Mr. M. K. Gandhi is the "Cheshire Cat" wearing the "smile that won't wear off"—in fact, the smile lasts even after the disappearance of the Cat.

An Egyptian View of the Asiatic Question

The *Egyptian Standard* (Cairo), in its issue of the 14th ulto., concludes a long leading article on "Colour and Empire" with the following lines:—

The paradox of the whole problem however for the Imperialist is that those States which are *outside* the Empire secure immeasurably better recognition for their Asiatic subjects than India which is *within* the Empire. General Botha in the Transvaal dare not treat the "foreign" Japanese as he treats Indian British "subjects." The Japanese Government would not stand it. And an interesting contrast is presented by the spectacle of General Smuts, on the one side, demanding prints of the forefinger and thumb from his fellow British "subjects," as if they were Parisian criminals, and Sir Wilfrid Laurier on the other side, hastening to assure Tokio that no repetition of the Vancouver attack on the Japanese would be permitted so long as he could prevent it.

It would thus seem that one of the inestimable advantages of being taken into the bosom of the British Empire is that, as a full blown British citizen, you may be hunted from other British colonies or compelled to submit to ignominious restrictions. Whilst, as a miserable foreigner who has never shared the glory of British citizenship, you are sure of being treated at least with respect. The Indians ought seriously to consider the advantages of belonging to such an Empire before they take any steps in the least likely to weaken their connection with it.

Clear Thinking

In examining an essay on "The Government of Subject Races," appearing in a recent number of the *Edinburgh Review*, the *Spectator* concludes:

Clear thinking upon cardinal points remains the need of all needs for politicians of to-day, especially those in whom is vested authority over the larger affairs of the Empire. It is encouraging, therefore, to find an exceptionally clear thinker examining the problem of the future of our Empire and deciding that the causes which brought down the only Empire comparable in power with the British cannot be discerned at work. He does not decide that all is for the best in the best of all Empires; but he believes that "to every danger that threatens there is a safeguard: to every portion of the body politic in which symptoms of disease may occur, it is possible to apply a remedy." But we must be wise enough to see the remedy and avail ourselves of it. The conclusion is a generalisation which we believe to be profoundly

true. It is that the whole, or nearly the whole, of the essential points of a sound Imperial policy—a policy which should avoid pauperisation, shun over-centralisation, reject proposals involving heavy taxes, keep the sword sharp but in reserve, and endeavour to bind ruled to rulers with bonds of contentment—can be embodied in one single statement: "That, whilst steadily avoiding any movement in the direction of official proselytism, our relations with the various races who are subjects of the King of England should be founded on the granite rock of the Christian moral code."

The Next Step

The *East Rand Express* remarks:

In some quarters it would appear that leading Home politicians imagine that the Ordinance when, to use the phraseology of the Government, "amended," will be the last word on the Asiatic question in this country. This opinion seems to be held by Lord Elgin and others of his friends. It is not necessary to point out that the idea is totally wrong. The Act was only supposed to deal with those wrongfully here and to prevent further immigration; the next step will be the framing of regulations to ensure the limitation of Asiatic trading to Asiatic bazaars. As far back as April, 1904, Sir Arthur Lawley clearly pointed out to the Home Government the necessity for an Act on these lines, although he did not go quite so far as the *East Rand* desired. The legislation supported by him provided that all Asiatics, except those possessed of "intellectual attainments," etc., and their servants, should reside in bazaars, and that traders established since the war should also be removed to bazaars. It will be remembered that the National Convention went further and demanded that no Asiatic trading be allowed outside bazaars. Under these circumstances the white population must be on the alert to see that the second instalment of legislation, to which practically all the members of the Legislative Assembly are pledged, shall not be shelved. A temporary set back, due in large part to an unsympathetic Government in England, should not be regarded as a hopeless defeat, but rather inspire inhabitants to continue the fight until at last the cause of the white man is victorious.

SWADESHISM. Babu Salandra Coomer Banerjee delivered a lecture on *Swadeshi* at Tongaat on Sunday last. The meeting was held in the premises of Mr. P. B. Desai, which were far too small for the audience, between five and six hundred remaining outside. The chair was taken by Mr. P. B. Desai, and the leading Hindus of Tongaat and Verulam occupied seats on the platform.

Late News

[SPECIAL TELEGRAMS]

Johannesburg, Thursday Evening.

Presentation to the Rev. and Mrs. Doke

An interesting function took place to-day at the residence of the Rev. Doke, Smit Street, Johannesburg, when the Khatri section of the Hindu community presented the reverend gentleman with a beautifully-illuminated and richly-bound Address, expressing their gratitude and thanks to himself and Mrs. Doke for their loving, sympathetic and Christian attention to Mr. Gandhi during his recent illness following upon the assault.

Mr. G. P. Vyas made the presentation, including a Purse of Sovereigns, and Mrs. Vyas presented Mrs. Doke with a handsome Diamond Brooch.

The Rev. Doke made a suitable reply, accepting the address for himself and the brooch for his wife; but, as regarding the amount collected, he would treat it as a trust fund to be placed in the hands of the Revs. Charles Phillips and Perry for some suitable scheme of educational work on behalf of Johannesburg Indians.

The Revs. Phillips and Perry also expressed views in sympathy with this proposal.

Amongst those present were Mrs. Phillips and Messrs. Kallenbach, Polak, and Isaac.

The Mahomedan section of the Indian community was represented by Mr. Essop Ismail Mia (Chairman of the British Indian Association) and Emam Abdul Kadir Bawazeer.

The proceedings were entirely private.

SCHOOL FEES INCREASED. A notice in the Natal Government *Gazette* announces the approval of the Governor to an amendment of the Regulations by which the minimum fee charged for pupils attending Government Indian schools will be raised from 3d. to 6d. a month, commencing February 1st.

GOVERNMENT GRANT. A grant of £80 per annum will be allowed to those Natal Government Schools whose average daily attendance is from 12 to 19.

અંકલેશ્વરના સે. સંબોર્ડિનેટ જડજની કેરટમાં.

રેગ્યુલર દિવાની મુકદ્દમા નંબર. ૩૭ સન ૧૯૦૬.

રે. દરખાસ્ત નંબર ૯૨૫ સને ૧૯૦૭

સી. પ્રો. કો. ક. ૨૪૮ મુજબ.

બાકો દાવો રે. ૩૧૫-૧-૪

વાદી. ખુલ્લું ધરમચંદ અંકલેશ્વર.

પ્રતિવાદી. આદમ દાઉદ. બીજા ભાઈ રેહનાર હાલ મોમ્બાયા તામે ઈસ્ટ આફ્રિકા મદરહુ કામમાં વાદીએ મજકુર પ્રતિ ઉપર દરખાસ્ત આપી છે તે બજવવાને

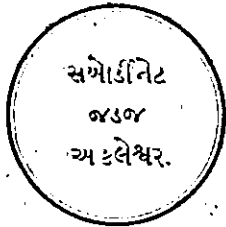
હુકમ શા માટે ન કરવો તેનું કારણ બતાવવા ઈરાવ તા. ૧૫ જુન સને ૧૯૦૮ ને મુકદ્દર કર્યો છે માટે ખબર આપવામાં આવે છે કે આ નોટીસની મુદતે પ્રતિવાદી

બ્યાં હોય ત્યાંથી જાતે અથવા વકીલ મારફતે હાજર થવું. નહિ તો તેની વિરુદ્ધ એક તરફી હુકમ કરવામાં આવશે. આજ તા. ૨૧ જાનેવારી સને ૧૯૦૮ રોજ

મે મારી સહી તથા કોર્ટનો સીક્રેટરી આપ્યો છે.

M. H. VAKIL.

સે. સંબો. જડજ.



જરમન

આફ્રિકા



ઈસ્ટ

લાઈન.

૧૮ દહાડે મુખ્ય જનારો આગબોટ, કેન્ડલર.

તા. ૧૦ મી મારચના ઉપડશે.

ઉપલી સ્ટીમર અગ્રેથી તા. ૧૦ મારચના સીધી મુખ્ય સાર જાશે તે ફક્ત ડેલાગોઆમે બેરા અને ગોઆ રહી ૧૮ દહાડે મુખ્ય પહોંચશે મજકુર આગબોટમાં ખલાસી દેશી છે. જગ્યા કાળકામાં છે બતી જાજર વગેરેનું અનહદ મુખ છે. પાસે જરો અહીંથી ચડેલા મુખ્ય જમ ઉતરશે. ક્યાંય બદલવાનું નથી.

ખાસ ચેતવણી

મજકુર લાઇનની હવે ડરખત તેમજ ડેલાગોઆએથી દરેક માસે એક આગબોટ સીધી મુખ્ય જવાવાળી છે. સ્ટીમ ગવરનર અહીંથી તા. ૨૮ જાનેવારીના ઉપડેલી. તા. ૧૭ મી ફેબ્રુઆરીના મુખ્ય યરાયર ટાઇમ ટેમ્સ મુજબ પુગી છે.

Osman Ahmed, Box 126, Durban. Tel. Ad. Ottoman.

Abba Mahomed, Box 57, Delagoa Bay. Tel. Ad. Abba, care Civil

Hajee Habib, Box 57, Pretoria. Tel. Ad. Bagdad.

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ઈન્ડિયન ઓપિનિયન.

ઈન્ડિયન ઓપિનિયનની છુટક નકલ મી. પી. વી. સંઘવી ૨૦૧ એ સ્ટ્રીટ, તથા મી. એમ. એમ. દીવાન ૧૪૭ ક્વીન સ્ટ્રીટ ધા સન બ્રેડ ટાબેકો વકંસ, ૧૬૪ એ સ્ટ્રીટમાંથી ત્રણ પેનીના દામથી મળી શકશે. પોસ્ટ મારફત ૪ પેની. ટરાંસવાલ, કેપ વગેરે કોલોનીમાં સ્થાપ પણ સ્વીકારવામાં આવે છે.

આ શીવાય નીચેને ફેલાણીથી પણ મળશે. પોર્ટ પ્રીવીજાએથ—ત્રીકમદાસ બધસં.

પ્રોટોરીયા—મી. પી. એમ. જોશી. બોક્સ ૧૧૫૭.

પીટર્સબરગ—મી. એમ. ખડેરીઆ, સ્ટેંગર—મી. સી. એમ. દેસાઈ

બોક્સ ૬૭ બોક્સ ૨૫૫.

પ્રીયરલી મી. તુલજીરામ ડી. ત્રીવેદી, બોક્સ ૩૭૨.

ડેલાગોઆમે—મેસર્સ વૃન્દાસ લાલચંદ ની કા. બોક્સ ૬૨.

પી. એમ. યરગ—મી. બી. એમ. પટેલ, ૪૯૧ ચર્ચ સ્ટ્રીટ.

A Book—and Its Misnomer

A REPLY

Being a Brief Examination of "The Asiatic Danger in the Colonies" by L. E. NEAME.)

By the Editor of INDIAN OPINION To be had from the Publishers: The International Printing Press, Phoenix, Natal. Post Free, 7d.

વધકલપતર.

ત દુરસ્તી અને વૈધક જ્ઞાનની દરકાર હોય તો વાંચા "વૈધકલપતર" માસીક. આરે વર પથી દરમાસે પ્રગટ થાય છે. દરેક અહરથે ને ખાસ વાંચવા જેવું છે. નામ ડેલાણુ સાક અક્ષરે વધક જટાશકર લીલાધર, રોચીરેડ, અમદાવાદ લખવાથી એક અક નમુના દાખલ મફત મોકલવામાં આવશે. લવાજમ પોસ્ટેજ સહીત ૩/— તથા બેટનું પુસ્તક મોકલવાનું ખર્ચ ૪ પેની અગાઉથી લેવામાં આવે છે. વધુ વીગત મટે આ પત્રની ઓફીસને લખવું.

બધક જટાશકર લીલાધર ગુજરાત આર્ય ઓપનિયન અમદાવાદ.