

# Indian Opinion

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## Indian Opinion

SATURDAY, MARCH 14th, 1908.

### The Estcourt Licensing Appeals

“And upon my soul, if you refuse this application, I think, it will make us all feel like worms.”—Col. Greene to the Licensing Court.

THE Estcourt Licensing appeals had a happy as also an unhappy ending. We call it a happy ending in that the applicants have been saved immediate extinction. But it is also an unhappy ending, because the apparent moderation of the Licensing Court may lull the Indian community into a sense of false security. We, however, hope that the Indians concerned and, in fact, the whole mercantile community will make use of the interregnum to furbish its weapons and get ready for the fray. It is perfectly useless to expect justice at the hands of popular bodies swayed by prejudice. It should be a maxim with the Indian community that, unless the Dealers' Law is amended, there can be no rest. Truth is slow but sure. It must win in the end. The Indian position from the standpoint of Truth is unassailable. There is no claim put forward to extend Indian trade indefinitely. But an earnest attempt is being made to protect vested and legitimate rights, we use the adjective legitimate advisedly, because no Indian wishes to protect unfair competition or to bolster up insanitation or indifferent book-keeping. The strong words quoted above from Colonel Greene's address to the Licensing Court fairly sum up the situation. It is the attitude that the Court took up in defiance of all rules of justice and fairplay that makes one despair. However, the remedy is largely in the hands of the Indians themselves.

### Economic Questions in South Africa

THE economic situation in South Africa cannot but affect most intimately the Indian community, which is so closely interested in the material welfare and development of the sub-continent. In South Africa, as elsewhere, the question of free-trade or protection has come to the fore, and so long as unlimited competition is regarded as a desideratum in commercial circles, so long will the economic problem referred to be debated and a practical demonstration of preference be given.

But the question in South Africa has a two-fold aspect. The question arises as to the attitude of South Africa as a whole to the outside world, on the one hand, and of the various South African colonies towards each other, on the other hand. It will be generally taken for granted that South Africa will demand protection against the importation of non-South African products and manufactures in order to protect home industries, and this is a reasonable attitude, provided, as Mr. Quinn pointed out some time ago, that adequate distinction is made between indigenous and bogus industries, *i. e.*, industries that are natural to the country, where the raw material is present and does not have to be imported from vast distances, and industries whose existence may fairly be represented as parasitic, battenning upon the life-blood of the general body of the community. It will be admitted, on the present economic basis of the world, that such a form of protection is legitimate, in order to develop infant industries and attract a representative permanent population composed of skilled workers. The people of the country will be prepared, if the national spirit of self-sacrifice is in them, to pay the cost of protection, with the hope of a national future of greatness and industrial development before them.

But circumstances differ completely when it is a question of protection against other South African colonies. That question threatens to become acute in the Transvaal, and we confess that we are not enamoured of the “ring-fence” idea. Its effect will undoubtedly be to artificially bolster up an agricultural industry that can perfectly well flourish by the amount of time, energy, and intelligence expended upon it by the farming community, whilst the urban population will have to suffer enormously in the tariff-war that would result. Generally speaking, the towns are taxed for the benefit of the country districts, and this, perhaps, within limits, is a

matter of compensation due to those upon whose shoulders primarily falls the burden of production. But when it comes to inflicting an additional tax upon the townsfolk in order to keep a privileged few in idleness and enable them to close their lands against all-comers and intelligent development, then we are constrained to agree that, before any such calamity is allowed to befall the community, resort should be had to a general tax upon unimproved land, thus forcing the big land-owner to cultivate his ground, or to give it up so that the small man may try to earn a living on it. For that reason we sympathise with the effort now being made to bring about a redistribution of parliamentary representation in this Colony, though it does not directly affect Indian interests.

Yet these interests are very closely involved. For, in proportion as means are more readily found to increase the welfare of the urban population, so will this bitter antipathy to the Indian trader tend to subside. The keener the competition that exists to-day in conditions that, in a well-organised society, should not obtain, the louder will be the outcry against the Indian trader. There is no doubt that much of the present anti-Asiatic movement is due to the fact of unfair economic pressure upon the population of the towns. Anything that tends to relieve this pressure will be an influence for good so far as the relations between Indian and European are concerned. And as it is a principle that we hold very dear, that those relations should be improved so that all cause of friction may disappear, we are prepared to support, so far as lies in our power, any movement that stands for the democratisation of the sub-continent, affording greater possibilities for the many to live sane, clean, and unenvious lives, and limiting the opportunities for oppression afforded to those few whose privileges are conferred upon them at the cost of the general public.

THE LATE DR. G. U. POPE, WHOSE biography in the “Times” we reproduce elsewhere, Dr. Pope was one of the few Anglo-Indians carrying forward to-day the traditions of fifty years ago. His erudition and scholarship need no other outward token than the monument of works with which his name will always be associated. There have been few Englishmen for whom the people of Madras should bear greater reverence and deeper respect than Dr. Pope. His example is a shining light to the educated classes of Madras, leading them along the

path of investigation and explanation so that the world may know something of that great past which only recently was sunk in oblivion, that the treasures of literature, philology, philosophy, and theology may be brought to light, and that the people may receive some indication of their line of growth for the future. The demise of Dr. Pope is a loss to Indian and European scholarship alike. His memory will be ever dear to all who love India and those who have worked for India's enlightenment in a spirit of sympathy for the people among whom they have spent a lifetime of toil.

**THE DEATH OF SIR LEPEL HENRY GRIFFIN** removes from the Anglo-Indian world a most interesting figure. Sir Lepel Griffin was a long and well-tried administrator. He was a learned man and a good financier. He never broke off his relations with India, and as President of the East India Association, he often appeared before the public in connection with Indian affairs. Sir Lepel rendered the Indian community in South Africa great help by heading the députation that waited on Lord Elgin. And Sir Lepel never ceased to take interest in the Indian struggle to the end. He allowed himself to be nominated as Vice-President of the South Africa British Indian Committee, and, as such, gave the Committee the benefit of his advice and guidance. We render to Sir Lepel's family our respectful condolences.

## General Botha at Volksrust

### Indian Address of Welcome

General Botha visited Volksrust recently, and was welcomed by the various sections of the population including the local Indian community, which presented the Prime Minister with a handsome illuminated address, the first time, under the new *regime*, that Indians have testified in this manner to their respect for members of the Executive in the Transvaal.

In reply, General Botha thanked the Indians most heartily for their welcome. He especially appreciated the spirit which had prompted them. He would not say much, but would ask them to assist the Government in their endeavours not to endanger the vested rights of the Indians in the Colony. The Government would protect their rights as they protected the rights of other persons. He wanted the Asiatics to assist the Government in carrying out the law. He wanted every Asiatic to feel that he stood under an administration which was just and would protect their rights.

Parsec Sorabjee, the spokesman, thanked General Botha for his words, and hoped that the Asiatics of the Transvaal would assist the Govern-

ment. The Government should have asked the opinion of the Asiatics when drafting the Act. The Government had not considered their religious scruples, otherwise the Asiatics were amongst the most loyal of the Transvaal inhabitants.

The proceedings then terminated.

## Lobito Bay Indians

### What the Returned Labourers have to Say

[SPECIAL TO INDIAN OPINION]

A representative of INDIAN OPINION on Wednesday last obtained an interview with a party of about a dozen Indian labourers who, with a shipment of five hundred, had just returned from Lobito Bay. With the help of a Tamil interpreter, our reporter was able to gather from them the following information. Allowing for a reasonable amount of exaggeration, the experiences of these poor people were far from pleasant. We draw the attention of the Protector and all who have sympathy with the unfortunate toilers, to this matter, and ask them whether, if the statements made are true and this be the only method of constructing the Benguela Railway, it would not be better that it should never be completed. We do not vouch for the truth of the statements made below, but we feel it our duty to place them before the Protector and our readers for what they are worth. The Protector may, if he chooses, investigate the matter, but it is a question for the colonists to interest themselves in—both European and Indian. If the allegations made are even partly true, the reputation of Natal will suffer in the eyes of the civilised world.

Asked as to their first experiences at Lobito Bay, the men said they were practically without fresh water to drink; the little they did get was foul and oily. So serious was the position created by this state of affairs that, after one week, many were tempted to run away, whither they knew not, but anywhere as long as they might find water. In regard to food, the people were promised wheat meal and brown rice daily, a pound of meat each week, and a bottle of oil per month. They state that instead of brown they were given white rice which made them ill, the flour was not fit to eat, and some dhal they received was damaged. They do not appear to have received either the meat or the oil. The water they had to find themselves by digging. Large numbers were smitten with sickness which caused the body to swell, and produced sores; the returned men say that half the people died during the first three months. During the whole eleven months they were at work, not a tent nor a hut of any kind was provided for them. Those who could, secured small huts of wood and grass by themselves;

others simply took shelter under a friendly tree and trusted to God for protection from lions, tigers, and other wild beasts which prowled about in the neighbourhood. As after each month or so the camp had to be shifted to a distant place, the huts which they had made became useless. When the men complained, it is alleged that flogging with a sjambok was resorted to and that one died under this treatment.

When the men were engaged at Durban, they understood that it was for two years at two pounds per month. Those who owed arrears for their £3 annual domicile certificates had to have ten shillings per month deducted from their monthly pay. Now it appears that the ten shillings was demanded from those who had paid up their tax money as also from those who, from long residence in Natal, were exempt from such tax. Some colonial-born Indians were among the number. After they had been there at work for eleven months, and had got somewhat acclimatised to the country (the rainy season having come which gave them fresh water), and, perhaps, getting accustomed to the rough life and the food, they were discharged and sent back. About 600 people, they thought, still remained at Lobito Bay, and the pay-master informed them that all those would be sent back to India.

A number of their companions have been detained on the boat by the Immigration Department, who will not accept their domicile certificates because they have not the two thumb impressions imprinted upon them. The reason why these certificates did not bear these impressions was, so their companions state, because at the time of leaving Durban for Lobito Bay last year, several were hurried on to the boat at the last moment.

## Death of Sir Lepel Griffin

London, March 10.—The death has occurred of Sir Lepel Griffin, formerly of the Indian Civil Service.—Reuter.

The British Indian Association, Johannesburg, has sent to Sir Lepel's family a message of condolence through the South Africa British Indian Committee.

**A GENEROUS REVENGE.** The Chairman of the Transvaal Chinese Association, on behalf of the Chinese community of the Transvaal, has forwarded to the Secretary of the Rand Aid Association of Johannesburg a cheque for 100 guineas by way of assisting to alleviate the distress amongst the white population of Johannesburg, with an intimation that, in case of need, a further contribution would be forthcoming.

## Estcourt Licences

### Refusals Without Reasons

#### Colonel Greene, K. C., Calls for Justice

#### Country Licences all Granted

[SPECIAL TO INDIAN OPINION]

A Special Meeting of the Estcourt Local Board was held in the Agricultural Hall, Estcourt, on the 2nd and 3rd of March, 1908, to consider the appeals against the decision of the Licensing Officer for the Township, brought by Suleman Hoosen, M. H. Vowda, Amod Haffejee, A. M. Patel and M. D. Jillabhay, with respect to his refusal to grant them renewal of their Licences for the year 1908.

The Board consisted of Messrs. R. M. K. Chadwick, (Chairman), T. Hellet, Steyn, Cooke, Hodgson and the Rev. Mr. Wright.

The Appellants were represented by Col. E. M. Greene, K. C. and Mr. Cecil Cowley of the firm of Cowley and Drummond, Solicitors of Estcourt.

The Licensing Officer appeared in person and was also represented by Mr. C. E. J. Miller of the firm of Chadwick and Miller, who sought to put in a Power of Attorney authorising him to appear on behalf of the Licensing Officer. Col. Greene objected to Mr. Miller's appearance on the ground that the Rules framed for the hearing of Appeals provided that any person interested in the Appeal only could be heard at the Appeal, and that the Licensing Officer was not an interested party, but had originally heard the applications for the Licences as a Magistrate would have heard a case and had given his decision on the application brought before him in a judicial capacity. Surely it would not be contended that the Licensing Officer was an interested party. If he were not interested then he should only have the right to file his reasons for his decision in the same way as a Magistrate would have done.

Mr. Miller replied that he appeared for Mr. Jones both as a Licensing Officer and in his capacity as an interested rate payer.

The Board over ruled Col. Greene's objection and allowed Mr. Miller to appear.

The first application heard was that of A. M. Patel, and Col. Greene called upon Mr. Jones to give evidence. In this case the Licensing Officer had assigned the following reasons for refusing the Licence:—

"The books of the business are kept in a very unsatisfactory manner. The books are not of first entry, but are written up weekly from verbal information given by the Applicant to his bookkeeper. My inspection of the books disclosed the fact that they were incorrectly kept. The balance sheet contains entries which are not supported by entries in the Ledger. A large debit of £163 add

which appears in the books does not appear in the balance sheet, and there are other instances of incorrect book-keeping."

Colonel Greene questioned the witness as to what the books of first entry meant, and elicited the reply that in his opinion the books of first entry should mean books kept by the Applicant in his store recording each item of the cash sales. He stoutly denied that a book kept by a bookkeeper disclosing the cash sales made for the day and also disclosing invoices entered up at first hand into a day-book and a ledger were books of first entry.

Colonel Greene then questioned the witness with reference to the debit of £163, and referred him to the folio on which the account containing the item appeared. The witness acknowledged that the debits and credits in this account each totalled exactly £163, and that the account balanced, but at the same time he maintained on oath that an item of £163 should have been carried forward somewhere and somehow. The witness admitted that he had the year previously renewed the Appellant's Licence although the books were very probably kept in identically the same manner then, and that he had not given any notice to the Applicant that they were to be kept differently in future. He contended that the books were not books of first entry because the verbal information with which the Appellant supplied his bookkeeper was taken from rough books kept in the Appellant's own language, and that these books were the books of first entry and should be kept in the English Language. He did not know whether it was the universal custom among English merchants to keep a record in English of each item sold in a retail store. He believed that in retail businesses in Durban and Pietermaritzburg the dealers had their books written up weekly by accountants. He did not approve of such a way of keeping books, and said that it was incorrect and that the books should be kept up to date. He had called for a balance sheet in this case, although he had not the legal right to do so, because he thought that the Appellant ought to keep in line with other applicants for Licences. He might possibly have issued Licences this year to other merchants in the town whose books were kept in the same way as Appellant's. The Appellant's business was in every other way perfectly satisfactory. In reply to Mr. Miller he stated that the Applicant could read and write a little English. He admitted with reference to the £163 item that the items on the credit side totalled to £163 and had swallowed the balance of £163 brought down from the previous year, and that there was really no balance to carry down and that it appeared that he had made a mistake. The witness then proceeded to point out

an error in addition in another account.

Mr. G. R. Beattie was then called by Colonel Greene and stated that he kept the Appellant's books. He attended at Appellant's store every week and made up the books from invoices and from information supplied to him by the Appellant who kept notes in Gujarati. He further stated that he was employed by Mr. Hellet as a bookkeeper, and also kept books in the same manner for other storekeepers in the village. He admitted the error in calculation.

The hearing of the case had occupied the whole day and the room at various times was crowded with Europeans and Indian merchants who waited hour after hour and evinced the deepest interest in the proceedings.

The Board retired to consider the Appeal at 4 o'clock and remained closeted together for two hours. They then resumed their seats and Mr. T. J. Nunn, a special clerk who had been engaged by them to take minutes of the proceedings, read their decision which was as follows:—

1. "The Board by a majority, after careful consideration and personal inspection decide that the books of the Appellant are not kept in terms of the Act No. 18 of 1897 Section 7 and in terms of Sub-section A Section 180 of Law No. 47 1887."

"The Board attaches no importance to the error of calculation by the bookkeeper or to the error of the Town Clerk."

2. "The Board is also satisfied that the books of Appellant as submitted to the Board are not books of first entry the originals being kept in the Gujarati language."

"The Board is wishful not to impose any undue hardship."

"Appellant is at liberty to keep his place of business open for six months from the 1st, January, 1908, in order to liquidate his business."

"The Appeal is therefore refused by a majority of 5 to 1."

(Sgd) R. M. K. CHADWICK,

Chairman.

The hearing was resumed the next morning when the Appeal of M. H. Vowda was heard. The room was again crowded and the audience remained in the Hall until nearly 9 o'clock at night when the final decision was given. In this particular case the only error that Mr. Jones could point out was one of 8s. 10d. in the year's profits as shown in the balance sheet, and also an item of £200 shown in the balance sheet which he could not trace anywhere else. Examined by Colonel Greene in the witness box he turned up the folio showing the Building Account and there found the item referred to of £201 : 15 : 7 on which the sum of £1 : 15 : 7 had been allowed for depreciation. He admitted that the books were splendidly kept in double entry and that the store had been

existing for 13 years. His chief reason for refusing the Licence was that neither of the Partners in the business could read or write.

M. D. Jilabhay, a partner in the firm, was then called and gave his evidence in English. Examined by Colonel Greene he turned up various accounts in the ledgers and answered questions relative to those accounts. He also stated that because he was not thoroughly conversant with English he kept a complete duplicate set of books in Gujarati in addition to the English books and that the two sets were compared and checked from time to time. Examined by the Board he stated that he kept a competent bookkeeper and entered up every item that was sold in the store in English as it was sold. The bookkeeper was next called, and the Board, after a short consultation, decided to grant the Licence in the personal name of M. H. Vowda and not to the partners of the firm or in the firm's name.

The Board next heard the appeal of Amod Haffejee. Colonel Greene mentioned to the Board that in his address in connection with Patel's application he had asked the members of the Board to give a ruling with reference to books of first entry as far as their own opinion was concerned. They had now given a ruling saying that books of first entry were not books of first entry because some absolutely unnecessary information had been recorded by the Appellants in their own language in addition to the books which were required in law and which books were kept in English. Throughout his Parliamentary career, he had maintained that it was undesirable that the Indian mercantile community should be allowed to increase, and it was with great surprise that he had been approached and asked to take up these appeals, but it was pointed out to him that in the House he had said that we as a community had to face the position like men, and that we had not to do any injustice but that we had to take steps that would be perfectly just to the men whom we had encouraged and allowed to come into the country and to obtain vested interests there. He said that they as a superior race had a duty to perform to the community, and that if there was any dirty work to be done it was for Parliament to face it and to take the right steps. It had never been intended by the Law that any dirty work of this sort should be done by a Local Board of this sort "and upon my soul if you refuse this application, I think it will make us all feel like worms." Justice was all that he asked for and since they had given an adverse decision in the previous case with reference to books of first entry, all he could say was that the Applicant now before them had authorised him to bind him to keep a bookkeeper on the premises who would thereafter forward regard all transactions in the

English language. The Licensing Officer in this case had renewed the Licence the previous year without comment and now suddenly and without warning he refused the Licence on the very books which he had passed the year previously. He was content to allow the principles involved in the first case contested to stand as the principles in this case and gave the guarantee to keep a bookkeeper, and on this guarantee he asked the Board to grant the Appeal.

The Board refused the application but granted the Appellant until the 30th, of November to realise his stock.

The applications of Suleman Hoosen and M. D. Jilabhay were then taken jointly.

In Suleman Hoosen's case it appeared that for the past seven years he had had as a partner a man named Karwa, but that in July of last year Suleman Hoosen had withdrawn from the partnership leaving Karwa as the remaining partner. The books were perfectly satisfactory and Karwa read wrote and spoke enough English for business purposes.

In Jilabhay's case Mr. Miller submitted to the Board that the circumstances were identical with the circumstances in Vowda's case, and he was quite agreeable in view of the Board's previous decision to the Board granting Jilabhay the Licence provided that it was issued in Vowda's own name.

He, however, with reference to Suleman Hoosen's appeal said that they should harden their hearts. Colonel Greene had appealed to their feelings but he (Mr. Miller) had hardened his heart and he called on them to harden their hearts. They must make up their minds to get rid of a community whose commercial ideas were notoriously immoral. Colonel Greene objected to any such words. Mr. Miller withdrew these words but continued to address in a most vehement manner.

After nearly two hours consideration the Board briefly announced that they had decided to refuse Suleman Hoosen's Licence, but would grant him until November to liquidate his stock.

They had however decided to allow Jilabhay's appeal, but the Licence would be issued in Vowda's own personal name.

Mr. Cowley, Colonel Greene being absent, then briefly thanked the Board for the consideration which they had given to each appeal, only regretting that their ideas were what they were.

Mr. Chadwick replied, and further thanked Mr. Nunn for his services as special Clerk.

#### County Licences

On Wednesday the 4th of March, the Licensing Board for the Division of Estcourt, consisting of R. H. Addison Esq., J.P., R.M., Chairman, and Messrs. Turner J.P. and Baker J.P. sat in the Estcourt Court House to

hear the appeals of eight storekeepers of the Division against the decision of Mr. J. B. de Villiers, the Licensing Officer with reference to his refusal to renew their licences for 1908.

Colonel Greene K.C., with Mr. Cecil Cowley, appeared for the Appellants, and though Mr. de Villiers was present he took no part in the proceedings.

At the outset, Colonel Greene, Mr. de Villiers agreeing, informed the Board that the principles underlying the Magistrate's refusal in most of the cases was the same and was briefly to the following effect:—

Each of the storekeepers kept notes of their transactions in their stores in Gujarati and either daily or else two or three times a week went to their bookkeeper who ascertained from them their cash sales and entered up the totals for each day, and with this information and the invoices, made up the books which were perfectly well kept, indeed remarkably well kept. The Board then, Mr. de Villiers concurring, decided to take one of the Appeals, and that five others in which similar principles occurred should stand or fall by the decision in the one case.

After hearing the evidence of Mr. R. E. Wood and Mr. J. M. Steward, Accountants, to the effect that in a small retail business a note of each individual transaction was not necessary, but that it was the practice merely at the end of a day to enter up the amount of the gross cash sales, and that this practice had been adopted in the cases before the Court, but that each of the merchants had gone further and kept in their own language for their own individual use a memorandum of each of the cash sales in their own language.

Mr. H. M. Barker was called to give evidence on a subpoena. Mr. Barker informed the Court that until December 1907 he had been the Licensing Officer for the Division, and he had given special instructions that the books should be kept as they appeared to have been kept, and that he had checked them from time to time and was satisfied that in each case the books were a true reflection of the businesses of the Appellants.

Colonel Greene then addressed the Court, and after they had retired to consider the matter Mr. Addison stated that the decision of the Board was that in the case before them they were quite satisfied that the books were a true reflection of the Appellant's business and that they were well kept in the English language. They were satisfied that the rough books which were kept in Gujarati were not part of the usual books of account kept by a merchant, and they came to this decision after hearing the expert evidence of two well known Accountants. They were further satisfied that the Gujarati books had been kept at the special instigation of the previous Licensing Officer and that he was satisfied with their method

of keeping these books. Under those circumstances they thought the Appeals should very properly be allowed. At the same time they were of opinion that the Licensing Officer should be represented at an Appeal of this sort.

Mr. de Villiers then rose and urged that the remaining two Appeals be held over to the following day to enable him to get authority from the Government in Pietermaritzburg to be represented by Counsel at the hearing of the remaining two Appeals. He thought it was grossly unfair that his decision should be appealed against and that he should not have the right to appear, and he was satisfied that his contention was correct in view of the words which had just fallen from the Bench. Colonel Greene pointed out that only interested parties were allowed by the Rules to appear at the hearing of the Appeals and that it would be invidious if the Licensing Officer should be allowed more scope than a Magistrate who was having his decision considered by an Appellate Court. The Board decided that Mr. de Villiers was not entitled to be represented and the Appeals were allowed to proceed.

At this stage Colonel Greene asked to be excused as he was very unwell, and Mr. Cecil Cowley conducted the remaining two Appeals, which were both upheld.

Colonel Greene at the conclusion of the first case stated that he had been asked by Mr. de Villiers to explain to the Board that had he been aware of a previous Licensing Officer's instructions he would not have given the wholesale ruling which he had done.

### "The Times" on the House of Lords Debate

The *Times* of the 5th February has the following leader:

The very difficult and delicate question of the position of British Indians in the Transvaal was discussed yesterday in the House of Lords with the tact and moderation which distinguish its treatment of public questions. Lord Amphill, who opened the debate, gave expression, as did subsequent speakers, to the unqualified satisfaction with which the settlement happily arrived at has been received in this country. His criticism was addressed to the delay that had occurred and to the time that elapsed before a dangerous situation was brought to an end by a compromise which is so far from including any new elements as naturally to give rise to the question why it could not have been reached at an earlier date. Lord Elgin's reply to this question is not entirely satisfactory. He said that he did not know of any action by any person which had delayed the settlement. But that does not meet the criticism that more prompt action on his own part would have hastened

the solution and thus avoided a considerable amount of exasperation, highly detrimental to Imperial interests. Now that the end has been gained, no one would wish to be too severely critical; still, it is impossible to review the case without agreeing with what Lord Curzon said, that the Colonial Office showed a lack of that imagination which is valuable in all statesmanship, but absolutely indispensable in dealing with Oriental races. It is difficult not to feel that the case was imperfectly grasped by the Colonial Office, and that what it ought to have done early upon its own initiative it did late under pressure from public opinion. The Transvaal Government, not having Imperial interests very fully before it, and having to deal, on the other hand, with very insistent popular prejudice, cannot perhaps be greatly blamed for failing to give due weight to some important considerations. But it is at least to its credit that, when these considerations were pressed upon it, their force was handsomely admitted and the desired compromise was rapidly effected. That gives force to the contention that, had proper representations been made at an earlier date by those charged with the care of broad Imperial interests, they would have been equally effective, and a state of painful tension would have been more speedily ended.

If we put aside the question of administration, there is substantial agreement among the speakers on both sides upon the abiding difficulties in which the Empire is involved by its composition. Lord Roberts and Lord Curzon, with their Indian experience and sympathies, were disposed to lean in one direction, while Lord Ripon and Lord Elgin were more impressed with the importance of the other set of considerations. But there was full recognition on all hands of the co-existence of powerful and opposed forces and tendencies, the clash of which constitutes and will more and more constitute, one of the most engrossing of Imperial pre-occupations. Lord Lansdowne stated the case with great fairness and may be said to have summed up the general feeling of the House. He unreservedly admits the right of a self-governing colony to decide whether its territory shall be the home of a British rather than of an Asiatic race. He admits as a corollary the right of restriction or even exclusion of Asiatic immigrants, and with it the right of effective registration of Asiatics already in residence. He even admits that the Transvaal, with a native question already on its hands, has a double claim to freedom of action in preventing the rise of a second embarrassment of the same kind. But on the other hand there are all the circumstances so eloquently set forth by Lord Curzon—the claim of British Indians to be full citizens of the Empire as we have exhorted them to consider themselves, the natural seeking

for outlets of a population which our own policy has caused to grow with enormous rapidity, the general ideas which we have laboured to implant in the minds of our Indian fellow-subjects, and the services which we have called upon them to render out of India when it suited ourselves. This country has to recognize and continually bear in mind both sides of the question: and no vigilance, no imagination, no sympathy, no wisdom can be too great for the immediate task of practically reconciling these opposing tendencies. When we have done everything to diminish friction, there will remain a tremendous problem for our successors, merging into a yet more tremendous question for white civilisation as a whole.

Of the great standing difficulty of the Empire we have just had a hint or two in recent affairs. Happily we have for the time smoothed over the Japanese question in Vancouver, and now the British Indian question in the Transvaal. These are only warnings of what is in store. There is nothing enduring in our settlements, and it is as certain as sunrise that, sooner or later, and no one can say how soon, we shall have to confront similar difficulties, perhaps in a much more serious form. It is not time to consider very carefully whether our machinery is the best conceivable for dealing with this world-wide race question? We have seen how the Imperial Cabinet has dealt with the comparatively small trouble in South Africa; and it is certainly not a method that inspires confidence in view of possible and probable eventualities. Surely it is time to establish some body more fully in touch with the various communities and races composing the Empire, which should, at the lowest, provide the detailed knowledge needed to nip trouble in the bud, and, we might hope also, the instructed imagination of which we see so little evidence in official quarters. In sheer ignorance, or panic, or thoughtlessness, some colony may at any moment produce complications in this delicately organised Empire which may baffle our best statesmanship. Is it not high time that, at any rate, upon this colour question with its enormous risks, we should have some thoroughgoing understanding among all portions of the Empire? It is important enough for a Colonial Conference *ad hoc*; but, if that is too much to ask for, the new Secretariat might at least pave the way by communication with the self-governing Colonies for a commission of some sort, which should elaborate an Imperial scheme to anticipate and avert evil by a common understanding. The importance of the problem cannot be overstated, and urgency may come upon us at any time, with little or no warning, yet we have at present no Imperial opinion about the race question, far less any Imperial unanimity about practical policy.



## The Transvaal Asiatic Blue Book

(Continued from our last issue)

### Mr. Morley's Reply

To Lord Elgin's inquiry, Mr. Morley caused the following reply to be sent on the 31st of October:

I am directed by Mr. Secretary Morley to acknowledge the receipt of Mr. Just's letter of the 10th instant with reference to the Immigrants' Restriction Act, recently passed by the Transvaal Legislature, which is now awaiting His Majesty's pleasure.

I am to say that the text of the Act is already in the hands of the Government of India, who have been requested to telegraph at once any observations they may wish to make on the measure. Mr. Morley hopes to be able very shortly to communicate his views to Lord Elgin, and trusts that in the meantime no action will be taken.

Without prejudice to his decision as to concurrence in the Act, I am to say that Mr. Morley regrets that he cannot agree that the Act in question can be as similar to the legislation already sanctioned in other self-governing Colonies. He fully recognizes that His Majesty's Government are not in a position to object to the future exclusion of immigrants who are unable to pass such tests as the Colonial authorities, following the lines of other Colonial Legislatures, may think fit to impose. But he must observe that Section 2 (4) of the Transvaal Act introduces a principle to which no parallel can be found in previous legislation. This clause perpetuates an arrangement introduced in very special circumstances, and will debar from entry into the Transvaal British subjects who would be free to enter any other Colony by proving themselves capable of passing the educational tests laid down for immigrants. It will for instance, permanently exclude from the Transvaal members of learned professions and graduates of European universities of Asiatic origin who may in future wish to enter the Colony. It has further been represented to Mr. Morley that the Act may work grave injustice, since British Indian subjects who had before 1902 acquired domicile in the Transvaal, but having temporarily left the Colony, had not yet registered themselves, may under its provisions be debarred from re-entry.

On the 11th of November, the following further reply was sent by Mr. Morley:

With reference to my letter of the 31st ultimo on the subject of the Transvaal Immigration Restriction Bill, and to your letter of the 4th instant, on the limitations of the right of British Indians to acquire property in the Transvaal, I am directed by Mr. Secretary Morley to state, for the information of the Earl of Elgin, that the Government of India, while strongly opposed to the principle of the Bill under consideration, recognize His Majesty's Government must decide the question by considerations other than the interest of British Indian subjects. They observe that, if the Asiatic Law Amendment Act, 1907, preserves the rights possessed by Indians under the Peace Preservation Ordinance, 1903, they do not desire to offer criticisms on the details of the Immigration Restriction Bill.

It is unnecessary to recapitulate the reasons, stated in my letter of the 31st ultimo, for which Mr. Morley is opposed to section 2(4), but on the general question I am to offer the following observations.

Mr. Morley agrees with Lord Elgin that in the view of the earlier history of the question it is necessary to accept Sections 2 (1) and 6 (2) of the Bill. He

cannot affect to regard the latter provision otherwise than with grave misgivings, but since the Asiatic Law Amendment Act, 1907, has received His Majesty's sanction, Mr. Morley recognizes that it would be inconsistent to object to a clause framed merely in order to ensure the efficient administration of that Act so far as it affects persons already in the Transvaal.

Nor does he question the principle that the Colonial Government must be allowed to restrict the immigration of Asiatics by legislation similar to that enacted by other self-governing Colonies. But the effect of Section 2 (4) of the present Bill, as is recognised by Lord Elgin, will be to exclude perpetually from a portion of His Majesty's dominions all British Indian subjects, however high their social status, or educational attainments, who have not already acquired domiciliary rights. As regards Asiatics, therefore, the "educational test," which has elsewhere been found sufficient to exclude undesirable immigrants, will in the Transvaal be a dead letter (except that it may possibly be utilised to exclude the re-entry of persons domiciled before the war who have not yet taken the necessary steps to assert their claim to return). In spite of the repetition of the phraseology used in previous Colonial legislation, the Asiatic who attempts to enter the Transvaal will be required to prove that he had resided there before 1902, and his ability to pass the language test, which would ensure his admission into the Transvaal.

It is true that under the Asiatic Law Amendment Act of 1907, the Colonial Government may grant temporary permits. Mr. Morley presumes that this power will if the occasion arise, be used to prevent such a gross scandal as the exclusion from the Colony of ruling chiefs, Indians of distinguished position, and high officials of Asiatic descent on the ground that they are "undesirable immigrants." But he thinks that it would be satisfactory to obtain a definite assurance that in framing the present Bill the Colonial Government had no intention of refusing access to Asiatics of this type, and he trusts that such an assurance will be obtained and placed on record before the Royal Assent is given to the measure.

It is unnecessary to point out to Lord Elgin the unfortunate effect upon public opinion in India which must be produced by the present Bill. The very peculiar circumstances of the Transvaal have been held to justify, during the period of administrative reconstruction, exceptional measures for dealing with the influx of immigrants; but Mr. Morley did not understand, when the provisions of the Asiatic Law Amendment Act were under discussion, that the forthcoming Immigration Restriction Bill would be so framed as to perpetuate the exclusion from the Colony of all future Asiatic immigrants without distinction.

For these reasons I am to say that Mr. Morley trusts that Lord Elgin will find it possible to impress upon the Government of the Transvaal the very strong objections, from the Imperial point of view, which stand in the way of the acceptance of Section 2 (4) of the Bill.

### Foreign Office to the Colonial Office

Sir Edward Grey, on the 10th of November, sent the following:

I am directed by Secretary Sir E. Grey to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 10th ultimo, respecting the Immigrants Restriction Act recently passed by the Transvaal Legislature.

In reply, I am to state that in Sir E. Grey's opinion the exercise by the Executive of powers which are ordinarily entrusted to the judiciary (who are accustomed to the investigation of cases according to the recognised rules of evidence) is calculated to give rise to

friction with foreign States, who may be led to suppose—whether with or without reason—that their subjects have been treated with injustice.

Sir E. Grey notes the statement of the Attorney-General of the Transvaal that "the powers conferred will in each of the three classes of cases referred to be used with great discretion," but he fears that no mere exercise of discretion will effectually prevent the possibility of conflicts with foreign States in particular cases affecting their subjects, with the result that the attitude of the Transvaal Government may be adversely criticised with some show of reason, in the Imperial Parliament.

In these circumstances Sir E. Grey considers that the non-disallowance of the Act should be made conditional on the Transvaal Government giving an undertaking, as suggested in the third paragraph of your letter, to limit the power conferred by the Act to the cases of persons convicted of some offence before the Courts of the Colony.

Sir E. Grey has no observations to make in regard to the provisions of the Act which affect the position of Asiatics in the Colony.

### Further Correspondence

On the 27th of November Lord Elgin sent the following cablegram to Lord Selbourne:

No. 1. Your despatch, 9th September. The Immigrants Restriction Act, provisions of which are in some respects unusual, has received very careful consideration from His Majesty's Government. They note with some regret that your Ministers have not been content to rely on an education test for exclusion of undesirables and that practical effect of Section 2, sub-Section 4 will be to exclude all Asiatics, irrespective of their personal qualifications. In view of the past history of this question and the special circumstances of the Transvaal, they are nevertheless prepared to accept this provision, in the hope that exclusion of further Asiatic immigration will result in more favourable treatment of Asiatics now lawfully resident in the Colony. They assume that grant of temporary permits under Asiatic Law Amendment Act, Section 17 will not be discontinued, and they desire from your Ministers specific assurance that there is no intention of refusing access as visitors to ruling Chiefs, Indians of distinguished position, or high officials of Asiatic descent.

By Section 6, Sub-section b, powers of expulsion of an unusually wide and unrestricted character applicable to foreigners and British subjects alike are conferred on the Executive. His Majesty's Government believe that no precedent for such powers exists in the legislation of any responsibly-governed dominion. Even the Peace Preservation Ordinance, passed under abnormal circumstances after prolonged war, does not confer actual power of expulsion. The exercise of such power by executive without intervention of judicial authorities is liable, in cases of subjects of foreign Powers, to give rise to very serious difficulties and, in case of British subjects, is contrary to traditional principles of policy. His Majesty's Government feel that these considerations have probably not been fully brought home to your Ministers, and hope that they will be prepared on reflection to put some limit on power conferred by this sub-section on the Executive. They ask for assurance that legislation will be introduced limiting this power to persons convicted of some offence, or at any rate providing means by which any such order may be brought before Courts for confirmation or discharge, and that your Ministers will refrain from exercising this power pending such legislation.

His Majesty's Government accept

with some reluctance provisions of Section 6. Sub-section 6, but they feel sure that discrimination will be exercised by your Ministers in employment of the powers conferred.

If your Ministers can give the two specific assurances asked for His Majesty will not be advised to disallow the Act.

On the 3rd of December Lord Selborne sent the following reply:

Ministers intimate that they gladly give His Majesty's Government assurance asked for.

Ministers add, with regard to Section 6 (b) that they explained in Parliament that this was an extraordinary power which should be only exercised in the gravest emergencies of State. Ministers understand, however, that this extraordinary power of expulsion under this sub-section may be capable of abuse, and should be limited in the way proposed by His Majesty's Government or should be abolished altogether, and they undertake to introduce legislation necessary for purpose and to abstain from making use of this power of expulsion in the meantime.

May Act now be brought into force?

On the 14th of December, Mr. Morley abandons Indians to the tender mercies of the Transvaal in the following terms:

I am directed by Mr. Secretary Morley, with reference to Mr. Just's letter of the 10th instant, on the subject of the Transvaal Immigration Restriction Act, to ask that Lord Elgin may be informed that he has learned with satisfaction that the Colonial Ministers have given the desired assurance as to the admission to the Colony of Indian visitors of distinguished position. Mr. Morley trusts that Lord Elgin's hope that the exclusion of further Asiatic immigration will result in the more favourable treatment of Asiatic residents in the Transvaal may be justified. In view of the previous history of the question, Mr. Morley is alive to the difficulties in the way of His Majesty's Government refusing to allow the Act to pass into operation.

The following letter from the Chinese Consul-General for British South Africa shows how the finger-impressions never formed part of the essential Asiatic objection:

With reference to my letter to Your Excellency of the 20th ultimo, I have since had lengthy interviews with the Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Transvaal Chinese Association, which body I fully recognise as representing the Chinese community in the Transvaal, and as a result of these interviews I have ascertained that the feeling of the Transvaal Chinese community is not so much against the finger-prints or any other isolated incident of the Act as against the whole spirit of it. The Association holds that the Act is an attack on personal liberty and degrades the community as a whole, and that it is the forerunner of further legislation restrictive of the liberty of the Chinese residents in the Transvaal.

Under these circumstances I would withdraw my previous communication to you on this subject.

On the 19th of December, Lord Elgin communicated his decision that the Immigrant's Restriction Act would not be disallowed.

On the 15th of January, the following curious cablegram was sent by Lord Elgin:

No. 1. Matter most urgent. It appears that under Regulations in *Gazette* 28th June, paragraph 13 Schedule G, persons receiving temporary permits will be expected to give right thumb-impressions.

His Majesty's Government would prefer that this thumb-impression should not be compulsorily enacted at all in such cases. If, however, your Ministers consider that there are strong reasons against this course His Majesty's Government would suggest that at least discretion should be given to responsible officers to enact thumb-print or not in cases such as those covered by the assurance given by Ministers in enclosure in your despatch of 9th December.

Enclosure in your despatch 11th November, states number of impressions under Regulations as ten whereas Chinese Ambassador asserts it is eighteen: see enclosure to my despatch 12th December. I presume that explanation is that eighteen finger impressions will appear on the certificate as the result of twelve separate acts of impression made up of ten individual impressions of the digits of both hands and two simultaneous impressions of the four finger of each hand.

To which Lord Selborne sent an equally curious reply:

No. 2. Your telegram of 15th January, No. 1. Ministers state that while they consider that power to demand furnishing of the thumb impression on temporary permits to visit Transvaal should be retained they are quite agreeable that discretion should be used in exercising the requirement. There is no objection to Asiatics such as Ruling Chiefs, Asiatics of distinguished position or officials of Asiatic descent giving their signature in place of their thumb-impression.

Ministers further advise with regard to furnishing of eighteen impressions by applicants for registration that these are comprised of twelve separate acts of impression, namely taking of the ten individual digit impressions and the taking of two simultaneous impressions of the four fingers of each hand, latter being required as proof that each of the individual impressions is recorded in its allotted space. In the average case taking of the eight impressions does not occupy more than thirty seconds.

#### Asiatic Law Amendment Act

The following correspondence will form interesting reading:

The Governor to the Secretary of State:

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch of the 9th May, announcing that His Majesty will not be advised to exercise his power of disallowance in respect of the Asiatic Law Amendment Act of 1907, but placing on record the fact that His Majesty's Government do not consider the position of Asiatics lawfully resident in the Transvaal, as settled by this Act, to be satisfactory, and expressing the hope that my Ministers may be able to provide for the identification of holders of certificates of registration under the Ordinance otherwise than by means of finger-print impressions.

2. The Law has now been brought into force with effect from the 1st instant.

3. I enclose, in reply to your despatch, the accompanying copy of a minute which I have received from my Ministers, from which your Lordship will see that they have not been able to discover any satisfactory method of providing for identification other than that of finger-print impressions.

4. In view of what is said in the extract from Mr. E. R. Henry's book, which accompanies my Ministers' Minute, I do not suppose that the Government of India can have raised any objection to the system now being introduced into the Transvaal. A system so widely resorted to in India for the purpose of identifying not only criminals but a great number of other classes of persons of

whose identity it is necessary to have a reliable and authentic record, a system in which apparently the people of India contentedly acquiesce, cannot be intolerable when applied to Indians elsewhere.

5. The information given in Mr. Henry's book is new to me, but now that it is laid before me I cannot refrain from expressing surprise that a gentleman of Sir Lepel Griffin's experience in the details of Indian administration should have used such language as is printed on page 40 of the Blue Book [Cd. 3308].

I am not, of course, aware whether Sir Lepel Griffin protested in equally strong language at the time when the system of identification by means of finger prints was introduced in so many Departments in India.

6. These are, I submit, good grounds for hoping that the system will not really be regarded as degrading by Asiatics lawfully residing in the Transvaal, but it is clear that it will destroy the business of those illicit "permit agents" who have in the past made large profits by organising and facilitating the unlawful ingress of Asiatics into the Transvaal, and their permanent unlawful residence therein.

7. To what an extent this business has been carried on, how great are the profits to be drawn from it, and how serious the consequent risks of corruption will appear from the "Notes on the illicit ingress of Asiatics into the Transvaal," which form the second enclosure to my Ministers' Minute. It should, of course, be remembered that only those cases of which the Transvaal Government has official cognizance are dealt with in the notes. I have the best reasons for believing that there are many more which have never been brought to light and I do not think that it is right that subordinate officers of the Government should be constantly exposed to such temptations as are alleged to have been offered by the Indian, M. Lalla (see page [21] of the notes) to Superintendent Vernon and Constable Harris, of the Transvaal Police.

8. I cannot but think that the protests of local Asiatic residents against the new Act must be due in part at least to the lucrative nature of the traffic in illicit immigration and to the ease with which it has hitherto been carried on.

9. I enclose, for your Lordship's information, a copy of the regulations framed under the Act, as published in the *Gazette*.

#### Lord Elgin to the Governor

17th August, 1907.

I have the honour to transmit to you the accompanying copy of a question asked in the House of Commons by Mr. Harold Cox on the subject of the position of British Indians in the Transvaal together with a copy of Mr. Churchill's reply.

2. I would ask you to draw the attention of your Ministers to paragraph 4 of my despatch of the 21st of December, 1906 (printed at page 60 of [Cd. 3308]), and to request them to consider the question of granting British Indians the right to acquire property in the business premises which they occupy outside Asiatic locations. I share the opinion of my predecessor that this is a right which ought to be conceded to them.

3. I am, of course, aware that they already enjoy the right to own property within locations.

#### Ministers to Governor

30th September, 1907.

Ministers have the honour, with reference to Transvaal Minute, No. 15/1907, of the 6th instant, forwarding a despatch from the Secretary of State for the Colonies of the 17th August, 1907, on the subject of the position of British Indians in the Transvaal, to recommend that His Excellency the Governor may be

pleased to inform the Secretary of State that it is not possible to entertain the suggestion of granting British Indians the right to acquire property in the Transvaal except in such areas specially appointed for their accommodation under Section 2 (d) of Law 3 of 1885.

## The Great Bombay Meeting

### Transvaal Indian Question

#### A Vigorous Protest

We take the following report from the *Times of India* of the 1st February:—

A public meeting convened by the Sheriff of Bombay, in response to a numerously signed requisition of influential citizens of Bombay, was held on Wednesday in the Town Hall, to protest against the treatment meted out to the Indians in the Transvaal. The meeting was as large as it was representative, and the spacious hall was filled to its utmost capacity, several hundreds of people standing outside the hall. The proceedings were characterised with great enthusiasm and as some of the popular leaders entered the meeting room, they were accorded a very warm reception. The proceedings commenced at 5 p.m. and lasted for over two hours and a half.

Among those present were: Sir Jamsetji Jejeebhoy, Bart. Sir Dinshaw M. Petit, Bart., the Hon. Sir Peroozeshah M. Mehta, Kt., Sir Sassoon David, Kt., Sir Jehangir Cowasji Jehangir, Kt., Sir Bhaichandra Krishna, Kt., Sir Hurkissondas Narotumdas, Kt., Sir Curimbhoy Ebrahim, Kt., the Hon. Mr. C. H. Armstrong, the Hon. Mr. G. K. Parekh, the Hon. Mr. D. A. Khare, the Hon. Mr. Chumilal H. Setalwad, the Hon. Mr. Ibrahim Rahimtoola, Mr. James Macdonald, Mr. Stanley Reed, Mr. Dwarakadas Dharamsey, Mr. H. A. Wadia, Mr. D. E. Wacha, Mr. Bomonji D. Petit, Mr. Tribhowandas M. Nathubhai, Mr. J. Baptista, Mr. J. A. Wadia, Khan Bahadur Darashaw R. Chichgar, Mr. Curimbhoy Adamji Peerbhoy, Mr. Jafferbhoy Rahimtoola, Dr. N. N. Kattrak, Mr. Cowasji Jehangir Cowasji, Mr. F. Sorabji Tatyarkhan, Mr. Mammohundas Ramji, Mr. Dhanjibhoy B. Petit, Mr. N. V. Mandlik, Mr. Kaji Kabiruddin, Mr. Mahomedbhoy Curimbhoy Ebrahim, Mr. Jehangir B. Petit, and others.

Mr. Dwarakadas Dharamsey, Sheriff of Bombay, opened the proceedings by reading the requisition sent to him to convene the meeting, and called upon those present to elect their chairman.

On the motion of Sir Jamsetji Jejeebhoy, seconded by Sir Sassoon David, His Highness Aga Sir Sultan Mahomed Shah was voted to the chair.

The chairman, who received an ovation on rising to address the meeting, said:—Mr. Sheriff and Gentlemen,—Before proceeding with the business of the meeting it is my duty to read a letter that I have just received from the veteran Indian patriot, Mr. Dadabhai Naoroji. (Applause.) Mr. Dadabhai writes:—"I am very sorry I am unable to be present at the public meeting to-day, but I am in entire sympathy with its object, and I hope the meeting will be a success." I have also received a letter from Sir Adamji Peerbhoy—(applause)—expressing his regret at his inability to be present at the meeting.

#### The Chairman's Speech

The Chairman then said:—Mr. Sheriff and citizens of Bombay,—I am glad to say that we meet here to-day in no partizan or sectional spirit; the presence of representative men of every community and race, and the names of those prominent gentlemen who have signed the requisition to the Sheriff, are the proofs of the catholicity of interests that we represent. Again, the re-

presentative character of the meeting recently held in London, under the presidency of an ex-Viceroy of India, Lord Amptill—(applause)—shows that not only have the Indians united in protesting against the harsh and unfair treatment meted out to their fellow-subjects in South Africa; but they have been warmly supported in their efforts by distinguished Englishmen of all parties and classes and schools of thought. Neither do we ask for any great or revolutionary change in the policy of the Imperial Government towards an autonomous colony. Nor do we call upon the autonomous colony to open its door to unrestricted Asiatic immigration. Of course, as Asiatics, as Indians, as loyal British subjects, we feel naturally most strongly our exclusion from any country when that exclusion is based on the fact of our "dark skins" and racial prejudices. (Hear, hear.) But, gentlemen, there is a wider and bigger question underlying the policy of self-governing Colonies and America towards Asiatic immigration that is not concerned with the immediate object of the meeting. Some day, no doubt, the great economic, moral and political forces, which modern conditions have brought into existence will naturally solve that tremendous problem. Meanwhile, we are immediately concerned here with the Transvaal Government that has deliberately passed laws which can have no other object than that of driving out, bag and baggage, such unfortunate British Indian subjects as are already in that country or compelling them to submit to degrading conditions and go through formalities that at once place them on the level of criminals. Formerly the Boer Government had a very strict law against Asiatics and against Indians, requiring payment of regular fees for holding licences for trading. That law prevented Indians from owning any real property permanently and having any real interest in the country. That old law, though as Indians we deny its justice and its humanity would be ample protection for the White settlers of the Colony against any great influx of Indians and would safeguard Whites against being economically pushed to the wall by Indian competition. But gentlemen, it is quite clear that the object of the white population in the Colonies is not to prevent other Indians from going there, but to drive away those unfortunate persons, who, through their long residence, through thrift and honest labour, and their law-abiding, peaceful and loyal character, have won for themselves the absolute right of residence. Their labour has, among other beneficial results, contributed to the economic development of the Colony.

#### Loyalty of Indians

Only a few years ago, for the sake of peace, and in order to show their readiness to meet even the severe demands of His Majesty's High Commissioner they voluntarily registered believing that once they had registered themselves, their position would be established and that no further registration would be required. But to our utter astonishment and dismay, there has since been passed another most degrading and offensive law—a law that no self-respecting human being can accept or comply with without outraging his feelings. (Hear, hear.) The old law, obnoxious in itself, could be tolerated, even though it closed the avenues of wealth and position to Indians; but this new Transvaal Registration Act deprives us of our manhood and places us on the footing of an inferior race—a stigma which we do not deserve. The Indian soldiers have been a very valuable asset to the State. They have fought worthily side by side with the flower of the British Army and for the flag of England; they distinguished themselves for bravery, won laurels on the battle-field, and sacrificed their lives in the service of their King and their country. Indian students have held their own with the best products of the English Universities. Indian mathematicians and men of science, and Indian doctors and jurists have proved themselves worthy of their European rivals in various intellectual walks of life. (Hear, hear.) Lord Curzon once called Indian

Princes the colleagues and partners of the Imperial Government in the responsibility of governing the country. In any case Indians are not in any way inferior to other races and yet in spite of their proved capacity, if they are treated in a degrading fashion in the 20th century, without a protest from the Imperial Government, what is the meaning of the Empire for them? (Hear, hear, and applause.) The word Empire loses its significance and real meaning when one subject of his Majesty is so badly treated by the other. What then becomes of the common right and interest and duties of the citizenship of the Empire? Some of those men who are now being driven out, sacrificed health, youth, and fortune in the military service of the Empire and fought valiantly under the British flag; and the children of some of those heroes and martyrs, who died for their Emperor and their Government, are now placed in the most humiliating position for no fault of theirs, and they have now to go to prison like thieves or criminals unprotected by the Government to whom they owe allegiance.

If the object of those in authority be only the identification of Asiatics residing in the Transvaal, it can easily be attained by simple registration with all the humiliating conditions removed. We make a sincere appeal to the Imperial Government for the sake of the Empire, for the sake of its life, for the sake of its inner meaning not to abstain any longer from interfering in this urgent matter. (Hear, hear.) Nobody advocates a revolutionary change in the relations of the Mother-country towards self-governing colonies. They can, at least, appoint a Royal Commission to enquire into all the contested facts and make such reports to the Sovereign as they think fit to satisfy the legitimate grievances of the Indians and also to prevent any wholesale and dangerous influx into the Colony. I think it was Mr. Rhodes who declared some years ago, that there should be "an equal right for every civilised man South of the Zambesi." This opinion has been endorsed by many eminent authorities; and the maxim holds good to-day with, perhaps, greater force. If the dangerous example of the Transvaal was followed by Foreign Governments, what would become of India?

#### Retaliation Suggested

If the Imperial Government is unable to remove the unnecessary and unjust restrictions placed on the Indians in the Transvaal then it behoves the Imperial Government, in fairness to Indians, to allow such a policy of retaliation—(hear, hear.)—as would humiliate such South Africans as come to India, in the same way as they seek to humiliate Indians in the Transvaal. If our Government retaliates, it will be deemed the inevitable result of the action of the Transvaal Government. If the Boers close their doors against Indians, the British Government in fairness to India, should insist on keeping the ring clear of Boers and let us at least retaliate with similar laws in our own country. (Hear, hear.) In my humble opinion if all other means fail, if our reasonable request is disregarded, then certainly retaliation against Colonial visitors should be adopted by way of showing them the injustice of their acts. At this meeting, we must enter our unanimous and emphatic protest against the wrongs inflicted on our fellow-subjects in the Transvaal and appeal to Government, for the sake of humanity, and the Imperial stake involved in the question, and the possible disastrous effects upon British prestige in India, to take prompt and effective measures to redress the grievances which are so unjustly inflicted upon Indians by the Transvaal Government. (Applause.)

Gentlemen, there has been such an absolute unanimity of opinion, both English and Indian, as to the justness of the cause that we are pleading to-day; and there has been such an universal, consistent and warm support extended to it by the English, Anglo-Indian and the Indian Press, that I feel hopeful that our just and righteous appeal will induce the Imperial Government to intercede on behalf of their unfortunate but



loyal and honest subjects. I will not now stand between you and other speakers, but with these few remarks, I will now call upon the Hon. Mr. Armstrong to move the resolution which stands in his name. (Loud applause.)

### The Hon. Mr. Armstrong

The Honourable Mr. Armstrong said.—The resolution I have now the honour to propose is as follows:—That the citizens of Bombay, in "Public Meeting assembled, respectfully appeal to His Majesty's Ministers and the British Parliament to do all in their power to prevent the injustice and ill-treatment of His Majesty's subjects under the Transvaal Registration Act and the Immigration Restriction Act in South Africa which violate the Sovereign's gracious pledge to place Indians on an equality with the subjects of the British Crown and which have produced a growing sense of wrong and universal indignation among all classes and creeds in India."

I do not think, Gentlemen, that it requires many words from me to recommend this proposition to you. The present very unsatisfactory—indeed I may say deplorable—position of Indians in the Transvaal claims the active sympathy of every one in this country whatever his nationality may be. That leading citizens in England sympathise with the object of this gathering is quite evident from an important meeting that was lately held in London and I for one with many others of my community very greatly regret the unwise and hasty action of the Transvaal Government in their dealings with a few thousand Indians many of whom have been located in their territory for 15 to 20 years,—some being well-known and well-to-do traders and shopkeepers and others owners of land and property. The position however is not an easy one to deal with and that is why the resolution I have just moved has been worded by general consent with great moderation. As you all know the inhabitants of the Transvaal apparently think that they are quite within their rights in endeavouring—but unfortunately by most objectionable methods—to protect themselves and their property from undue competition, and when a self-governing Colony, made up of a very mixed population takes up a position of this kind, it is somewhat difficult for the Imperial Government to intervene. But whatever our views may be as to this we here this evening have every right to demand that Indians who have lived peacefully in a colony for a number of years should be treated with tact, courtesy and consideration, and what is of equal importance that their position for the future should be clearly defined. (Hear, hear.)

### III.—Treatment of Indians

The *Times* from London, of this mail deals with the question at some length. It begins an article by saying that if the Boer Government chastised the Indians with whips the Transvaal Government are now chastising them with scorpions, and you will remember that it was the ill-treatment of Indians before the war which called forth many protests from Englishmen, leading statesmen in Great Britain. Not only have all the restrictions been maintained but additional disabilities in a very disagreeable form have been imposed. The article goes on to point out that presumably all Indians resident in the Transvaal had registered under the old republican law, but that as some questions arose as to the validity of this registration they voluntarily agreed on Lord Milner's advice in 1903, to register themselves anew with full formalities. This, one would think was amply sufficient, but the present Transvaal Government have ignored these previous registrations, and are now endeavouring to enforce an Act which places Indians in a very invidious position as citizens of this great Empire. Failing compliance, however, powers have been taken under an Immigration Restriction Act, to deport any Asiatic who refuses to register, and this is undoubtedly a most high-handed proceeding when it is borne in mind that Indians resident in the Transvaal are law-abiding citizens and in every respect thoroughly loy-

al. But the extraordinary part of the position is that whilst the Transvaal is endeavouring to get rid of Asiatics the Cape Government allow Indians freedom of commerce as well as the electoral franchise, and this, I think, is a complete answer to any one who might attempt to argue that resident Indians in the Transvaal should not be allowed to remain there except under a most degrading system of registration such as the Government there, is now endeavouring to enforce.

### Necessity for Patience

In dealing, however, with this question, there can be no doubt that great tact and patience are necessary. I feel certain that the sympathies of Government are with this meeting, but nothing should be done or said by us here which will make the position of either this or the Home Government more difficult than it is at present. In time, no doubt wiser counsels will prevail and it is, therefore, necessary for us here not to be overhasty—though I admit the difficulty of this when imprisonment is being resorted to wholesale—for as the position becomes better understood it will assuredly improve, and already there are signs that the Transvaal Government is desirous of reconsidering the matter. I must admit, however, that the keenness of Indians to leave their own land for other countries has always surprised me, but after all the point we have to deal with to-day is not a question of emigration but the treatment of old residents in a country which has lately been taken over by the British Crown. I deplore and so I am sure, do all Englishmen in this country the recent Registration and Immigration Restriction Acts of the Transvaal Government, and I heartily sympathise with those who are endeavouring to improve the lot of Asiatic British subjects in a British colony. Although this meeting has not been called to discuss the question of emigration one cannot but agree with the first part of a letter which appeared in the *Times of India* a few days ago from Sir Sassoon David that the best and safest remedy for the position now existing lies in the direction of making Indians independent of and indifferent to the attractions of emigration by encouraging them to develop the resources of their own country. Here, however, I part company with Sir Sassoon for he goes on to advocate various changes in our trade and fiscal arrangements with some of which I am quite unable to agree. I have always held the view that consumers should be allowed to buy in the cheapest market and when one comes to think of the millions of consumers in this country, it is difficult to see how a policy of protection could be advantageous. It certainly is curious however when one hears, as one has done, for the last few years of the great scarcity of labour in every industrial town and in many districts of this country that emigration should continue as it does. There is any amount of work to be done in India and judging from the results of the last few years profits on well-managed estates and industrial enterprises are very considerable. One would like to see therefore as an indication of the power of Swadeshi much greater efforts made by the natives of India to develop the resources of their own land. To a very considerable extent though I admit not altogether entirely this has been left in the past to Europeans, but there is no reason whatever as the educated classes of this country and especially of Western India are full of energy and resource, why a great deal more in the way of industrial enterprise should not be undertaken by the people of this country. It would not be wise to force ourselves upon the Colonies, and after all if the Colonies do not want us why should we go to them when there is so much good work to be done here and plenty of money to be earned in the shape of good wages.

Gentlemen, the resolution I have moved speaks I think for itself. We do not ask for the impossible or that hasty action of a drastic nature should be taken which might make the position much more difficult. What we request is that the Imperial Government and Parliament should do all that lies in their power to settle this awkward

question. That our request will be granted I feel quite certain, and already there are slight signs that some strong influence is at work to improve matters. The resolution also refers to the very strong feeling that has been created and naturally so in all classes in this country by recent events and when every community in India is of one mind as to this a satisfactory solution becomes only a matter of time. Let us hope therefore that imprisonment will immediately cease, that those who are imprisoned will be at once released, and that the rights of the individual and of property will be respected pending a full enquiry into the whole matter. I leave this resolution to you gentlemen with the greatest confidence. (Applause.)

### Mr. H. A. Wadya

Mr. H. A. Wadya, in seconding the resolution said they stood face to face with two serious facts—the admitted injustice to their fellow subjects, and the amazing impotence to prevent it, which had been voiced in varied phrases by those who had in their keeping the destinies of the Empire. (Cheers.) The injustice was admitted before the late war by the Ministers of the Sovereign, who proclaimed it as one of the reasons for the war. During the war India played her part, which increased her claim to the just treatment of her sons. India saved Natal. British troops recruited, equipped, and maintained from India's revenues, stopped Joubert's march to the sea, and saved Pietermaritzburg and Durban from the Boer invasion. And British Indians in South Africa behaved in a manner which was highly admired by the Colonials themselves. It was said that the Indian population had to be congratulated on the admirable spirit they had shown. The Prime Minister of Natal publicly declared to the British Indians that the part they had played redounded to the credit and patriotism of the Indian community and deserved grateful recognition. How had that grateful recognition been shown. By the enforcement of the very acts after the war which the Ministers had condemned and remonstrated against before it. It was the simple truth that after the war, every piece of anti-Indian legislation was unearthed and enforced with a vigour and rigour unknown before, and with a callousness which the Boers had not ventured to indulge in. And then came a series of measures all over South Africa, conceived in selfishness, carried out in shamelessness, and enforced with signal severity. The last and the worst of them was the Transvaal Registration Ordinance under the Asiatic Amendment Act and the Immigration Restriction Act, passed by the Transvaal Legislature immediately on the grant by His Majesty to the Colony of the right of self-government. The first Act, which enforces compulsory registration can be rightly interpreted as an Act for the compulsory abasement and degradation of all Asiatics. It enforces against them conditions hitherto reserved for and justified in the case of convicted criminals and indentured bondsmen. There are 13,000 Asiatics in the Transvaal, of whom nearly 12,000 are British Indians, their fellow subjects. The passive resistance of a large number proved at once the reality and extent of the injustice. The Immigration Restriction Act arms the authorities with a power they did not possess before, and which they had found indispensable to enforce the Registration Act and overcome the passive resistance. They could not put into jail 11,000 resisters. They wished to deport physically those who resisted. Notices were issued to some of the most respectable British Indians, particularly the leaders of the passive resistance, to appear before the magistrate. They appeared and pleaded guilty to the charge that they had remained in the Transvaal without certificates of registration. They were ordered to leave the territory, some within 48 hours, and some who had large business dealings within 14 days. Those who remained after that period had been sent to jail, and among them, Mr. Gandhi, and some of those who in the war had acted in a manner which the Prime Minister of Natal had said entitled them to grateful recognition.

**Hon. Mr. Ebrahim Rahimtulla**

The Honourable Mr. Ebrahim Rahimtulla, in supporting the proposition, said that in the able speech which the Hon'ble Mr. Armstrong delivered, he asked them to be moderate and patient and to wait the result of the strong protest and representation that had gone to the British Parliament from all corners of the vast Empire and he expressed a confident hope that the appeal thus made to the sense of British justice would not fail and that in this case justice would be done to their fellow-countrymen in South Africa. Mr. Armstrong admitted that under the circumstances of the case, it was difficult to restrain themselves from giving expression to their feelings of disappointment in this matter. They were all aware of the facts of the case. Two hundred of their fellow-countrymen in the Transvaal had been imprisoned and were now lying in jail. (Cries of shame!) They had been forced to leave their houses and all for what purpose? What was the fault of those Indians who were treated in this manner? Their only fault was that they manfully resisted the degradation thus proposed to be imposed upon them under the Registration Act. That was their fault. If they had succumbed they would have been treated in a different way. They would have been treated as imbeciles, weak and worthless men. If they manfully stood for their rights then they must go to jail. It was difficult, in speaking on a question of this kind, to restrain one-self and to be moderate. He could not but say that the excuse pleaded, to the effect that the British statesmen were helpless in the matter, was a lame one. They could have refrained from recommending his Majesty's Government to sanction the legislation. If they had thought that the feelings throughout the Empire would become highly incensed, that most sober-minded citizens would ask in moderate Bombay for retaliation and boycott—(hear, hear, and applause)—they would have refrained from sanctioning an unjust legislation. When they saw that the tension had become high, they felt that it was a mistake to have sanctioned the Legislation. He hoped that in a few days some action would be taken which would set the matter right. He for one had great confidence in the sense of justice of the British nation. The official and non-official world of the country was united in remedying evils that had resulted from this legislation. He hoped that within a few days their appeal would bear fruit and that the united voice of India would not go in vain. (Applause.)

The Hon. Mr. D. A. Khare said it was stated that Great Britain was powerless to redress the injustice that had been done to the Indians in the Transvaal. He submitted that was not so, for they knew that the treatment of Indians was made the ground of war between Great Britain and the Transvaal. If that served as a good cause for war then, he failed to see why when the same cause now existed the same results should not follow. (Hear, hear.) But they could not claim that, because they were powerless. The only thing that they could do was to appeal to the good sense and the sense of justice of the British. He was sure, however, that if only an Act of Retaliation were introduced in the Imperial Council, the effect would be simply electrical. No doubt, such an Act would never be passed, but the mere introduction of it would be a great object lesson and would show to the Imperial Government that the people of India were impatient on this question.

Mr. G. K. Parekh said that it had been admitted that the Indians had justice on their side. It was the duty of the Imperial Government to remove the wrong inflicted upon them.

Mr. Haji Isa Haji Ahmed and Mr. Amirudin, merchants from South Africa, then addressed the meeting in the Vernacular and described the various hardships the Indians in the Transvaal had to suffer.

Mr. N. M. Samarth supported the resolution remarking that it was not within the legislative competence of even a self-governing colony to pass such an act as the one against which they had met there to protest.

The resolution was put to the vote and carried by acclamation.

**Sir Dinshaw M. Petit**

Sir Dinshaw M. Petit said: The Committee that organised this meeting has entrusted to me the next Resolution, and I feel very thankful to them for doing so because thereby they have given me an opportunity to give vent to my feelings on this important subject, feelings of indignation with which Indians of all creeds and classes are broiling within themselves at the very humiliating and insulting treatment their brethren are receiving in the Transvaal. Receiving, gentlemen, not at the hands of people of a foreign Government or of a country under an alien rule but at the hands of a people who are subjects of the same Sovereign and in a country where flies the same flag as ours! The country of the Transvaal when it was governed by a Republic presided over by Mr. Kruger was harbouring a few thousands of our Indian people and their treatment in those days was far better than what is meted out to them today under the British rule! And yet gentlemen, it seems strange but still it is true that the treatment they were receiving in those days was characterised by some of the most responsible British Statesmen of the time as one of the misdeeds of the Republic. If the treatment of those days was characterised as a misdeed by what name are we to call the shabby and cruel treatment that one portion of fellow subjects is giving to another? And then what name should we give to the attitude assumed up to now by the Home Government in allowing such a thing to take place! To be able to recognise, as your Government, one that rightly glories in being the first and foremost in abolishing the slave trade, has been a source of great pride and satisfaction to Indians. But I question whether if we are to be allowed the further enjoyment of this sense of pleasure and pride if we should be permitted to be treated as so many criminals and pariahs. The Indians as a rule are an exceedingly loyal people and we have no doubt they will always remain so as long as they are treated with that consideration and regard which ordinary rules of civility and equality demand. But when all such considerations are cast to the winds, when their feelings are not given the least regard, and when they are treated as if they belonged to some sort of lower creation, unfit to enjoy the same rights of citizenship as other people then it becomes a task, I should say a very hard task, for them to continue to show the same feelings of loyalty as before and loyalty is a thing of great value all the world over but nowhere is it an asset of greater value than in India where a Government has to rule a people of 300,000,000 souls. And it is a matter of the greatest surprise and regret that the British Government with all its foresight and vast knowledge of the human race should have allowed in this manner a small and newly-born colony to trifle with the loyalty of so many millions of its Indian subjects. I beg to move:—

That the Chairman be authorised to forward a copy of the foregoing Resolution to the Prime Minister, the Secretary of State for India, and his Excellency the Viceroy and Governor-General of India.

Sir Currimbhoy Ebrahim seconded the resolution.

Mr. James MacDonald in supporting the resolution said he would just like to make one statement and that was that he held that wrong was being done to the Indians in South Africa for this reason that they were British subjects, and he took it that those who were working to get them out were no more British subjects than the people of India here. He understood that most of those who were white men, were not what they understand now by the term thoroughly white. He took it that they were gathered from all parts of Europe—and he believed that to be so—and that they were now the potential enemies of the British Government. (Hear, hear.) That was to say that they might any day rise in opposition to the British Government. He thought it was not fair that those who were loyal British subjects should be driven out of the country in

which they had lived for a number of years by those who had not the same claims as British subjects. He wished to say no more except this that the meeting had his heartiest sympathy. (Applause.)

Mr. Stanley Reed said: Your Highness, Mr. Sheriff and gentlemen, in supporting the resolution I wish to associate myself entirely with the object of this meeting and with the speeches that have been made. To me, and to the majority of my countrymen, the policy of the Boer Government in the Transvaal towards British Indians lawfully resident in the Colony has caused pain and indignation,—(Hear, hear)—and we ask the Imperial Government to leave no stone unturned in order to secure the revocation of the obnoxious clauses in the recent legislation. (Applause.)

Mr. Jehangir B. Petit further supported the resolution. He observed that the policy adopted by the Transvaal Government in regard to Indians was barbarous, un-British, un-Christian.

Mr. D. G. Pathye, in supporting the resolution, said the treatment of Indians in the Transvaal brought home to them the fact, that in spite of their loyalty, they were bound to lose whenever and wherever the question of colour arose. In contrasting the antecedents of the Boers and of the persecuted Indians he said the former had been at war with England and were still not the most peaceful subjects, while the latter had been loyal to England for generations.

The resolution was carried.

**Bombay's Sympathy**

Sir Bhalechandra Krishna moved. "That this Meeting wishes to express the deep sympathy of the people of all classes and creeds in this country with their suffering fellow subjects in South Africa, their admiration of their moderation, courage and self-sacrifice."

In the course of a lengthy speech, he said: The British Government though profuse in their sympathy with the Indians find themselves helpless and profess inability to interfere with the action of the colony. There is, I am told, an express stipulation in the constitution granted to Transvaal that no measure will be enforced against Indians which will not also apply to the European population. In view of such a stipulation it is difficult to understand why the British Government should not more actively interfere to protect the Indians from harassment. Even soldiers who have settled there on specific promises of freedom from molestation are denied protection. The work of our friends in England, however, may be trusted to bear fruit sooner or later. The Caxton Hall meeting will not be without its influence on the policy of the British Government. There is a report in the papers that the Transvaal Government is relenting, and that it has realised the seriousness of the situation involving as it does the imprisonment and deportation of the whole body of the British Indians in the Transvaal. It is said that the Act is proposed to be suspended and that a Judge of the Supreme Court will be appointed to examine the objections to the Registration Act and devise a system which will not offend the susceptibilities of Asiatics. This, if true, follows the lines of the compromise suggested by Mr. Gandhi. The report is contradicted by Mr. Smuts and it is not safe to build any expectations on it. But if the Transvaal Government is earnest in befriending and conciliating the Indians, they cannot do better than accept the undertaking made by Mr. Gandhi. The Indians have no intention of defying the law or the power of the Government. They had only sought to express their disapproval of a particular piece of offensive legislation and seeing that the disapproval extends to a large body of their subjects, the Government would do well to retrace their steps. (Applause.)

Mr. Joseph Baptista, in seconding the proposition, recapitulated the facts of the Boer war, when the troops from India saved the situation in Natal. Bombay rendered a signal service to the Imperial Government at that time and the Indian population in the Transvaal rendered useful aid

vices to British soldiers. If such treatment as was meted out to Indians in South Africa was experienced by Englishmen in China, the British guns would go thundering before the walls of Peking.

Mr. Bomanji Wadia, Mr. Gadgil and Mr. Kaji Kabiruddin further supported the resolution which was carried.

Sir Harkisondas Narotumdas proposed and Mr. Bomanji D. Petit seconded that the best thanks of the meeting be tendered to the Sheriff for having kindly convened the meeting and it was carried by acclamation.

The Sheriff briefly acknowledged the compliment.

### Thanks to the Chairman

The Hon. Sir Pherozeshah M. Mehta, in moving a hearty vote of thanks to the chairman said he thought every one present would agree with him when he said that they were most fortunate in having his Highness the Aga Khan to preside on that occasion. (Hear, hear.) His Highness could not be charged with being a Hindu or being a Congresswalla either an extremist or a moderate. (Laughter.) He would tell them why his Highness' presence lent such weight and importance to the occasion. Able and accomplished as they all knew him to be, he had been a deep and close student of politics. He had travelled far and wide; he had observed the ways and manners, and the political methods of all the great nations of the world. That day he presided over them in the fulness of that knowledge and experience, to guide them on that occasion of great importance to the honour and dignity of the people of this country. Moreover, to his knowledge, experience and ability his Highness added a sympathetic attitude towards all classes and creeds in this country. (Applause.) This was not the time for him in proposing a vote of thanks to say anything more. He thought the importance of the occasion could not be exaggerated. He would not venture to say that on that occasion they were really fighting the battle of the East against the West. (Hear, hear.) They were fighting for the cause of the peace, harmony and progress, which in future, they hoped might exist between the East and West. (Hear, hear.) It had been said that sober politics, or practical politics, required that the white races should be allowed to keep out of their preserves any of the coloured races. But he thought that the white races should reflect that it was one of the most curious positions which they assumed, because after insisting upon getting into the countries of the coloured races of the world, was it for them to say that they would not allow coloured races to come into their preserves? The moral law could not be defied or violated with impunity any more in the political than in the social or private world. If they took up this position and said they had a right to exclude from their preserves the coloured people, a time would come when the same arguments and reasons might be urged against them by the coloured races for preventing them from entering their countries and their homes. All over Asia they found that the white races were fighting for the open door. Every white man insisted upon entering the country of the "dark people" but when it came to the question of small territories of the white races the claim was set up that in practical politics they were justified in turning out the coloured people. That was the question which was involved in the subject before the meeting and which gave importance to this meeting. (Loud applause.)

Sir Cawasji Jehangir seconded the proposition which was carried by acclamation.

The Chairman having briefly replied, the proceedings terminated.

INDIAN MAIL. For Colombo and Calcutta, per S.S. *Umlau*, on or about the 24th inst. For Bombay, per S.S. *Cambay*, on or about the 24th inst.

## Registration Notes

[BY OUR TRANSVAAL REPRESENTATIVE]

Up to Wednesday evening, a total of 4,826 applications has been received, of which 61 were received on Tuesday and 73 on Wednesday. On Tuesday, shortly after registration commenced, it was found that the receipt forms had given out and, in order to avoid any difficulty that might arise if the old cancelled receipt forms were issued, it was decided to cease taking applications until Wednesday. From Friday noon until Wednesday evening, approximately 160 registration certificates were issued. A large number of others have also been forwarded to Johannesburg for distribution. On Wednesday, registration commenced in Pretoria, where offices were opened.

Instructions have been issued to Licensing Officers, whether Municipal or Government, that licences should be issued to all Asiatics irrespective of the fact of their producing a registration certificate under the new arrangement or not. Some difficulty, however, has arisen owing to the fact that Licensing Officers have been asking for thumb-prints. These have been refused by the community, and I have been officially informed that instructions have been sent to all Licensing Officers not to demand thumb-prints from any Asiatic. I have been asked by the Licensing Officer of the Johannesburg Municipality to remind all those who require licences for the carrying on of their businesses to make immediate application for these licences. The licence receipts are stamped as follows: "Provisional licence issued on receipt of V. R. C. (voluntary registration certificate) and subject to confirmation or termination in like manner as the certificate." This, of course, is done to protect the Government in the improbable event of Parliament not sanctioning the arrangement come to.

Later.

I learn that some 2,155 certificates in all had been forwarded for distribution up to Wednesday, and that it is intended to open provincial offices on Monday next.

### Dr. G. U. Pope

The *Times* of the 12th Feb. has the following obituary notice.

We regret to announce the death, at the advanced age of 87, of the Rev. Dr. George Uglow Pope, which occurred at Oxford yesterday.

Dr. Pope, who was one of the most learned authorities on the Tamil language of his time, was a remarkable man—one of those Englishmen who have devoted themselves to missionary work and who, while thus engaged,

have done all that lay in their power to add to our knowledge of the people among whom their life was spent, and to present to those people the best side of the English character. Born on April 24, 1820, the son of John Pope, a merchant and shipowner of Plymouth, George Uglow Pope was educated at Bury and Hoxton. He went out to India in 1839, and took priest's orders at Madras in 1845. After 12 years of missionary and educational labour in different parts of Southern India, he returned to England in 1851, and in 1853 became Oxford diocesan secretary of the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel, and was University lecturer in Tamil and Telugu at Oxford from 1854 to 1896.

Dr. Pope's works include "First Lessons in Tamil" (fifth edition, 1891); "A Handbook of the Ordinary Dialect of the Tamil Language," in five volumes, a work which ran into seven editions, the last being published in 1904-06; "A Tamil Poetical Anthology," with grammatical notes and a vocabulary (1859); "A Text-book of Indian History" (third edition, 1880); and "The Tiruvacagam, or 'Sacred Utterances' of Manikka-Vaccagar," with English translation, introductions, and notes, and with Tamil lexicon and concordance (1900).

## Late News

[SPECIAL TELEGRAMS]

Johannesburg, Friday.

The total applications in Johannesburg to date amount to about 4,900, of which about 1,000 are Chinese.

In Pretoria the applications are coming in more easily as the fact of the opening of the Office better known.

Licences are now being issued to all Asiatics, whether certificated or not. All should now apply to the Licensing Officer—Government or Municipal—to avoid prosecution for trading without licences.



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સરકારની ખાસ નીમણુંકથી

સ્કેલ (કાંટા) બનાવનાર, તથા સમા કરનાર.

ડબલ્યુ. એન્ડ ઈ. એવરી લીમીટેડ.,

બેહાન્સબરગ, હેરીસન અને મેઈન

સ્ટ્રીટના ખુલાખર, લીકસ બીલ્ડીંગ

‘ એવરી ’ નાં સ્કેલ

વેપારી તથા ફેરીવાળા માટે,

સુસ્તા દામ, સરસ જાત,

બરોબર તૈયાર રાખેલ; અને તુરત

ઉપયોગમાં લેવાય તેવાં.

એક વખત બેઠને ખાતરી કરો.

**કોન્ટ્રાક્ટ આપવાનો છે**

પેટનું અને પરમારથનું કરવાની

સોનેરી તક

શ્રી ગોપાળલાલજી મંદીર આંધવાને  
સારું કડીઆ, અને સુતાર કારીગરોને  
કંટ્રાક્ટ આપવાનો છે. તા. ૧૬ મારચ સુધીમાં  
નીચેને સરનામે પત્ર વહેવાર કરવો,  
અથવા તો જાતે મળવું, અને કંટ્રાક્ટની  
શરતો અને પ્લેન બેઠ ખુલાસો  
કરવો.

બાબુ તાલેવંતસીંગ  
વેરૂલમ

ફીરાએ આપવાની છે.

ઈચાંગાની દુકાન શેરનનાં ઉપર કાંદર  
ડરીફવાળી નવી બીલ્ડીંગ લીક અને  
લાઇસેન્સ સાથે ફીરાએ આપવાની છે.

એમ. એ. પારેખ—રોચમંડ.

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લાઈન.

૧૮ દહાડે મુબંધ જનારો આગબોટ,  
ગવરનર.

તા. ૩૧ મી મારચના ઉપડરો.

ઉપલી સ્ટીમર અત્રેથી તા. ૩૧ મારચના સીધી મુબંધ સારૂ જશે તે પ્રકત  
હેલાગોઆમે બેરા અને ગોઆ સીધી ૧૮ દહાડે મુબંધ પહોંચશે મજકુર આગબોટમાં  
ખવાસી દેરી છે. જગ્યા ફાળકામાં છે બતી જગર વગેરેનું અનહદ સુખ છે.  
પાસે જરો અહીંથી ચહેલા મુબંધ જઈ ઉતરશે. કયાંય બદલવાનું નથી.

ખાસ ચેતવણી

મજકુર લાઇનની હવે ડરબન તેમજ હેલાગોઆમેથી દરેક માસે એક આગબોટ  
સીધી મુબંધ જવાવાળી છે. સ્ટીમ ગવરનર અહીંથી તા. ૨૮ જાનેવારીના ઉપડેલી  
તા. ૧૭ મી ફેબ્રુઆરીના મુબંધ બરાબર ટાઇમ ટેલ મુજબ પુગી છે.

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

Abba Mahomed, Box 51, Delagoa Bay. Tel. Ad. Abba, care Civil.

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

વધવક્ટપતર.

તંદુરસ્તી અને વૈદ્યક જ્ઞાનની દરકાર હોય  
તો વાંચો “વધવક્ટપતર” માસિક. બાર વર  
પથી દરમાસે પ્રગટ થાય છે. દરેક પ્રકરણ  
ને ખાસ વાંચવા જેવું છે. નામ દેહાણુ  
સાથ અહારે વધવ જરાશંકર લીલાધર,  
રોચીરોડ, અમદાવાદ લખવાથી એક  
અંક 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 એડીસને લખવું.

વધવ જરાશંકર લીલાધર

ગુજરાત આર્ય ઔષધશાળા અમદાવાદ.

FOR SALE.

Fresh and Preserved  
**CAPE SNOEK,**

Wholesale and Retail,

9/- per dozen,

Trial orders solicited.

**Ahmed Halim,**

23rd St. Malay Location,  
Box 5925, JOHANNESBURG.

તાજ સ્ટુક ૯/- ડઝન.

રખર સ્ટાંપ

ગુજરાતી અથવા ઇંગ્લેશમાં,

ઓરડર મુજબ બનાવી આપવામાં આવે છે.

**NOTICE.**

Notice is hereby given that the  
firm of HO LING & Co., merchants of  
No. 1, Fox Street, Johannesburg, is  
closing business as and from the  
31st day of March, 1908.

All persons having claims against  
the said firm are hereby required to  
lodge same with HO LING & Co., at  
the above address, on or before the  
31st day of March 1908, after which  
date no claims will be accepted and  
all persons indebted to the said  
firm are hereby required to pay the  
amounts due by them on or before  
the same date, failing which legal  
proceedings will be instituted against  
them.

After the above date all debts and  
liabilities of the said firm will be  
taken over by the undersigned.

HO LING & Co.,

P.O. Box 4266, Johannesburg.  
6th March, 1908.

માંદગી આવે ત્યારે શું કરવું ?

ન્યોર્થ લેકોમ્બ

કેમીસ્ટ

પંડે વેસ્ટ સાઈ, ડરબન

ને ત્યાં દવા લેવા જવું. ડાકતર હમેશાં  
લાજરી આપે છે. અને અંગ્રેજી, ફ્રેન્ચ,  
હીંદી, ગુજરાતી વાગીલ અને મલે ભાષા  
ઓલી શકે છે.

ઈડિઅન ઓપીનીઅન ડાયરી

સને ૧૯૦૮

કીમત ૧/-

પોસ્ટેજ ૧ પેની