

Indian Opinion

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Indian Opinion

SATURDAY, MARCH 28th, 1908.

A Scandal

WE reproduce in another column a correct record of a case against certain natives, prosecuted by the Johannesburg Municipality before the A.R.M., Mr. Graham Cross. In our opinion, it brings no credit to an over-zealous Municipality in a matter of differentiation against colour. The facts of the case are simple, if also telling. Certain very respectable natives, whose behaviour Mr. Cross has found to be "exemplary" and whose premises he has found "kept in a most cleanly condition" were charged at the instance of the Johannesburg Municipality with contravening one of its by-laws in that they were living on the premises not of their employers and not in a location set apart by the Council for the accommodation of natives. The Accused were found guilty and sentenced to pay a fine of half-a-crown each or, in default, to suffer imprisonment for one day with hard labour. The matter of interpretation of the Law is still *sub judice*, the accused having properly taken it in appeal before the Supreme Court. In our opinion, the result is a foregone conclusion. But, whatever the result may be, we cannot help strongly protesting against a wicked enforcement of a drastic by-law by a powerful Municipality. We will say nothing against the by-law, objectionable as it undoubtedly is, on its merits. But it is not possible to speak or write with patience about the action of the Municipality in trying to render native ownership a farce and a delusion. We hold no brief for the natives—at the outset of our career we set limits

on the scope of this journal—but the dictates of common humanity necessitate an emphatic declaration against an unrighteous policy. We cherish the reputation of South Africa as dearly as any one in this country, and we consider that we ought to protest strongly against that reputation being tarnished as it has been by this case against inoffensive and well-behaved natives. Surely, there was ample scope for the Municipality's action under its Location By-laws without touching men who are living on the outskirts of its border and without in any way being a hindrance to, or interfering with its white residents.

COMMENTING ON MR. MOOR'S DICTUM that the country members specially represented native interests, a few days ago, the *Natal Mercury* urged that, in point of fact, exactly the opposite was the case, that the country member represented the task-master section of the community, whereas the town member stood for the liberator section. All this may be, doubtless is, true, and if so, our contemporary must be prepared to accept the logical consequences of its assertion. It all comes to the very simple proposition that, as Mr. Howard Pim said recently in a cognate discussion relative to the formation of a Native Affairs Society in the Transvaal, onlookers see most of the game. The party in the thick of the battle has his personal interests far too critically involved to be able to give a calm judgment on the essential features of the situation. The judicial mind cannot exist in such conditions, and that is why, in practice, amongst civilised communities an impartial referee is chosen in cases of dispute. On the *Mercury's* showing, a safer guide on native matters than the Colonial-born is the Colonial by adoption, and, than he, the stay-at-home. Whilst, it is true, the argument can be reduced to an absurdity, there is a large element of probability in it—indeed, without that probability, Imperial criticism of Colonial affairs would be an insufferable impertinence, yet anyone who can dispassionately consider recent affairs in the Transvaal will hesitate long before committing himself to such a pronouncement. If, in conclusion, we may draw a timely moral, we would say that the last people to judge of the validity of an Indian trader's fitness for a renewal of his licence are his trade-competitors, and we will admit that we feel keenly the lack of public honour that permits them to sit in appeal in causes where their own personal interests are so nearly concerned.

THE NEWS OF A CONFERENCE IN London between Mr. Mac-Asiatics Kenzie King, the Canadian Deputy Minister for Labour, in Canada and Lord Elgin and Mr. Morley as to the need to take joint action in restricting the influx of "Hindus" into Canada, is not without interest to British Indians in South Africa who have taken part, either in person or in the spirit, in a struggle that has so recently concluded honourably to themselves. We can appreciate the attitude of mind that impels the Canadian Government to confer with the Imperial authorities on the subject of further Asiatic immigration into Dominion territories. But recent happenings in British Columbia lead us to think that everything is not being done to safeguard the vested rights of already resident Asiatics there, and certainly appear to give colour to the suggestion that the Dominion Government is going perilously near to straining the law against the *bona fide* Indian immigrant who has come to the Colony wholly ignorant of the state of public feeling on the question of his admission. The demand for proof of identity of ticket-holders, which is, in the nature of things, impossible of production, is an example of administrative red-tape comparable only with the methods adopted in an adjacent Colony so recently. It is earnestly to be hoped that a straightforward way out of the difficulty may speedily be found. It is not pleasant to see evidence of European ethics perverted in a manner that can only develop an unhealthy scepticism thereanent in the mind of the Oriental who is the unfortunate victim of the preference of policy to principle.

LAST WEEK WE SUMMARISED A SPEECH delivered by Mr. G. S. Armstrong, M. L. A., at Greenwood Park, in which he **Is the Lesson Learnt?** pointed to the lesson to be derived from the struggle between the Transvaal Indians and the Government of that Colony on the subject of injustice rendered to the former. Mr. Armstrong very unselfishly protested that he was not going to lift his little finger to do any Asiatic an injustice. Yet, in the same breath, almost, he proposed an act of injustice towards Indians but little removed in degree from that sought to be perpetrated against them in the Transvaal. Surely Mr. Armstrong cannot be blind to the iniquity of making indentures terminable in India? The one redeeming feature of the present system is that it enables its victims to get back something at least of material benefit from the toil and tears of five

years of bondage that they have spent in the Colony's service. Better by far stop the indenture system altogether! At least the only people to suffer than will be those for whom the wealth is created, and not those miserable beings who produce that wealth, and when sucked dry like an orange, are to be ignominiously cast aside. Mr. Armstrong appears to be a strong supporter of the Rand system of indenture amongst the Chinese labourers. We believe that that system is indefensible, and that the sentiment of the whole Indian community in this Colony is uncompromisingly hostile to it. It is a matter of great regret that politicians in Natal will persist in regarding the Indian labourers as chattels, instruments merely for producing wealth, but not for uplifting the Colony (and indirectly the labourers themselves), and so long as that mercenary spirit exists, so long will our present miseries and depressions remain with us.

Natives and the Johannesburg Municipality

A Curious Case

Certain respectable natives were tried before Mr. Graham Gross, the Assistant Resident Magistrate at Johannesburg, on the 19th ult., for living outside a location, under a by-law that requires "every native dwelling or remaining within the limits of the Municipality, with the exception of household or domestic servants residing on the premises of their employers, under a penalty not exceeding £10, to reside in a location set apart by the Council for the accommodation of natives. The following is the official record of the case:

The Trial

Pleaded: Not Guilty.

For Municipality: SHAW.

For Defendants: MATHEY.

Interpreter: JNO. S. NOAH (Zulu and Sesuto.)

WILLIAM WRIGHT INGLE (Trooper 153B), sworn, states: I am a Trooper in the Transvaal Town Police. I know the accused native male adults. On the 30/1/08, I found them residing in three different houses in Sophia Town, not on their employers' premises. Sophia Town is not a location. They had no permission to reside within the Municipality.

Cross-examined: They are residing on their own property. Their houses are kept clean, and they live quietly. They work in town during the daytime. One or two of them own trolleys and earn their living that way.

CHARLES PORTER, sworn, states: I am Medical Officer of Health to the Johannesburg Municipality. I produce a certified extract of a minute of this Council—Exhibit A. The

notices handed in are copies of those served on natives by direct orders of the Public Health Committee in July, 1907, and December, 1907. Notices were served on the natives residing in Sophia Town. The passing of plans for the buildings by the Municipality does not constitute permission for the natives to reside there.

Cross-examined: I believe the natives own the property in Sophia Town.

By the Court: Sophia Town is within the Municipality. It is not a location. I have visited the houses of the natives there. They are in good order and I have nothing to say against their cleanliness. I have had a petition from white residents for their removal. An application for permission to reside was made on 2/1/08. It was before the Public Health Committee.

GEORGE BIRDWELL, sworn, states: I am a Sanitary Inspector, Johannesburg Municipality. I know the accused native male adults as residents in Sophia Town. On the 23/7/07 I served a notice on them to leave Sophia Town on the 31/11/07. I served a reminder on the 11/12/07. They were residing in Sophia Town still on the 30/1/08.

Cross-examined: The houses are in proper order. Two of the houses are very good houses indeed. The others are not quite finished. The premises are kept clean. I have never had the slightest complaint of their conduct. They have a very good reputation. I have seen some of the title-deeds to the property. Most of them work for themselves at different occupations. Natives have been on the property about 2½ to 3 years, I think. Most of them pay sanitary fees. The By-laws are admitted.

Defence

JEREMIAH POLOSI, sworn, states: I am a Basuto male adult. I am one of the Accused in this case. I produce my title-deeds for Stand or Lot No. 1215 at Sophia Town. I bought the property in 1905 after the case of Tsewu. On 17/3/05 I had plans drawn up for the building and handed it in to the Town Council. I got permission to build the house according to the plans. I put the foundation down. The Building Inspector examined it and kept on doing so till the building was finished, and passed the building as in order. I have paid my sanitary fees to the Council since. The other accused have all done as I have done. I work in a store, and I am at work all day. I return home at about 7 p.m. I was served with a notice to quit. I have sent an application to the Council to be allowed to remain there. We do not carry exemption certificates.

Judgment: Guilty.

Sentence: 2/6 or 1 day with hard labour each.

Exhibit A

Certified Extract from Minutes of the 122nd meeting of the Johannesburg Town Council, held on Wednesday, July 20, 1904.

RESOLUTION:

That Recommendation B in the report of the Public Health Committee be adopted, namely that "in accordance with Clause 3 of the By-laws of Native Locations, August 31st, 1904, be fixed as the date from and after which every native dwelling or remaining within the limits of the Municipality, with the exception of such natives as may reside on the premises of their European employers, shall be required to reside in a location.

Certified correct.

(Sd.) J. TAYLOR,

Town Clerk.

(Sd.) C. PORTER,

Medical Officer of Health.

Municipal Council of Johannesburg,
Public Health Department,
21/7/07.

To.....,
residing on Stand.....,
Sophia Town.

NATIVES REQUIRED TO LIVE AT KLIPSPRUIT LOCATION

Notice is hereby given that every native dwelling or remaining within the limits of the Municipality, with the exception of household or domestic servants residing on the premises of their employers, and of natives actually employed in mining work and who live in mine compounds, is required by resolution of the Town Council dated the 20/7/04 to reside in a location set apart by the Council for the accommodation of natives. Any native so required to live in a location who shall be found residing within the Municipality is liable to a penalty not exceeding £10. The location set apart by the Council for the reception of natives is situated at Klipspruit

You are, therefore, notified that if you are found living on Stand....., Sophia Town, or any other place in the Municipality, outside the location at Klipspruit, after the 31st December, 1907, you will be prosecuted without further notice.

(Sd.) C. PORTER,

Medical Officer of Health.

Municipal Council of Johannesburg,
Public Health Department,
11/12/07.

Native.....,
residing on Stand.....,
Sophia Town.

I am directed by the Public Health Committee to inform you that they have decided to immediately enforce the by-law which requires all natives residing within the Municipality not being domestic servants living on premises of their European employers to live at Klipspruit location.

I have, therefore, to warn you to make immediately the necessary arrangements for removal to Klipspruit.

and to state that you will be liable to prosecution if you are found residing at Sophia Town after the 1st January next.

(Sd.) C. PORTER,
Medical Officer of Health.

Reasons for Judgment

1. Accused are aboriginal natives of South Africa.
2. On the 30th January, 1908, they were residing in Sophia Town within the limits of the Municipality; they were not residing on the premises of their European employers, and Sophia Town is not a location.
3. All the accused were residing on their own property, they having purchased stands and built houses thereon, and they hold title-deeds for their stands.
4. The houses were built in strict accordance with the Council's Building By-laws, and are kept in a most cleanly condition; and the general behaviour of the Accused is exemplary.
5. The Council, by a resolution, fixed August 31st, 1904, as the date from and after which every native dwelling or remaining within the limits of the Municipality other than on the premises of their European employers should be required to reside in a location.
6. The Accused do not hold letters of exemption.

(Sd.) G. CROSS.

Accused: Johannes, Ben, Jeremiah, Magagaron, Absalom, Malakane. D 1952/08/271. English. 19/2/08. Appeal 20/08. 9/3/08.

Reasons for Appeal

1. That there has been insufficient promulgation of notice of the date of taking effect of Section 3 of Government Notice No. 60/04, and that the same, unless and until properly promulgated, is of no force or effect.
2. That if there has been sufficient promulgation of notice of the date of the taking effect of the said section, that the said section is *ultra vires* and of no effect, and that no offence has been committed by the above-mentioned accused.
3. That even if the said section is not *ultra vires* the same does not apply to the said appellants.

3/3/08.

(Sd.) C. KNOX DAVIES,
Goodman's Buildings,
Commissioner Street,
Johannesburg.

Personal Investigation

Our Transvaal Representative, relative to the above matter, sends the following interesting report: It appears that the stands in question, situate in the Sophia township, were purchased by the present native owners at about £30 apiece, and transfer dues meant another £10. Until recently, the white residents of Sophiatown have been in a minority, but at the present time they are num-

erically superior. The township itself is situate some miles from the General Post Office, considerably to the north-west of Auckland Park, but within the Johannesburg Municipal area. Speaking generally, whites, coloured people, and natives live in different colonies. In any case, the native section is right away from the European residential quarter. The natives themselves are Basutos, clean-limbed, bright-eyed, intelligent, industrious people, small peasantry, anxious to earn a frugal but honest livelihood by dint of sheer hard work. Their innate courtesy is striking, and the frank manner of their approach, once they have become convinced of one's friendly sympathy, is charming. I entered two of these houses. The first one appeared to me to be the least pretentious of all the buildings that I saw, some of which, indeed, were not yet completed. It was of brick, plaster, and iron, and contained four rooms. The interior was perfectly clean, the rooms were easily ventilated and trimly kept, and the general appearance showed a great advance upon the wretched kennel to which the average Johannesburg housewife relegates the sable domestic who is such an indispensable adjunct in every household. Hundreds of European families in Johannesburg live in far worse conditions than these harmless folk, to my certain knowledge. The stand was fifty feet by 100 ft., and behind it stretched a neatly-kept kitchen-garden stocked with vegetables. There was also a well which the Basuto owner had himself dug. He had his wife and several children living with him in the house, whilst he owned a horse and two-wheeled trolley with which he plied for hire. The other house was even better-built and better arranged internally. It was much bigger, too. A large sum of money must have been spent on these houses, which were constructed on an approved European plan. If the Supreme Court decides in favour of the Municipality, the result will be a total loss to the native owners of stands and buildings the latter having been specially constructed for use by the present owners, suitable to their requirements; in other words, by a mere stroke of the pen these humble but respectable strivers after higher things will be flung back into penury and hopelessness which they had already come to regard as an evil dream. Should the magistrate's decision be upheld, ownership in the Transvaal will bear a different meaning for natives from that which it does for whites. With the latter, it includes the elementary rights of residence and personal use and enjoyment: with the former a municipal by-law will be allowed to override a common-law right—a thing surely incredible.

A. C. P.

INDIAN MAIL. For Bombay per S.S. *Umhlali*, on or about the 30th instant.

The Way of the Soul

"You are unhappy, we are happy," said the East. "You are always struggling. You think you master Fate, you cannot. Only in certain things can man control his destiny. But no one ever knows what these things are. You pile up wealth, you never can be sure it will not disappear; you cannot tell that with all your skill you will not die to-morrow. Sometimes you succeed, more often you must fail. You seem to us to be always trying to do things that you cannot. One effort that succeeds is balanced by ten that fail. And when you fail you suffer. So then all your lives you are discontented, you suffer, you are afraid."

The impeachment is maintained even while the West, in its large energy and compassion, is engaged in resolute effort to save the East from famine. "You are punished," cry the philanthropists, "because you have not energy and knowledge. You do not reap because you have not sown." "We may perish," is the answer, "but we do not fear. It is you who fear. You always live in fear. We have no fear, neither of life nor of death."

Your vision grows narrower and shorter day by day. You want to be certain, and unless you think that you are so you will not venture. Unless you think that you can see the future very far ahead, that it is safe, you fear. You will not have children now, because you fear for them and for yourselves. You say: "The world is hard and they may sink. Our wealth is small and they will want of it. We dare not face a lesser comfort." You wish to be master of your fate, and unless you think you are you dare not face it. You must be insured against all evil. For you feel you are not strong enough to face misfortune if it come.

"The East has ever been, and is, religious, not in part of its life, but in the whole of it."

"The fear of what is to come, is absent from the East. The West fears the night because it cannot work then, and it knows nothing but work. The East loves the night because it can rest, and rest and dreams and thoughts are pleasant things."

H. FIELDING HALL, in "The Inward Light."

INDIAN PATRIOTIC UNION. A meeting will take place at Isipingo on Sunday, the 29th inst, to consider the advisability of organising a branch of the Natal Indian Patriotic Union. Several delegates from Durban will proceed to Isipingo for the special purpose of addressing the meeting.

At the Heart of the Empire

A Monthly Survey

London, March 1, 1908.

"The Penalty of my Profession"

It was the late King Umberto of Italy who declared, after having escaped a shot aimed to wound him mortally, that such incidents were the penalty of his profession. He paid that penalty some time after, meeting death by an assassin's hand. King Umberto's sister is Queen Maria Pia of Portugal, and this unfortunate lady has had to bear the terrible sorrow not only of losing her brother by assassination but of being bereaved of her son, King Carlos of Portugal, in the same tragic manner. Truly, uneasy lies the head that wears a crown. But, almost worse than the crushing grief that has befallen the Dowager Queen Maria Pia, is that of Queen Amelie, now also Dowager Queen of Portugal. How she escaped the bullets of the murderers on that terrible Saturday afternoon in Lisbon is a marvel, but it is still more marvelous that she has not lost her reason. True it is that Portugal had been for some months under the sole sway of the King and his Prime Minister and that intense dissatisfaction was growing into open hatred because of the dissolution of Parliament, the suppression of newspapers opposed to the autocratic policy, and many other drastic measures. But that the royal family, on returning to the capital, after a brief absence, would be attacked in so brutal a fashion was not dreamed of by any who were not in the plot. The hated Senhor Franco, the Prime Minister, might be said to have lived in constant danger of violent death, but though the republicans were desirous of putting an end to the monarch, banishment of royal family, not extermination, is said to have been their aim. But extermination was evidently the aim of the men who were standing in the crowd waiting to see the return of the King and Queen and their two sons; with revolvers hidden under their cloaks they looked for the signal as the royal carriage approached, and then, without a moment's warning, the fatal shot was fired from behind, and King Carlos was no more. In the midst of the fusillade which followed, the Queen's one thought was to protect her dear ones; heedless of personal danger, thinking even that her last hour had come, she strove with the cushions of the carriage, with a bouquet of flowers that had been presented to her, and even with her own body to shield her husband and the young princes. The sight that met her eyes as the Arsenal gates closed upon the carriage was enough to turn her brain; her husband dead, her eldest son, grievously wounded about the face, groaning in mortal agony. Yet in the midst of this heart-rending and sudden sorrow Queen Amelie's inborn courage never

deserted her. Such brave self-abnegation was what one might expect of the lady who had not hesitated on several occasions to leap into the Tagus or into the sea to save the lives of children and fishermen; her medical skill, renowned throughout Portugal and Europe, must have made it clear to her that the situation was hopeless. What she lived through in those hours of agony when she sat in the Arsenal between the bodies of her husband and her son, no heart but her own can tell. Truly, as Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman observed, when moving the vote of condolence in the British House of Commons, the mad and revolting crime which "brings shame on the human race is only, alas, partly relieved by the calm courage displayed by a noble woman." Sympathy with the stricken family has been universal; King Edward showed his personal and deep regard for his dead friend by attending the requiem mass at a Roman Catholic church in London—a most unusual event; he was accompanied by Queen Alexandra, and for the first time since the days of the later Stuarts has a British sovereign entered a Roman Catholic church in England. The ceremonial was curtailed and simplified on His Majesty's account, and though a protest has been raised, the nation feels that King Edward was only showing in every way possible his sense of personal respect and sympathy. A special Protestant service was held at St. Paul's Cathedral and was attended by Their Majesties. As to the future of the new King Manuel II. of Portugal, forecasts are not easy. He enters upon a difficult path; with his Mother to advise him and the new Government that has been formed, he will pursue conciliatory measures. Whether he will be baffled by the corruption rampant throughout the country which King Carlos and Senhor Franco were striving to overcome—though their drastic measures failed to meet with general approval or reach the desired goal—or whether he will be allowed by opponents of the monarchy to fulfil his desire "to make everyone happy," time alone will show. Meanwhile, sympathy and encouragement are meted out to the boy, wrested suddenly from the books he loved, to grasp a heavy sceptre and follow a path of duty which must for long be both dangerous and painful.

A Literary Celebration

"Hater of sham and seeker of true worth,
We with your nine-and-seventy summer-tides,
With eye undimmed and youth that still abides,
To love the dawn and things of tender birth,
Be with us still
We need your help who found this earth a place
Fit for the training of God's sovereign will
And taught us by your life the love you knew."

In these words did Canon Rawnsley celebrate the eightieth birthday, on February 12, of George Meredith, the great novelist and poet. There was

what might be called a pilgrimage of literary men to the modest home on the Surrey hills where the still more modest writer lives, and one of the signatories to a letter expressing the congratulations of writers from far and near was George Meredith's old friend, John Morley. Not a man, or woman, whose name counts in the world of letters has failed to express publicly or privately the honour in which George Meredith is held. His name will rank with the greatest of those who have emerged from the Victorian era and, with his mental vigour unabated at fourscore years, George Meredith is not only to be congratulated but even envied, for, as one of his notable literary friends—they are, and have been many—observes: "He may be eighty years old to-day calculating by the foolishness of mathematics, but in reality he is just so old as, and no older than, the youngest heart that has responded to his fine appeal." Much of George Meredith's work is still for the future; it is not yet grasped in its fullness by the present generation. This is a remarkable fact when we realise that he had begun his work before Charles Dickens died, and that he reaches back even to Wordsworth and George Eliot. Perhaps the great message that he has to give to mankind is combat fear, that "modern, imaginative, half aesthetic" demon which assails us.

Another Journalistic Surprise—and Disappointment

Last month I had to chronicle the event which Mr. W. T. Stead has described as "the earthquake in Printing House Square" and another critic calls "the Pearsonification of the *Times*"; to-day I must tell of the passing of the *Tribune*. Regret, deep and keen, is felt by all those who had appreciated the efforts the *Tribune* made for the benefit of the poor and unfortunate as well as for the cause of righteousness and justice in all spheres of life; that such a step as the complete cessation of the paper should have been deemed necessary is sincerely deplored. It is no disrespect to the existing Liberal dailies, many of them old-established, to regret the want of spirit in the Liberal Party which has failed to support the only penny Liberal daily,—the one that entered upon its existence at the moment of the great victory of the last general election. There is the irony of circumstance in the fact that only a short time before the cessation of the paper, a chorus of congratulation from all parts of the world had greeted the *Tribune's* second birthday. However, the financial loss had been so serious that, as the official announcement states, it was decided to "discontinue publishing the paper while there are still ample funds in hand to meet all liabilities." It is declared also officially that success was within sight; this being the case one is driven to suspect that some-

thing besides finance determined the drastic step. Whatever may have been the cause, the disappearance of the *Tribune* is a distinct loss, and one of the best consolations Mr. Franklin Thomasson, M.P., its proprietor, and his earnest coadjutors may take to heart is the knowledge that in the two years of its existence the paper had won its place among contemporaries as one conducted on the high st, broadest, and fairest principles, and in many notable ways—"The Cry of the Children," "The Black Stain," for example—it had served the cause of righteousness and been instrumental in initiating reform.

On the question of the changes in the *Times* I must add that Mr. C. Arthur Pearson's scheme is still far from consummation; in fact, he has withdrawn from his first proposals and though "still negotiating" has not come into possession. He seems to have rivals in the field, and from legal letters which appeared a few days ago, the *Times* is likely to be offered to the highest bidder. Mr. Justice Warrington, who is trying an action brought for winding up the partnership, has deprecated the publication of rumours and tentative schemes until a decision is reached. The *Times* is a national possession, and it ought to be in the hands of English gentlemen who have no axes of their own to grind, no one policy to push forward. It is to be hoped that the outcome will be the reorganisation of the great daily on broad, fair, and national lines.

Suffragist Tactics.

The war of the women still goes on, although several of the most prominent leaders are in prison, disproving thereby the taunt of the magistrate that it was only the followers who relinquished their freedom. Early in the month of February, a Women's Parliament was held in London by the militants; England, Scotland, and Ireland contributed representatives. On the opening day a band of stalwarts, mindful, no doubt, of the tactics at the siege of Troy, endeavoured to surprise the increased police at the House of Parliament by reaching Palace Yard in a huge furniture van, emerging with suddenness, and making a rush. The tactics, however, did not do more than land a large number in prison. But the fight continues, and a notable sign of the subject being a "live" one is that the majestic *Daily Telegraph* condescends to publish a special article on its news page in which Mrs. Pankhurst describes her first day in prison. The "Yellows" did such things long ago! The House of Commons has carried the first reading of a Woman's Suffrage bill.

Matters Indian

Lord Curzon is making use of his new platform—the House of Lords; he has discussed at length the Anglo-Russian Convention and frontier

policy; his self-assertion is not altogether liked even by his fellow peers, although his knowledge and experience are appraised at their true value. However, on the question of the treatment of British Indians in British Colonies, especially in the Transvaal, Lord Curzon made a notable pronouncement and declared that the right of British citizenship was a just claim on the part of Indians as well as a valuable and sacred feeling.

Dr. Rutherford's return after his six weeks' visit to India was celebrated by a luncheon given in the name of the Chairman of the British Committee of the Congress, Sir William Wedderburn. The gathering at the Westminster Palace Hotel was noteworthy; Members of Parliament, writers, thinkers, English friends of India, and Indians from all parts of the peninsula met to welcome Dr. Rutherford, who, by the way, modest man that he is, seemed quite overcome by the enthusiasm shown towards him. That he worked hard during his stay goes without saying, and through Mr. Morley's introductions, he came into touch with men of power, of influence, and of experience in India, as well as Indian gentlemen of equal standing. Dr. Rutherford's thanks for the hospitality shown resolved themselves into two statements: he declared that he went to India as a peacemaker, and he had come to the conclusion that repressive measures were acting as vitriol on a gaping wound. He urged that popular power should be given.

Of lectures on Indian subjects during the month of February there have been many; the Vedantic literature has had a notable champion in Sister Nivedita who has given a course on the great epics and the philosophy of the Vedas: She has impressed upon her hearers that the Vedas are the outcome of a great civilisation which preceded the idea of enshrining itself in literature. Mr. Irach Sorabji gave the National Indian Association an excellent paper on Kalidasa and "Sakuntala," and did good service in making real to the West the "Shakespeare of the East," and the work which Goethe characterised as perfection of dramatic expression. Professor Iqbal, an able sepeaker and a thoughtful student, gave a remarkably fine exposition of the Sufi Mystics and their beliefs to the Islam Society, and won high commendation from such scholars as Professor Arnold and Sir Charles Lyall. Urdu poetry found a champion in Mir Ayub Khan, of Las Bela, who was able before he left England for Karachi, where he is to practise as a barrister, to delight the "Idlers in the Bamboo Grove" with his presentment of the merits and demerits of poetry that appeals to his poetic soul.

Mr. S. R. Ratcliffe, ex-Editor of the *Statesman*. (Calcutta), enlightened the Sociological Society, London, as to the condition of affairs in India and maintained that one of the most

dangerous signs of the times was the belief that justice could not be secured in the Subordinate Courts.

The second number of the *Orient Review* (Thanet House, Strand, one shilling monthly), has just appeared; it amply fulfils the promise of the first in its aim to give the West a truer and more rational idea than usually prevails of the peoples of the East. The "Editorial Alembic" discusses among other important points the question of British Citizenship and the settlement in the Transvaal. It is declared that the firm stand made by British Indians against degrading class legislation has exploded the fallacy that Hindus and Muslims are incapable of unity when identity of interest is involved. In the present number Dr. E. R. Rost writes on the Study of Buddhism in the West; Mr. Ameer Ali discusses the Anglo-Russian Convention; Dr. Barnett contributes an interesting article on the Bhagavad-Gita; the literature of China is represented by some of the "Odes of Confucius," and Mr. Battiscombe Gunn continues his exposition of the Literature of the Middle Age of Egypt. "An Egyptian" gives his countrymen advice as to the political situation to-day, and Dr. Emil Reich continues his survey of International Politics in the West. Book Reviews, extremely well done, complete the interesting number. The aim of the Editor is to let the cultured Oriental speak for himself, and when he cannot speak as forcibly in English as in his mother tongue, a translation will appear side by side with the original. The Magazine deserves success and will win it.

OBSERVER.

Natal Municipal Congress

The Municipalities Consolidation Bill

Will Escourt Appeal?

At the annual meeting of the Natal Municipal Congress held at Newcastle on the 25th inst., says the *Mercury*, in regard to the Consolidation Bill, on the motion of the Mayor of Durban, it was resolved to eliminate the clauses which the Imperial Government object to from the Bill, and have them embodied in a separate Bill, to be brought before the House, either by the Government, or at the instance of the Congress.

An application by Mr. Chadwick (Estcourt) for pecuniary assistance with the object of appealing to the Privy Council against the Supreme Court's decision in the matter of the Indian traders v. Local Board was, on the motion of councillor Hollander, postponed till Thursday morning at 9.30. when the other business on the agenda will be resumed.

The Asiatic Problem in Canada

Various Rumours and Stories

By the "Times" Correspondent

An Appeal to the Imperial Government

Lord Amphill and Indian Grievances

The Chief Justice of British Columbia, says the *Times*, has decided that the provincial Immigration Act is unconstitutional, on account of its running counter to treaty. The Full Court has upheld the decision of the Chief Justice. Mr. Justice Clement described the provincial Attorney-General's case as "hopeless," and said:—

"This matter of Japanese immigration has been dealt with constitutionally by the Parliament of Canada, and to my mind it smacks strongly of disloyalty to our settled form of government when the authorities of one province undertake to override and render abortive the will of the people of Canada, and when they even make bold to forbid the honourable observance of our solemn agreements with a foreign Power."

The Attorney-General announces that he will appeal to the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council.

In a later message, the *Times-Vancouver Correspondent* added:—In the detention shed to-day I saw six Indians whom the authorities have deported. They have \$100 (£20) apiece, and they satisfy the other requirements, but they embarked for Canada at Fiji, and so must be sent back. The poor wretches paid £36 each before they began their journey. It seems that the steamship company makes Indians deposit enough money for the return passage, so that in case of their deportation the company, instead of losing, gains. In other words, it is alleged to be profitable for the company to encourage Indians to come here, although it knows they will be deported.

It is nonsense to talk of the Japanese question being settled. It will not be settled if never another Asiatic comes to the Pacific coast; the agitation will then be for expulsion. The only way to settle the question is to suppress the agitation, and there is something very mysterious and sinister behind the latest developments of the agitation. Since leaving San Francisco I have heard two stories with reference to the recent convention of Exclusion Leagues at Seattle. The first is that the San Francisco delegates had a large amount of money, which they distributed among some other delegates. This story I send merely as a rumour. It would not be worth sending at all were it not for the strange election of the ex-criminal Tveitmoe as president of the Federated League.

The other story is that one of the Vancouver delegates contracted to "deliver" a riot here at the time of the arrival of the battleship fleet at San Francisco. This story I have good ground for believing true.

The two Japanese who were arrested at New Westminster under the "Natal Act," and who, after the Chief Justice had ordered their release, were detained by the Dominion immigration authorities, have been deported. The officials acted under the Order in Council providing for the exclusion of an immigrant who tries to enter Canada from a country other than that of his birth. This order is being freely applied, whites as well as Orientals being excluded.

London, March 20.—*The Times* special correspondent at Vancouver telegraphs that complications have arisen between the Dominion and Provincial authorities in reference to the retention or deportation of a large number of Indians, some of whom have come direct from Calcutta, and others broke the journey at Hong-Kong because the steamer was full, thus infringing the Dominion rule that immigrants must come direct from the land of their birth.

Furthermore, in the case of those who did not break the journey, the Ottawa authorities demand proof that they are the men who purchased tickets. The Canadian Pacific Company have begun action on behalf of the Indians.

The Chief Justice has granted an order, the effect of which is that 143 Indians will remain in Canada while the legality of the Order in Council is tested, but a number have already been deported.—*Natal Mercury*.

Mr. Mackenzie King, the Canadian Deputy Minister for Labour, who was sent by his Government to ask the Imperial Government to take joint action with Canada in restricting the influx of Hindus into Canada, has arrived in London.

To-day he had a conference with Lord Elgin, Mr. John Morley, and the department officials.

All were most sympathetically disposed, and it is hoped that an arrangement will be arrived at which will be satisfactory alike to England, Canada, and America.—*Reuter*.

London, March 24.—*The Times* special correspondent at Vancouver says that a mass meeting of Indians and whites not admitted to the country have cabled to Mr. Morley, the Secretary for India, protesting against deportation and exclusion from Canada.

The Indians, who are British subjects, claim Government protection throughout the Empire, and state that "if our interests are overlooked, our brothers in India must necessarily

resent the Government's neglect."—*Natal Mercury*.

London, March 25th.—An Ottawa telegram states that, speaking in the Dominion House of Commons, in reference to the protest addressed by the Hindus of Vancouver to Mr. Morley, Sir Wilfrid Laurier laid emphasis on the fact that immigrants could not enter Canada without through-tickets from their native country, and this regulation applied equally to immigrants from Asia and Europe, whether British subjects or foreigners.

Lord Amphill has forwarded to the Press a letter from the proprietor of the *Times of India* (Bombay), dwelling upon the intense resentment felt in India at the anti-Asiatic regulations in force in the Colonies. Lord Amphill urges the importance of the public understanding that the grievances of the Indians in the Transvaal are still unsettled, and that the question is still a menace to the security of the Empire.—*Reuter*.

London, March 25.—The Vancouver Court has decided that the Order-in-Council is illegal, on technical grounds, and ordered the Indians who have arrived by various vessels to be released.—*Natal Mercury*.

Asiatics as Landowners

Roodepoort Chamber of Commerce Protest

A special committee of the Chamber appointed to deal with the question of Asiatics holding land reported that—"Many Asiatics who are exempted from holding land by law are actually holding and occupying land under cover of mortgage bonds and of the names of Europeans. As an example of this in Roodepoort township, stands 464, 467, 471, and mining stands 296, 412, and 469 were purchased and are owned by Asiatics (Indian British subjects), but the transfer deeds are registered in the names of H. S. L. Polak (first four), J. M. van Wijk (hawker, Roodepoort), and J. S. van Graan (Roodepoort). In the cases of stands 412 and 469, both registered owners, in cross-examination before the A.R.M. at Roodepoort, swore that they held these stands in trust for certain Indians. These Europeans have merely lent their names to these Indians. In the case of stand 469, it was secured by a mortgage bond of £700; and other of the stands mentioned are, or will be, secured in a similar way as against the Europeans who have lent their names. The Chamber should express the opinion that by such means a loophole is found in the law—which is practically set at naught—and a Bill should be introduced making it illegal for any European to

lend his name in such cases and to prohibit all Asiatics from holding mortgage either in their own or European names over landed property."

It was resolved to forward the above recommendations to both the Colonial Secretary and the Municipality.

Mr. Abe Bailey on the Asiatic Compromise

Mr. Abe Bailey, speaking to his constituents at Krugersdorp on the 21st instant, is reported to have spoken as follows on the Asiatic question:—

He would now come to the Asiatic Ordinance. That Ordinance, as they knew, was passed with undue haste. It was passed for the express purpose of protecting the white trader in this country. They did not give it the consideration which it deserved and which was necessary, as it was put to the House that General Botha was proceeding to the Conference, and as they knew that the measure had been before the country for some months or a year, so they allowed the measure to go through; they pushed it through. It was only eagerness on their part to see that the white population of the country was protected. He did not regret the measure having gone through even as it did. If he had his way he would have made it more stringent than ever. (Applause.) What did they find? They found that General Smuts, the Colonial Secretary, in administering that law went through the country threatening the Asiatics. He pointed out to them what he would do. He told them he carried a loaded gun. (Laughter.) He told them he would build gaols enough to hold all the Indians if necessary. He told them he was determined to carry out this law. They found all his supporters; and all the Government supporters giving tongue, and supporting the Government in every way. All true South Africans gave General Smuts their support. What did they find?

Government's Climb Down

Since the British Parliament met they found a change about. He (Mr. Bailey) considered it was a climb down. The Colonial Secretary said he would not respect any man who could not climb down. (Laughter.) He thought the Colonial Secretary might have added that it did not require a man to climb down to be respected. (Laughter and Applause.)

Continuing, Mr. Bailey said the British Government brought pressure to bear upon the Transvaal Government. (Hear, hear.) He never heard whether it was through the five millions loan, or whether it was promises for the future, or what it was, but all he knew was that there was pressure brought to bear because simultaneously with the meeting of the British

Government at Home the Transvaal Government climbed down. (Applause.) It reminded him of a story that he read the other day of a boy climbing a garden wall for the purpose of stealing from an orchard. The gardener was watching him and the boy did not know it, and when he got to the top the gardener said, "Where are you going?" The boy replied, "I am going back again." (Laughter.) As far as the Government was concerned they were asked "Where are you going?" and General Smuts said "Back again." (Laughter.) They in Krugersdorp knew that the Asiatic question was still with them. In Krugersdorp he noticed that they were fighting the Asiatics through the White Hawkers' League, and rightly, too, and he wished them all good luck. He thought that they could make a success of it if the white population of that town supported them, and especially if the ladies supported them. They had much more power in their homes during the day to assist the White League than any of them, and he hoped sincerely that they would do their utmost to assist those people who were fighting the battle of white versus coloured.

A Temporary Farewell

On Thursday last Mr. Ismail Gora, of the firm of B. Ebrahim Ismail and Co., gave a lunch to a large party in honour of the departure for England that day of Mr. Hoosen Dawood, son of Mr. Dawood Mahomed, President of the Natal Indian Congress. Mr. Dawood presided, and amongst those present were Mr. and Mrs. Shaker, Dr. Nanji, Mr. H. S. L. Polak, and a number of the most prominent members of the community. After the lunch, several of those present spoke encouraging words to Mr. Hoosen, and some gifts were presented to him by friends following the customary garlanding. He replied briefly in suitable terms.

Thereafter the principal members of the party adjourned to Mr. Parsee Rustonjee's premises, where the pleasing floral ceremony was repeated.

Mr. Dawood Mahomed had chartered two special tram-cars to convey his guests to the point, and they journeyed thither preparatory to bidding a final adieu to Mr. Hoosen who was to travel by the *S.S. Saxon*, of the Union-Castle Line. On the wharf he was garlanded once again, and then with a few near friends and relatives went on board. The boat left at about 4 p.m., to the accompaniment of much hand and handkerchief waving.

Mr. Hoosen is going to England to study for some years. His ambition is to be a barrister, with the ultimate object of devoting his energies to the promotion of the welfare of his people in South Africa. He carries with him the good wishes of the community.

Modern Cannibalism

In the beginning man ate his dead brother, and found him toothsome and succulent.

It was probably from no degeneration to wasteful habits that he ceased to do this. Cold and tough missionary sickened and soured many a poor South Sea islander into vegetarianism, and the missionaries who escaped the saucepan came home and said "the Gospel had done it."

In civilised countries like this, man-eating ceased because it was found more profitable to take it out of the sinews of the proletariat than to broil their bones.

But Dives and his scientific helots are still cannibals at heart. We know—some of us—what the end of vivisection is to be! We know that—even now—the rich man and the rich woman are being doctored at the cost of experiments in the hospitals on the poor.

But that is not the end of it all. Do you doubt it? Get and read a little shilling book, entitled "Modern Cannibalism," by John Grant, published by J. Bale, Sons & Danielsson, Limited, 83, Great Titchfield Street, W. It is a gruesome story. We cannot, of course, vouch for the author's frame-work—for the reality of the incidents and characters that he weaves into his narrative—but that the things he describes are already being done *we know!*

Organo-Therapy

is already fashionable with the doctors. Extracts from the thymus, brain, thyroid, suprarenal and other glands can be had by all rich enough to pay for them. *Where do they come from?*

"What is that to me?" asks the millionaire with a dying daughter, doomed to death by her inheritance of her father's harvest of his "wild oats."

What will not your Rockfellers and Barnatos and the rest give for health, or at least a few more years of life?

What do the doctors offer? As yet nothing worth much.

But, says the hero of Mr. Grant's book, "I am bound to show that organs must be treated with like organs coming *from the same species* to be of any good at all. Organo-therapy will otherwise fall back to swell the large number of worthless remedies that already overstock the market."

The Ghouls at Work

Mark the horror in the following brief extract we quote:—

At this moment steps were heard, and the nurse was admitted. She was followed by a man carrying a bundle. Having deposited the bundle on the table, the man straightened his shoulders and took a careful survey of his surroundings. His face was coarse and cruel; there was an expression of savage greed and brutality, of cunning and malice, not to be easily forgotten.

"Ere, take the brat."
The professor gave the nurse some instructions which she promptly hustled away to comply with, thus waiting

awhile until the sounds of her steps were lost in the passage he turned to the man and placed in his open and greeted palm ten crisp Bank of England notes of five pounds each, this being the price of blood.

Costly, you see. At present! Fifty pounds for an eighteen months old child. Not brave and bonny, like the one of whom we so often see it asked, "What will he do with it?"

Ah! "What will *he* do with it?" The doctor, we mean:—

The infant just exposed was a pale, thin child about eighteen months old. O'Reilly clapped the chloroform mask on its face, and soon its noise was quieted. When he was "under," the professor, with steady hand and nerve, made his incision along the middle of the chest, and with a few rapid and masterly strokes of the knife, opened and exposed the surfaces of the lungs, then having quickly ligatured all the blood vessels at the roots of both lungs, removed these organs, laying them aside on a large, white marble slab. O'Reilly now sewed up the wounds very carefully, as if in any ordinary, life saving operation, and but for the stitches and removed lungs, the child seemed in a quiet and undisturbed sleep. The whole thing did not last twenty minutes.

"It is much better than removing muscle," remarked the professor, "as there is less risk of provoking unpleasant inquiries."

"What will be the cause of death in this case?" Observed the assistant.

"Oh, sarcoma of the lungs."

Then turning to the slab on which the lungs of the child were placed, he thereupon sliced off one lung in several thick pieces, and proceeded to place each piece, six in number, in flat copper dishes, which he slid into a metal box, one on top of the other. This being done, the metal box, which was in reality a specially made electric cooking-stove, was closed by a metal door; whereupon he then fixed certain wires to the bottom of this metal apparatus, thereby connecting it with a small galvanic battery. The current was turned on, and immediately there was a peculiar crackling sound issuing from the closed box, while the operator, watch in hand, counted the minutes. One, two, three minutes, the current of electricity was sharply turned off, and the box laid open. The dishes were taken out one by one, and each piece of lung, now of a peculiar reddish-brown colour, was submitted to a mincing machine. The finely minced lung was received into three wide-mouthed bottles, over the top of which a layer of fine table salt was spread, and each carefully sealed. Thus, decomposition had been assuredly and effectually prevented by means of electricity, while all the virtues of the raw lung juice were preserved. The professor, having placed one of the bottles in his portmanteau, hurried away, after leaving certain instructions with O'Reilly as to how best to dispose of the remainder of lung tissue, without betraying the slightest touch of feeling with regard to what had just taken place.

Feeling! He and his class lost all feeling long ago. The rich man's daughter had to be cured. The great discovery had to be tested and perfected. The world had to be stunned into admiration of the "great new remedy for consumption." There was the great lecture at the Albert Hall. Royalty there; and great ones from the ends of the earth, and then—then came the awful climax for which readers must turn to the book itself!—*Weekly Times and Echo*.

"The Uprising of the Many"

This is the title of an interesting book by Charles Edward Russell, (London, Fisher Unwin, five shillings net). The author is an American. This is how British rule in India strikes the writer:

"Here in this frightful country, are 296 million people, of whom 130 millions live in a way unfit for beasts, in a way that would be unwholesome and intolerable even for swine; burrowing in wretched mud huts, clad in strips of rags, fed upon meagre fragments, barely enough to keep them alive, swarming in filth unutterable. With few exceptions the cities of India are without the sanitation possessed by remote towns and villages in Europe and America. They have no sewers, their water supply if any is so poisonous as to be unsafe, even for bathing purposes; they are unpaved; they are filled with conglomerated pestholes; their air is polluted with infected dust. . . . From the poorer elements among these people is wrung every year the heaviest proportionate taxation known upon this earth. . . . These teeming hordes in cities and on the baking flat lands are swept perennially by terrible diseases, the products of the conditions under which they live."

"Every few years appalling famines afflict this India. . . . The nearest cause, but not the first cause, of an Indian famine, is the failure of the rainfall. Wherever water can be procured after the rain failure, there is no famine. The soil is so wonderfully fertile that it will produce two and three crops a year, wherever it has water. Water in India is not really scarce; it is plentiful enough if you go the right way for it." Mr. Russell in giving a description of an Indian well, says:—"You cannot always get water at twenty-two feet, but usually you can get it at greater depths. Only there are no modern pumps in India. Every day in that unhappy region, the wind blew ten, twelve, fifteen miles an hour, and I travelled two thousand miles there and saw only two windmill pumps. One was at a hotel, and the other was at an English dairy. With the great oil fields of Burma, now in independent operation, gasoline should be far cheaper in India than it is in the United States. I have never seen nor heard of a gasoline pump anywhere in India, and I have never heard that the Government took enough interest in the matter to try to introduce such things."

"The immediate cause of famines is the failure of the rainfall. The primary cause is the atrocious land system and tax system. The Indian peasant is not improvident and he is not a fool. If he had any chance in the world, he would in plenteous reasons lay by for the lean years, and so survive. But because of the land

system and the tax system, he is never able to accumulate even the slightest reserve. . . . the devilish system grinds him to his last cent. . . . In eleven years, 84,713 peasants have been sold out for defaulting in their taxes; their tenancy rights, their wretched furniture, cooking utensils, and everything except their rags of clothing being sold to satisfy the Government of India. Forty five per cent. of the people of India—that is to say 133 millions—live constantly in a state of practical starvation, and never by any chance in all their lives have enough to eat.

Facts and Comments

TRANSVAAL REGISTRATIONS. The Asiatic registration is proceeding satisfactorily. About forty out of the fifty Indians in Krugersdorp had on Monday already registered, and there will be no trouble in the matter. Registration elsewhere is proceeding smoothly. Indians in many of the outlying districts have also been registered.

A WELL-KNOWN FIGURE. Amongst those travelling to England by the *S.S. Saxon*, last Thursday were Mr. Conolly, head-master of the Durban Higher-Grade Indian School, and his wife. Mr. Conolly is spending a six months' vacation at Home, and returns next September.

LORD SELBORNE ON ASIATIC IMMIGRATION. Speaking at a luncheon, at Klerksdorp, on Thursday afternoon the Governor dwelt on the Asiatic problem. He said the climate favoured the existence of Eastern and Western peoples. The civilisation of the East was simpler than that of the West, and hence it was impossible for the West to compete with the East. The Transvaal had done wisely in restricting immigration. The East was organising itself. Japan was a mighty Power, and other Japans might arise. It was only the British Navy, which was as essential to the backveld farmer as to Londoners, which could enable them to dwell in safety.—*Reuter*.

A PLEASING PRESENTATION. Mr. Walter Greenacre was a passenger by the *S.S. "Saxon"* that left for England on Thursday afternoon. Prior to the departure of the vessel, a small deputation, representing the Indian community, and headed by Mr. Dawad Mahomed, waited upon him, and presented him and Mrs. Greenacre each with handsome bouquet. Mr. Greenacre suitably replied.

PASSIVE RESISTANCE. If ever Passive Resistance was justified, it will be so in the case of Anglicans and Roman Catholics under Mr. McKenna's Education Bill.—*Manchester Courier*.