

# Indian Opinion

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## NOTES AND NEWS

THE mass meeting of Indian unemployed which was advertised by the organisers to be held last Sunday was postponed, we understand, on account of insufficient notice.

At a special meeting of the Indian Unemployment Committee, Mr. A. Christopher spoke on the need of suspending payment of school fees in all Indian schools, both Government and Government-aided. The majority of Indian parents, he said, felt the effects of the present depression seriously, and it was very hard on them to meet the fees, which in some cases he thought were exorbitant. Even in normal times European and coloured children received free primary education, and in the cases of indigent children free food as well. Indians received no such consideration, except a small number of exemptions in Government Indian schools. After some discussion it was decided that a deputation, consisting of Messrs. A. I. Kajee, P. R. Pather, S. Rustomjee and A. Christopher representing the Natal Indian Congress (to which body the matter was referred), should interview the Administrator for the purpose of obtaining the necessary relief.

METHODS adopted by those concerned to collect personal tax from Indians also came in for some severe criticism at the above mentioned meeting. It was pointed out that Indian unemployed were being pursued in order to secure payment. There were cases of non-payment of the tax before the courts. It was also decided that representations be made to the Administrator for exemptions for those who were unemployed.

A food kitchen for desolate Indians has been opened at the Indian Sports Ground, Durban, and Indians in their hundreds are being fed daily. This act of self-help on the part of the organisers is very creditable. We hope the well-to-do in our community will respond ungrudgingly to the call for help in this humanitarian work and thus be a source of encouragement to those who have taken this selfless task on their shoulders.

We cull the following from *The Leader* (Allahabad):—

Life is full of surprises and the Mahatma's much more. Even when he is shut up in an obscure prison cell he happens to be the cynosure of the nations' eyes. And while the British Government considered him unsafe because of his political predilections and policies, the Community Church of New York found it right to award him a bronze medal for 'the outstanding religious service in the world during 1931.' The chairman of the selection committee, Dr. John Haynes Holmes is positive, from the reports published in British papers, that 'Gandhi is incomparably the outstanding religious leader of this age.' It would be perhaps more correct to say that the Mahatma is even greater as a moral force than as a religious leader. Dr. Holmes is reported to have further said: 'He is a saint of the

order of St. Francis and Tolstoy and in the sublime succession of Zoroaster, Isaiah, Jesus and Mohamad.' And yet those who wield temporal power regard him as a great disturbing influence and have shut him up. But perhaps there is nothing unusual about it. All through the ages it has been the privilege of the world's great teachers to suffer when living and to be canonised when dead. The over-civilised twentieth century is no exception.

### ACTING AGENT'S ADVICE

WE draw the attention of our readers to a circular letter by Mr. Bozman, acting Agent of the Government of India, in connection with the forms to be filled in in terms of Section 6 of the Asiatic Land Tenure Act by Indians in the Transvaal published elsewhere in this issue. We have already expressed our opinion as to the duty of the Transvaal Indians in regard to the filling of these forms. While we very much regret to note that our views are in conflict with those held by the acting Agent we see no reason to change them nor are we sorry for having expressed them. That is what, in all sincerity, we feel in the matter. We have, however, no fault to find with the advice given by the acting Agent. He cannot do otherwise. The situation of the Transvaal Indians under the Asiatic Land Tenure Act is grave and the acting Agent is naturally zealous about getting the rights of as many Indians as possible protected. It is not for the acting Agent to see to the moral or ethical side of the question. He sees it only from the practical point of view. The law is passed and you have to abide by it. If you do so you have to get your rights protected and the acting Agent very kindly offers all the help he could possibly render in getting those rights protected? It is now for the Transvaal Indians to decide as to what they should do. It is not for them to blindly follow the advice of the acting Agent simply because it comes from him. It is for them to use their commonsense. [Have they decided to

meekly submit to the Land Tenure Act? It would be highly foolish on their part, in that case, not to follow the advice of the acting Agent. But if they feel that they are not prepared to submit to an Act which has been passed against their will and which they consider to be an insult not only to themselves but to the three hundred and thirty-three million people of India, for it, in effect, brands them as pariahs not fit to live side by side with the Europeans, and if they feel it is a humiliation to submit to such an Act as would deprive them of their freedom to live wherever they like and would compel them to live in areas allocated to them with dog tickets round their necks; if they feel that their sense of self respect and their sense of honour of their country will not permit them to submit to such an Act then they should respectfully refuse to follow the advice of the Acting Agent. We have already advised the Transvaal Indians and so has Mr. L. W. Ritch, than whom there is, perhaps, no other European in South Africa who better understands the Indian question; for did he not play a prominent part during the Transvaal passive resistance as a member of the British Committee formed of European sympathisers in the Indian cause?

"He who prizes liberty," says Mr. Ritch, finds slavery, even wealthy slavery, intolerable. The flunkey to whom tips are adequate compensation for every and any humiliation has small regard for the self-respect others prize.

"In the final result it comes down to this: Where do you look to your gains? How big or how narrow is the Self of you? Is your soul of the earth earthy, or are you able to reject the mess of pottage rather than barter away your birthright?"

Let every Indian in the Transvaal ask these questions unto himself and then be guided by his own conscience not forgetting that the destiny of his future is placed in his hands; that he represents not himself but the three hundred and thirty-three million people of India; that any step taken by him may result either in keeping open or barring for ever the door against any self-respecting Indian desiring to come to this country. Then having fully realised his responsibility let each individual act according to the dictates of his conscience.

## Unemployed Indians Should Be Exempt From Personal Tax Congress Pleads Their Case

In the course of a letter addressed to the Provincial Secretary against the action of the Receiver of Revenue, Durban, for taking steps against unemployed Indians for failing to pay the personal tax, the Natal Indian Congress writes as follows:—

"Hundreds of Indians have been out of employment for months, and in many cases for two years and more. To say that hundreds of Indian families in and around Durban are going without food is no exaggeration.

"The Administration certainly cannot expect these Indians to pay the personal tax. The Ordinance gives powers to Receivers of Revenue to grant exemptions, and these powers, whilst being applied to the Europeans are, with the exception of a few cases, not being applied to Indians.

"We desire to point out that this discrimination is most unjust, as we feel that in these times of acute depression the Indians, who represent a poorer section of the community, ought to receive the fullest benefit of the powers conferred upon the Receivers of Revenue.

"We learn that inspectors have been appointed and that a house-to-house inspection is being made, and that any Indian who is found not to have paid the tax is being prosecuted. No consideration is being given to unemployed Indians and to those who cannot afford to pay the tax.

"We do not suggest that the step that is being taken borders on persecution, but we do say that this is the most inopportune moment to prosecute Indians who through force of circumstances are unable to pay the tax."

## Transvaal Asiatic Land Tenure Act

### Acting Agent's Advice

We have received a copy of a circular letter sent out from the office of the Agent of the Government of India advising Indians in the Transvaal to fill in the form issued in terms of Section 6 of the Transvaal Asiatic Land Tenure Act. The form is also attached to the circular letter. We published a copy of the form in our last week's issue which we had already received from our representative in Johannesburg. We publish below the letter from the Agent's office which reached us too late for publication in our last week's issue:—

"Dear Sir,—I am enclosing forms to be filled in in terms of Section 6 of the Transvaal Asiatic Land Tenure Act by Indians who are in illegal occupation or residence on land proclaimed a public digging (usually called 'proclaimed land'). You will see by the form that by filling it in you make no admission of illegal occupation or residence whatsoever. I would very strongly urge that all persons should fill up one of these forms even if

- (a) they consider that they are protected by Act 37 of 1919,
- (b) they consider they are on land that is not proclaimed land or
- (c) they first commenced to reside on or occupy a stand on proclaimed land on a date subsequent to May 1st 1930 (the date given in Section 6 of the Tenure Act.)

The completion of the forms can do no person any harm and it gives persons of class (c) their only

chance of protection. Also if persons of classes (a) and (b) are found to be mistaken and either are not protected by the 1919 Act or are found to be on proclaimed land when they thought they were on unproclaimed land, then they will have no remedy if they did not complete the form. In cases of doubt as to whether particular areas are on proclaimed land or not, Indian residents and occupants may further inquire as to whether the land is proclaimed by letter from the Registrar of Mining Titles and Rand Townships, New Law Courts, Johannesburg, or in the case of Klerksdorp from the Mining Commissioner, giving in each case the numbers of the stands in question.

Will you be so good as to distribute forms to persons who should fill them in?

When completed the forms should be sent direct to the Commissioner for Immigration and Asiatic Affairs, P.O. Box 244, Pretoria. It is important to note that they should reach him before September 1st 1932.

Yours faithfully  
(Sgd) G. S. BOZMAN,  
Acting Agent.

[The above matter is referred to in our leading article.—Ed.]

## Licensing Appeal At Ladysmith Officer's Decision Upheld

The Mayor, Councillor W. Cochrane, presided over a meeting of the Town Council sitting as an Appeal Board to consider the appeal of Essack Mahomed Gangat against the refusal of the Licensing Officer to grant the transfer of certain licences from 174 Murchison Street to 156 Murchison Street. In addition to the Mayor the Board consisted of Councillors Carter, Corrigan, Shearer, O. B. Jones and Rawlings.

Appellant was represented by Mr. J. D. Stalker, of Maritzburg, assisted by Mr. E. B. Cawood, and Mr. E. R. Rawlinson appeared on behalf of the objectors, the Ladysmith Chamber of Commerce.

Mr. Stalker said applicant had been in business in Ladysmith for 15 years. Last February his business was burnt out. His creditors began to sue him and several judgments were taken against him, but owing to the delay in the matter of payment of the insurance he had been unable to pay. The Licensing Officer had contended, with the Chamber of Commerce, that the business record of the applicant was unsatisfactory.

This, he considered, the Licensing Officer had no right to do. There was no question of a new licence involved, and he submitted that the Board had created a precedent in the case of Vorajee and others within recent months. He understood that the question of the insurance company's liability was still under consideration, and months might pass before a settlement was arrived at. Was it, therefore, just to ask applicant to wait pending the decision of the insurance company, he asked. The application for the renewal of the licences at the beginning of the year had been passed without comment by the Licensing Officer.

Mr. Rawlinson, on behalf of the Chamber of Commerce, reminded the Board that an application on behalf of Gangat some twelve months ago for a new licence—which was then in effect a transfer—had been refused, and to be consistent the Board must uphold the Licensing Officer's decision in this case.

Following an objection, Mr. Rawlinson submitted that if the Board did not consider the record sufficiently illuminating, it had the power to refer the matter back to the Licensing Officer for further evidence to be taken.

Mr. Stalker submitted that the question of calling fresh evidence evinced a weakness on the part of the objectors.

After a short retirement the Board agreed unanimously that the Licensing Officer's decision be upheld, and the transfer be not granted.—*Natal Mercury.*

## Parliamentary Debate On Asiatic Land Tenure Bill

(Continued from last week)

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR: I move, as an undopposed motion—

That the House do now resolve itself into committee on the Bill and that Mr. Speaker leave the chair.

Mr. ROUX seconded.

Col.-Cdt. COLLINS: Do I understand that the Minister wants to put his amendments on the order paper?

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR: The amendments I have put in connection with this Bill are all amendments of minor importance, they are only amendments rectifying a plain oversight in the law. Nothing material is being changed. The reason why I ask for this Bill to be dealt with in committee now is firstly because there is considerable unanimity about the Bill—it is only the hon. member for Ermelo (Col.-Cdt. Collins) who is opposing it as far as I know—but then it must also go to the Senate, and if it does not reach the Senate to-night, I do not know whether we shall be able to put it on the statute book this session.

The PRIME MINISTER: You cannot.

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR: It cannot be done. Accordingly I ask the House to have patience with me in the matter and to assist me.

Gen. SMUTS: I will ask my hon. friend here not to press his objection. I know he feels very strongly on the matter, but we must get on with the work.

Motion put and agreed to.

HOUSE IN COMMITTEE:

On Clause 3.

Col.-Cdt. COLLINS: As I have already said, I cannot agree to that clause; I do not know whether the Minister has an amendment to it that he wants to move.

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR: No, I have no amendment.

Col.-Cdt. COLLINS: I am opposed to the clause because certain rights are being taken from us; I think the clause now gives a certain discretion to the Minister which in my opinion he should not have. The Minister said that he would not use the right, but that he intends to appoint a commission; perhaps he will be prepared to explain the matter to us.

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR: If this clause is passed then the Minister will get the power to make certain exceptions to the general prohibition that proclaimed ground may not be occupied by non-Europeans, by coloured persons. The provision has been inserted, not with the object to allow the Minister to exercise that power generally, but it is only necessary to rectify the breaches of the law which have taken place on the Rand on a large scale. As soon as the Act is on the statute book I will appoint a commission of three persons; the chairman will be a judge, and the commission will have a list before them of all persons who will themselves have to come before the 1st of September and say that they are illegally occupying their ground on the Rand. If they do not come and report themselves, then they will get no protection under the Act. That list will then come before the commission, and the commission will investigate each case on its merits. They will enquire where the person concerned lives, what his business is, what the nature of the locality where he lives is; and

persons in the locality will be able to give evidence and raise objections to the illegal person, if they want to do so. And when they have dealt with every case on its merits they will make their report to the Minister and the Minister can then decide whether he will leave a person there undisturbed or not. He will decide in which cases the Act will simply have to take its course, and in which cases not. I consider this as the best and most just way.

**Mr. ALEXANDER** Does the Minister intend, when he deals with the coloured communities I referred to, who live in areas in the Transvaal, that they shall get exemption as an area instead of each individual having to apply for exemption?

**The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR**: I take it that each individual case will have to be dealt with on its own merits. But the coloured people on the Witwatersrand are very well organised, and they can act collectively before such a commission.

**Mr. ALEXANDER**: It does seem to me that where in any locality it has been decided to exempt a man, he should be allowed to acquire a lot in the particular area in which he is living. I would like to move—

To add the following new sub-section to follow sub-section (2) of the new section 131A.

(3) Should such certificate be issued the coloured person shall have the right of ownership of such land.

That would only apply to the area in which he would be allowed to reside.

**The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR**: At one time I thought that it would be possible to incorporate a provision such as is embodied in the hon. member's amendment, but on further consideration I thought that that would not help us in solving this question, and it certainly would not be in the interests of those who occupy land in these localities illegally. When this commission sits, and a case in a particular street, or part of a street, comes before the commission, application will be made for that particular person to occupy his land under a certain permit. It will make a difference whether that man gets a right to occupy the land, or whether he becomes the owner of that land. If he becomes the owner of that land he establishes himself and his successors there permanently, and, if we accept this amendment, I am sure that a good many more objections will be raised. I don't think it is in the interests of the people the hon. member wishes to be considered to agree to this amendment.

**Col.-Odt. COLLINS**: I agree with the hon. the Minister with regard to the proposed amendment, but I am not quite sure about this commission. Is this commission going to finish its activities after they have dealt with this particular phase of the applications to be made before the end of September, or is it going to be a commission existing for ever?

**The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR**: It is only a temporary commission.

Amendment put and negatived.

Clause as printed, put and agreed to.

On Clause 4,

**The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR**: I move—

In line 60, after "occupation" to insert "and to transfer such right of residence or occupation to his lawful successor in title (whether such successor is or is not a coloured person.)"

It applies more particularly to Springs. I explained to the House on the second reading that it practically consists of two parts. Old Springs was established before its proclamation as a gold field, and the present Springs only rose later. According to the Court's decision the Asiatics are entitled to live in old Springs. It does not come under the provisions of the Gold Law at all so far as trading rights of coloured persons are concerned. What is here proposed is to bring that neighbourhood under the Gold Law as well. But as the Asiatics lived there formerly we must protect their vested rights. As the Law stands it protects the Asiatics only so far as their own occupation is concerned, but it does

not give them the right of transferring their rights to other Asiatics, as is the case with the protected businesses on the Witwatersrand. What is now proposed here is to give these Asiatics the right to transfer their businesses to their successors. It was purely an oversight on the part of the draughtsman and I therefore move as an amendment—

**Mr. ALEXANDER**: I don't object to that amendment, but I would like to suggest 1932 instead of 1930, and to ask what is the effect of putting the word "lawfully" in. Does it not nullify the position in other parts of the Bill? There has been this dispute going on all along with regard to residence under the gold law. What happens to those who have been residents for some time? What will happen to them where they have businesses and so on? I move—

In line 58, to omit "1930" and to substitute "1932."

**The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR**: Lawful occupation is a matter for the court to decide, if there is any doubt. It is not for the Minister to decide. With regard to the amendment the hon. member moves here, I may say that if I accept this, I would give an advantage to those people who have not taken seriously the warning that has been given here in Parliament when the Bill was first introduced, and we are penalising those who did. This Bill could not be passed in 1930, which was the date of the Bill, as it stood originally. Then I clearly stated in the House, and I repeated it on several occasions afterwards, that when this Bill is ultimately passed this date will stand. If you find Asiatics as you do in Springs, as has been brought to my notice, and it is said, "That Bill will never be passed, and we will simply go on as if we had got the rights," these people will be glad of that amendment, because it is to their advantage and that they are not penalised; but those who took it seriously will be prejudiced, and not have the same advantage as the others have. If anyone acted contrary to this Bill on the 1st May, 1930, he did so with open eyes, and at his own risk.

**Col. STALLARD**: The amendment which I understand the Minister is moving here allows for the transfer of the right of residence for the first time, or of occupation to his "lawful successor in title." This is going to perpetuate the occupation of ground by coloured persons who can hand it over one to the other, and it seems to me that this provision should not be allowed. The municipalities have tested their rights from time to time in the courts of law, and the sanction here is going to render lawful what has been decided by the courts to be unlawful. It seems to me a step in the wrong direction, and it is going to legalise and perpetuate the occupation of these properties by coloured persons, which is the very thing we want to prevent. The decisions of the law courts are now going to be swept away.

**The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR**: If the hon. member will allow me, I am afraid he does not understand the meaning of this amendment. Generally, in all our laws where vested rights are protected, we deal with vested rights which have been lawfully acquired. The Asiatics found a loophole and availed themselves of that loophole, and acquired certain rights. It may be an evasion; but they acquired them lawfully. Legislation was passed and the Asiatic was protected. It was always followed in our previous legislation. The Asiatic may dispose of that property just as any other holder of property. He can sell to a European, or to an Asiatic, if he likes.

**Col. STALLARD**: That is the point.

**Mr. ALEXANDER**: May I point out this is a perfectly necessary provision to make. You cannot take this away. In section 1 of the Act of 1919, these words are used, namely, "the lawful successor in title." They—

Shall not apply to any British Indian who was carrying on business or to the lawful successor in title of such . . . . To any person in the bona fide employment of such British Indian, or his lawful successor in title

Right throughout that legislation, protection was given, not only to the man, but to his lawful successor in title.

Amendment proposed by Mr. Alexander, put and negatived.

Amendment proposed by the Minister of the Interior put and agreed to.

Clause, as amended, put and agreed to.

(To be continued)

## The Plight Of Stanger

### Havoc Caused By Malaria Epidemic

Mr. A. A. Munshi, principal Madressa Anjuman Islam, writes :—

The second quarter of the present year will last long in the memory of the people of Stanger and the vicinity on account of the terrible havoc caused by the recent malaria epidemic. Men and women, old and young, rich and poor, all were the victims of the fatal disease that took away the lives of several hundreds of people. Such a calamity never befell the happy land of Stanger and the District. Stanger was the scene of a huge hospital with struggling humanity.

This led to the closing down of the educational centres. For the first time in the history of Stanger the local Madressa Anjuman Islam and both the Government European and Indian schools had to be closed down for about three weeks. Poor people had spent practically every penny on doctors and medicines to get rid of the destructive disease, but many had still to succumb to it and leave behind their near and dear ones to mourn their sad loss.

Among those who sustained losses were Mr. Ahmed Kolia, a trustee of the Madressa Anjuman Islam, Stanger, who lost his beloved daughter Aye-shabibi at the premature age of fifteen years, and Mr. Esoof Mehtar, also a trustee of the said Madressa, who too lost his beloved son Mahomed at the very young age of twelve. Also the death of Haji Kaji Sadruddin, a former trustee of the Madressa, that has occurred only a few days ago, is a great shock to the family and the admirers as well as the people of the town because in him they have lost, indeed, a sympathetic and benevolent soul. May Allah the Merciful grant the departed soul peace in the Highest Heaven, and console the hearts of the members of the bereaved families.

When the dreadful disease had its full sway all over the district, people from far distance thought it necessary to help their penniless Indian brethren and some of the officials of the Natal Indian Congress visited the affected areas and managed to open a free temporary dispensary in consultation with the local authority for the poor Indians.

Thanks to Dr. K. M. Seedat of Durban who very generously consented to give free treatment to his poor Indian brethren. During six weeks he attended to over thirteen hundred cases. Here the name of Mr. Sorabjee Rustomjee should be mentioned who helped wholeheartedly with free medicines supplied to all patients by the Rustomjee Jivanjee Trust. The Local Anti-Malaria Committee also should be thanked for its ceaseless and untiring efforts. In this connection the names of Messrs. Peter Luke, M. Patel and A. G. Bux should be mentioned in particular. The people of the town really owe them something more than mere thanks for their voluntary services.

When things were at this crisis, can anyone imagine what might be the condition of the traders

and the traders? All the flourishing and prosperous streets and stores of Stanger and the surrounding towns were desolate. The storekeepers had to suffer a great deal and some have not yet reached their normal condition. It is the same with the schools. For the disease has left all on whom it had its sway so weak that it will take some time before we can see the normal conditions once again.

In conclusion, let us, one and all, send a fervent prayer to the Almighty Allah to save the land from such calamities.

## Emigrants' Home

The following interesting report on the recently established Emigrants' Home has been issued by Mr. S. A. Waiz, the Secretary of the Imperial Indian Citizenship Association :—

The Emigrants' Home, Jer Mahal, Dhobi Talao, was established in October, 1932, under the auspices of the Imperial Indian Citizenship Association. Since its inception three hundred and twenty-one emigrants passing through Bombay either proceeding abroad or returning from the Colonies have availed themselves of the facilities offered at the Home. Out of these, 161 were Muslims, 125 Hindus, 31 Sikhs and 4 Christians. The returning emigrants were from the East African Territories, South Africa, Portuguese East Africa, Madagascar, Seychelles, Persian Gulf Ports, Mesopotamia, Australia, and New Zealand. During the period thirty families were accommodated in the Home. Seven inmates were offered free medical aid. One Sikh gentleman from Nairobi who found himself and his family of three members stranded in Bombay were sent to their home in the Punjab at the expense of the Association. A Hindu young man returning from Dar-es-Salaam was prevented by the police from landing in Bombay, because he left Africa with a time expired passport. His friends who were staying at the Home mentioned it to the Secretary who at once took up his case and after depositing Ra. 25 with the Police Commissioner as a security effected his release from the boat. Then representations were made successfully on his behalf to the Passport officials of the Bombay Government and the police authorities and he was exempted from infringing a provision of the Passport Act. It was a technical mistake on his part. He had failed to get his British passport renewed before sailing from Dar-es-Salaam. It transpires that there is no statutory provision for the provision of food of persons detained under such circumstances. In this particular case the man was detained on the boat for about three days and though Messrs. MacKinnon MacKenzie supplied him with food they were not legally responsible for it. Accordingly the Association is in correspondence with the Government of India regarding the amendment of the Indian Passport Act, 1920, to that extent.

The popularity of the Home has come to stay. Throughout the riots in May and June Hindus and Moslems lived happily like real brothers as if they were members of one family living in one home. There was not the faintest indication of hatred for each other. On the 15th May four Muslims—three men and one woman—who were staying in a "danger zone" in the city and were to sail for Africa on the 18th May, at their own request, were removed to the Home. Returning emigrants had no communal feelings whatever, but they were certainly scared of the City of Bombay for whereas before the riots they always sojourned in Bombay

for two or three days, during the riots most of them went straight to the railway stations from the hosts.

It is obvious now that the Home meets a long felt need. The house where the Home is accommodated is a small one. Now that it has proved a success, it is necessary to extend it. At present we cannot accommodate more than fifteen people at a time. But one day we had as many as twenty staying there and eleven were regrettably refused admission. The dining room was dismantled to accommodate the passengers.

The following distinguished visitors inspected the Home during this period and made satisfactory remarks in the Home Visitors' Book urging the public to support this useful institution:—Pandit Bhawani Dayal Sanyasi of South Africa, Dr. A. C. L. DeSouza, Nairobi, Mr. B. L. Rallia Ram, National General Secretary Y.M.C.A.s in Burma, India and Ceylon, Mr. and Mrs. Maclean of Wilson College, Bombay, and Mr. G. F. Andrews.

Mr. Andrews spent over two hours with the emigrants staying at the home on the day of his visit.

## Statement Submitted By S.A.I.C.

### To Government Of India Delegation

(Continued from last week)

#### NATAL PARLIAMENTARY FRANCHISE

Indians possessed the vote in Natal, but in the year 1896 (Natal Act, 1896) they were disenfranchised.

#### MUNICIPAL FRANCHISE

Indians enjoyed franchise in municipalities and townships. By a process of ingenious and subtle work, they were dispossessed of this franchise. Boroughs Ordinance of 1924 lays down the disqualification that no person who is not entitled to be registered as a parliamentary voter shall be placed on the Municipal Roll. Indians own properties in all municipalities of Natal. In Durban alone the value of properties owned by Indians is 1½ million pounds, and they hold one sixteenth of the total value of properties. Whilst Indians are required to pay rates and other taxation, they are denied the right to have a say in the affairs of a municipality. Consequently Indians do not receive, much less enjoy, their just share of municipal amenities. Roads in localities in which Indians predominate are neglected. We ask that both the parliamentary and municipal franchise should be restored to Indians.

#### TRANSVAAL

In this Province Indians have no vote. We urge that the franchise should be extended to them.

#### CAPEN PROVINCE

Indians have no vote, both parliamentary and municipal. The Union Act, No. 41 of 1931 extends the vote to women of European descent only, and excludes non-European women. This is a breach of the spirit of the South Africa Act which protected the right of vote to non-Europeans, and even allowed them a seat in the Provincial Council. The value of the non-European vote is practically halved by the extension of the vote to European women, and threw the balance of the vote against the non-Europeans. This is a grave wrong, and we request that the Delegation make representations to remove this piece of injustice.

#### BILL TO AMEND WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION ACT

There is a Bill before the Parliament, the effect of which is to discriminate against Indians by computing

compensation, in the case of injury, on a lower basis calculated not on the wages he receives, but on the colour of his skin. We urge that no discriminatory legislation be made affecting the rights of compensation. We have, on the basis of equal treatment in industrial legislation, agreed to the principle of "equal pay for equal work," and there is no justification to lower the scale of compensation on the grounds of race.

#### COLOUR BAR IN RAILWAYS AND POST OFFICES

Indians have all along protested against the "colour bar" in the public services. Generally throughout the Union there is a tendency more and more to create and continue the "colour bar" in Railways and Post Offices. This is a gratuitous insult upon the self-respect of Indians. We ask that this should be removed.

#### TRADE RELATIONS

The visit of the Indian Trade Delegation to South Africa under Dr. Meek has raised the possibility of fostering trade relations between India and South Africa. The need for an Indian Trade Commissioner in South Africa is being felt very strongly. South Africa has a big market for her products in India. Already India is purchasing gold, diamond, wattle bark, coal and other commodities, and we think there is a ready market for South African fruits, maize, etc., provided the service of steamers to India is quickened. Improved trade relations would mean a closer friendship between the two great countries and would afford mutual advantages.

We desire to urge that this question may receive your very serious consideration.

(To be continued)

THE first session of the federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry of Eastern Africa was held at Kismu on the 9th and 10th of July under the presidency of Mr. J. B. Pandya, a prominent Indian merchant in Mombasa. The president, in the course of a lengthy and interesting speech outlined the work before the federation—to enhance and to safeguard the commercial interests of the community. "I feel we should all try to work in harmony and co-operation amongst ourselves and with others. That way lies the solution of many of our difficulties in Eastern Africa. In this undreamt of time of depression," the president observed, "it is all the more necessary to use the great uplifting power and benefit of the well-known maxim 'unity is strength.' Let me hope that Indian commercial interests will stand united and shoulder to shoulder, at the same time offering co-operation to others and extending the hand of fellowship and friendship to those who are willing to grasp it, in the issues affecting the whole country. We have made this country our home and we wish to live here by our usefulness and service. We are thus fulfilling an important function in the economic life of this country."

## Notice

### INDIAN UNEMPLOYMENT

Will employers of Indian labour kindly notify the undersigned of any vacancies in their establishment.

WRITE:—Hon. Secretary, Sir Kurma Reddi Unemployment Relief Committee, 175 Grey Street, Durban, or Phone Central 3596.