

# Indian Opinion

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## INDIA'S ENTHUSIASTIC LOYALTY

**A** REUTER'S telegram from London, dated the 9th instant, states that Mr. Charles Roberts, the Under Secretary for India, read an important statement in the House of Commons from the Viceroy of India.

This created a tremendous sensation in the House, and the stirring record of the loyalty of India was greeted with cheer after cheer as the long roll call of the splendid response to the needs of the Empire was read out.

The Viceroy's statement was as follows: The following is a summary of the offers of service and money made in India to the Viceroy: The rulers of native States in India, who number nearly 700 in all, have with one accord rallied to the defence of the Empire, and have offered their personal services and the resources of their States for the war. From among the many princes and nobles who volunteered for active service, the Viceroy has selected the Chiefs of Johdpur, Bikanir, Kishangarh, the Regent of Jodhpur, the heir-apparent of Bhopal, and a brother of the Maharaja of Cooch Behar, together with other cadets of noble family. The veteran Sir Pertab Singh would not be denied his right to serve the King and Emperor, in spite of his 70 years, and his nephew, the Maharaja, who is but 16 years old, goes with him. (Loud cheers.) All these have, with the Commander-in-Chief's approval, already joined the expeditionary forces. The Maharaja of Gwalior and the Chiefs of Jaora and Dholpur, together with the heir-apparent of Palanpur were, to their great regret, prevented from leaving their States. Twenty-seven of the larger States of India maintain Imperial Service troops, and the services of every corps were immediately placed at the disposal of the Government of India on the outbreak of the war.

The Viceroy has accepted from 12 States contingents of cavalry, infantry, sappers, and transport, besides a camel corps from Bikaner, and most of them have already embarked.

As particular instances of the generosity and the eager loyalty of the chiefs, the following may be quoted. Various Durbars have combined together to provide a hospital ship, to be called the Loyalty, for the use of the expeditionary forces; the Maharaja of Mysore has placed 50 lakhs of rupees (333,000) at the disposal of the Government of India for expenditure in connection with the expeditionary force; the Chief of Gwalior, in addition to sharing in the expenses of the hospital ship, the idea of which originated with himself and the Begum of Bhopal, has offered to place large sums of money at the disposal of the Government of India, and to provide a thousand horses as remounts. From Lahore, in the Punjab, and Lasbela and Kelat, in Baluchistan, come offers of camels with drivers, to be supplied and maintained by the Chiefs and Sirdars. Several chiefs have offered to raise additional troops for military service should they be required, and donations to the Indian relief fund have poured in

from all States. The Maharaja of Rewa has offered his troops, his treasury, and even his private jewellery for the service of the King-Emperor. (Cheers.)

In addition to the contributions to the Indian fund, some chiefs, namely, those of Kashmir, Bandi, Orchha, Gwalior, and Indore, have also given large sums to the Prince of Wales' Fund. The Maharaja of Kashmir not content with subscribing himself to the Indian fund, presided at a meeting of 20,000 people held recently at Srenagar, and delivered a stirring speech, in response to which large subscriptions were collected. The Maharaja of Holkar offers free of charge all the horses in his State army which may be suitable for Government purposes. Horses are also offered by the Nizam's Government, by Jamnagar, and other Bombay States. Every chief in the Bombay Presidency placed the resources of his State at the disposal of the Government, and all have made contributions to the relief fund. Loyal messages and offers have also been received from the Mehtar of Chitral and the tribes of the Khyber Agency, as well as the Khyber Rifles. Letters have been received from the most remote States of India, all marked by a deep sincerity of their desire to render some assistance, however humble, to the British Government in its hour of need. (Cheers.)

Last, but not least, from beyond the borders of India have been received generous offers of assistance. From the Nepal Durbar the military resources of the State have been placed at the disposal of the British Government, and the Prime Minister offered a sum of three lakhs of rupees to the Viceroy for the purchase of machine guns or field equipment for the British Gurkha regiments proceeding overseas, in addition to large donations from his private purse to the Prince of Wales' Fund and the Imperial Indian Relief Fund. To the Fourth Gurkha Rifles, of which the Prime Minister of Nepal is the Honorary Colonel, he offered 30,000 rupees (£2,000) for the purchase of machine guns in the event of their going on service. The Dalai Lama of Tibet offered a thousand Tibetan troops for service under the British Government. His Holiness also states that Lamas innumerable throughout the length and breadth of Tibet are offering prayers for the success of the British Army and for the happiness of the souls of all the victims of war. (Cheers.)

The same spirit has prevailed throughout British India. Hundreds of telegrams and letters have been received by the Viceroy, expressing loyalty and a desire to serve the Government either in the field or by co-operation in India. Many hundreds have also been received by the local administrations. They come from communities and associations, religious, political, and social, of all classes and creeds, also from individuals, offering their resources, or asking for an opportunity to prove their loyalty by personal service. The following may be mentioned as typical examples: All India Moslem League, the Bengal Presidency Moslem League, the Moslem Association of Rangoon, the

trustees of Aligarh College, Behar, the Provincial Moslem League, the Central National Mahomedan Association of Calcutta, the Khoja community and other followers of the Aga Khan, the Punjab Moslem League, the Mahomedans of Eastern Bengal, the citizens of Calcutta, Madras, Rangoon and many other cities, the Behar Landholders Association, the Madras Provincial Congress, the Association of Orissa, the Punjab Chiefs Association, the United Provinces Provincial Congress, the Hindus of the Punjab, Chief Khalsa Diwan, representing the orthodox Sikhs, the Bohra community of Bombay, the Parsee community of Bombay.

The Delhi Medical Association offers a field hospital that was sent to Turkey during the Balkan War. The Bengalee students offer their enthusiastic services for ambulance corps, and there were many other offers of medical aid. The Zemindars of Madras offered 500 horses.

Among other practical steps taken to assist the Government may be noted the holding of meetings to allay the panic, to keep down prices, and maintain public confidence and credit.

Generous contributions have poured in from all quarters to the Imperial Indian Relief Fund.

Mr. Roberts added that, in addition, similar offers had been made by chiefs who happened to be at present in Europe—the Gaekwar of Baroda and Maharaja Bharatpur, to mention two only, had placed the whole resources of their States at the disposal of his Majesty's Government. The Indian community in England, including Indian students, had made loyal offers of their services. Mr. Roberts concluded: "I feel confident that the House and the country will feel a deep appreciation of this magnificent demonstration of loyalty with which the princes and the people of India have identified themselves with the cause of the Empire." (Loud cheers.)

### Lord Crewe on India's Loyalty

London, September 9th.—In the House of Lords, to-night Lord Crewe read the statement by the Viceroy of India, which was given in the House of Commons.

Lord Crewe also gave an account of the Viceroy's Council meeting, dwelling on India's intense loyalty and magnificent help to the British.

Lord Crewe concluded: "This demonstration of true and heartfelt loyalty to the King-Emperor and the Government is one of the most gratifying facts as an outcome of the present war." (Cheers.)

Lord Lansdowne eulogised India's response.

Lord Crewe, in the House of Lords, and Mr. Roberts, in the House of Commons, had congratulations showered on them by the members.

At the conclusion of the reading of the Viceroy's statement in the House of Commons one member shouted: "Send a copy to the Kaiser."

### India Offers Her All

London, September 9.—In the course of his speech in the Council (as read by Lord Crewe in the House of Lords), the Viceroy of India said: "India rejoiced that she was able to fight for the Empire. It was clear that we were put at the end of our military resources, seeing that practically all the ruling chiefs had also placed the military forces and resources of their States at the disposal of the Government.

"The Indian Government had decided to meet such portion of the cost of the Expedition as would have fallen upon India in normal circumstances, roughly a million sterling, to the end of the financial year, which was additional to providing for the defence of India, and meeting losses consequent upon the war."

### India Sends 70,000 Men

London, September 9.—The Viceroy of India, in the course of a great speech at Simla, said that it was no longer a secret that India had already despatched two splendid divisions of infantry and one cavalry brigade to Europe, while three more cavalry brigades would follow immediately.

It was a source of the utmost pride and satisfaction to the whole of India that they had already been able to send over 70,000 combatants to the front.

He announced that six Maharajahs and three Nawabs and other Indian nobles were accompanying the force.

London, September 9.—Lord Crewe has announced that the Gurkhas will participate in the campaign.—Reuter.

The Aga Khan Offers  
London, September 13.—His Highness the Aga Khan has offered to the British Raj his resources and personal service, and expresses willingness to serve as a Sepoy in any infantry regiment.—Reuter.

### Unjust Magistrates

There seems to be cause for most serious complaint with regard to some of the Natal Magistrates. In these columns we recently recorded the condemnation of the Verulam Magistrate, by the Supreme Court for illegally sentencing an Indian to a term of imprisonment, knowing the sentence to be illegal, and only last week we reported a case wherein the same Magistrate was severely censured by the Judge-President for negligence and extraordinary indifference regarding a missing pass-book. The Natal Law Reports just to hand show how, in spite of a decision of the Supreme Court, that in the absence of any evidence to show that the offence was committed, a plea of guilty was not sufficient to support the decision, the Magistrate of New Hanover nevertheless convicted and sentenced an unfortunate native against whom no evidence had been led. In giving judgment in the case referred to, the Judge-President said: "It may be, although it is difficult to understand how it can be, that the Magistrate on the 23rd of December was unaware of the decision given by this Court in an appeal from himself, upon the 3rd of December. It may be that he had not at that time seen a report of the decision. At any rate I will give him the benefit of the doubt. But in stating his reasons for his judgment, which he did on April 15th, 1914, he says:—'I may say here, in this Province, it is not obligatory for evidence to be led when a plea of guilty is tendered.' I cannot take it that at this later date he was unaware of the decision of the Court; I could only do so by ascribing to him a degree of neglect or indolence in informing himself which I will not readily impute. But he must understand for the future that it is his duty to accept and apply the decisions of this Court; and when a point has been directly decided, more especially in the case of an appeal from himself, it is altogether improper for him to get his own view against that of this Court and say that that is not obligatory which the Court has declared to be necessary. The conviction must be quashed, and I shall expect in future that the Magistrate will see the propriety and necessity of conforming to the decisions of this Court; and I must express my regret that he should have made it necessary to tell him so."

Surely there is room here for investigation by the Department of Justice whose attention should undoubtedly be directed to cases of this nature. There is no doubt that some Magistrates are suffering badly from what in unjudicial language is called "swelled head," and until they are severely checked by departmental action, they are quite capable of ignoring even such pointed advice as that which we publish above.

## From the Editor's Chair

### INDIA AND THE EMPIRE

THE lengthy telegrams from England that we publish elsewhere, recording statements made in the Imperial Legislative Council at Delhi, and the Imperial Houses of Parliament, Westminster, must have amazed those who have hitherto not realised the significance of the part that India plays in the Empire. We are not for the moment going to discuss the ethics of warfare or the advantages of Passive Resistance. We have to look at the matter from the point of view of two unquestionable facts, the first of which is that the Empire is at War, and the other that India is an integral portion of the Empire. In these circumstances India's duty was clear, and she has responded, not to any outside appeal, but to her own sense of what is fitting, having regard to those circumstances. How spontaneous, how generous, how wholehearted, how regardless of grievances her response has been Reuter's telegrams indicate with a gratifying degree of detail. There have not been wanting those suffering from perpetual and incurable negrophobia who have deplored the use of Indian troops, not in the least because they did not wish India to be contaminated by the brute force that is sweeping Europe like a plague, but solely because the coloured races must never be allowed to feel that they are on terms of equality, even on the plane of physical force, with the European peoples, and this in spite of the lessons of the Russo-Japanese War. But these critics will, we opine, hardly contend that Indian troops are likely to be less self-restrained, less chivalrous, in a word, less civilised, than the Vandals and Huns who destroyed Louvain, and who, if the reports that have been published be even one-tenth true, have mutilated, pillaged, murdered and ravished. After Port Arthur and Liao-yang, the East could not stand where it did before these gruesome events, and not the least important of all the consequences of the historic war that is now proceeding so furiously, will be the inevitable re-adjustment of the relations between the East and the West, on the basis of diminished Western racial arrogance and augmented and justifiable Eastern racial pride. And to this result India will have contributed in such a degree as to compel a new consideration of her place and function in the Empire to which, in its time of need, she has contributed with a lavishness that has hitherto been unexampled in history.

### A CHARACTERISTIC OFFER

We publish elsewhere the correspondence between Mr. Gandhi and others on behalf of Indians resident in or visiting England, offering their services, and the reply of the Under Secretary of State for India. The first letter is a fine example of the principle for which Mr. Gandhi, whose hand may be seen in every line of it, has stood for so many years, and the following words finely represent the spirit of the offer:—"We would respectfully emphasise the fact that the one dominant idea guiding us is that of rendering such humble assistance as we may be considered capable of performing, as an earnest of our desire to share the responsibilities of membership of this great Empire

if we would share its privileges." Lord Crewe's suggestions indicate that the Imperial Government are anxious to avail themselves of this offer of service in the spirit in which it was made. We have before us the draft of the circular letter that was sent to those who made the offer. The words: "We advisedly use the word 'unconditionally,' as we believe that, at a moment like this, no service that can be assigned to us, can be considered to be beneath our dignity or inconsistent with our self-respect," amply reveal the true meaning of a word liable otherwise to be misunderstood. An Empire that can produce men and women of such extreme self-abnegation is an Empire that must stand because of the majesty of the principles to which these self-sacrificing citizens are devoted. It is significant that this trumpet call of duty is sounded by two such remarkable women as Mrs. Gandhi, who has already suffered so much in her own person, and Mrs. Sarojini Naidu, the great poetess of India.

### VISITING PERMITS AGAIN

We publish in this issue the relevant particulars of the form of application that has to be completed and declared to formally by applicants for Visiting Permits. We also publish some interesting correspondence on the subject, which shows that the representatives of the Indian community are alert to the dangers of the Indian community's being a party to the erection of an official inquisition into the movements and history of individual Indians from the time of their arrival in this country. We are strongly of opinion that the preparation of such documents should not have been entrusted to the departmental officials until the Indian community, through its leaders, had been consulted, in order to avoid the friction and suspicion that are bound otherwise to be created. We trust that other public bodies besides the Transvaal British Indian Association will register their protests with equal emphasis, so that the Government may have no excuse for ignorance of the feeling of Indians in this matter. Meanwhile, we would earnestly recommend to them the undesirability of applying for Visiting Permits so long as the present form of application is in use.

### "WHOM THE KING DELIGHTETH TO HONOUR"

We understand that, upon the recommendation of Lord Hardinge, supported by Lord Crewe, the Secretary of State for India, the name of Mr. Gokhale was included among those upon whom the dignity of a Knight-Commandership of the Indian Empire was to be conferred on the occasion of the last celebration of the King's birthday. *India*, however, states that Mr. Gokhale, on being apprized of His Majesty's intention, wrote to say that whilst he was deeply grateful to His Majesty the King-Emperor for the same, he must humbly beg to be excused the high honour as he preferred to continue under his present simple designation, if his wish was not likely to be misconstrued; whereupon His Majesty was graciously pleased to allow the withdrawal of his name from the list. Lord Crewe, at the same time, intimated his regret that the Government could not mark their high sense of appreciation of Mr. Gokhale's public services. The incident is still one more illustration of Mr. Gokhale's extraordinary modesty and his sense of what is appropriate for men who serve their country with no thought of reward. Like that other great Indian, Mr. Dadabhai, Mr. Gokhale's name will go down to history as that of a simple, devoted, self-sacrificing patriot who had at heart only his country's good.

### Visiting Permit Monstrosities

The following is a copy of the form D.1.4 issued by the Immigration Department of the Union:—

1/- stamp to be cancelled by Officer taking this declaration.  
No.....  
(to be left blank).

Nature of document applied for.....  
Period (if any) for which required.....  
Port of Entry.....(if any reply to these questions is in the negative, this should in each case be clearly stated).

1. Name of applicant in full.
2. Applicant's age.
3. Sex.
4. Race.
5. Nationality.
6. Country of origin. Documents and references submitted in support of this statement, especially as regards residence in South Africa.
7. (a) Date and place of applicant's first entry into South Africa. (b) Full particulars with dates of applicant's subsequent movements within and beyond the Union. Description of person for whom permit is desired. Height. Build. Distinguishing features and marks.
8. Particulars of fixed property, or other vested interests of applicant in South Africa or elsewhere.
9. Applicant's occupation and means of subsistence.
10. Is applicant able to read and write in any European language? If so, in what language?
11. Has applicant ever been refused permission to enter any Province of the Union or expelled from it?
12. Has applicant ever been convicted of any crime in any country? If so, for what offence?
13. Is applicant suffering from any physical or mental infirmity?
14. State whether applicant is or has been married.
15. If married state (a) name of wife or husband, as the case may be; and (b) if alive, the present place of residence.
16. Has applicant's wife, or any of his children ever been in South Africa? If yes, give particulars with dates.
17. If applicant has any children give details. (This reply should include adult as well as minor children.) If applicant has lost any children by death their names should be given with the remark "dead" under the heading "present residence."
18. Particulars of any permit or certificate previously obtained or applied for in any Province of the Union.
19. Any other particulars relevant to the case.

I,.....having been duly cautioned, hereby solemnly and sincerely declare that I fully understand the above questions and that I have answered them truthfully and that they have been interpreted to me in.....which I hereby declare to understand.

Signature (or mark) of applicant.....  
Address in full.....

I hereby certify that I acted as Interpreter for the purpose of this application.

Signature.....  
Address.....

Thumb impressions where required  
left right.

I hereby certify that the person.....affixed his signature (or mark) to this document after the said document had been read over and interpreted to him in my presence and that the contents hereof have been declared before me at.....this.....day of.....1914.

Justice of the Peace.

The Justice of the Peace should delete these words where an interpreter has not been required and add to the certificate a note that the applicant understood the language used for the application.

The following correspondence in regard to the above has passed between the Under Secretary for the Interior and Mr. Polak:—

31st August, 1914.

"I have seen a copy of the form D.1.4. that applicants for Visiting Permits are required to complete. May I suggest that they appear to be extremely cumbersome documents and are, in my humble opinion, liable to deter Indians from applying for these facilities except under extraordinary pressure? It scarcely seems necessary for an applicant for a Visiting Pass, who may have to proceed to Natal for, say, a fortnight, to visit a sick relative, or for some urgent business matter, to answer questions 7, 8, 14, 15, 16, and 17, and in the case of Transvaal Indians, beyond a formal declaration as to the purpose and period of the visit, are any other particulars required than those contained in the Certificate of Registration? I do feel that a simpler document than this should meet the exigencies of the case, and especially where applicants are holders of Transvaal Registration Certificates.

"May I ask that you will be so good as to give this matter your early attention having regard to the fact that there are likely to be many applicants for Visiting Passes who will be terrified at having to undergo an examination of their past and present from the time that they entered South Africa?"

(Sgd.) "H. V. S. L. POLAK."

3rd September, 1914.

"With reference to your letter of the 31st ultimo, on the subject of the form to be filled in by applicants for Visiting Permits, I have the honour to inform you that the system was adopted only after careful consideration, and the Minister is not prepared to make any alteration therein until it has had a fair and full trial.

(Sgd.) "J. W. SHAWE,

"Under Secretary for the Interior."

### British Indian Association's Letter

The following letter to the Secretary for the Interior, dated the 5th instant, has been addressed by the Chairman of the British Indian Association:—

"My Association has seen the letter addressed by Mr. Polak to you dated the 31st ultimo, with reference to form D.1.4. being the form of application for Visiting Permits and other documents, and your reply thereto of the 3rd instant. I desire, on behalf of my Association, to remind you that Visiting Permits are now issued in lieu of the Temporary Permits formerly issued to those entering the neighbouring Province of Natal. In order to facilitate the passage of Indian travellers, the practice had been created that they should deposit with the Immigration Officer at Volksrust £10 together with £1 the fee on the Temporary Permit which was subsequently issued by the Natal Immigration Officer at Durban upon production of the receipt. There was no inquisition at the border or by the Natal Immigration Officer at Durban, and the facilities thus granted were much appreciated by the Indian community, nor has my Association learnt that they were in any way abused. The whole object of the issue of the new documents, my Association believe, was still further to facilitate the movements of Indian desirous of proceeding to a neighbouring province for a temporary purpose. My Association very much fears that that object will be frustrated by the new requirements to fill up and declare to a document such as form D.1.4. which purports to make an investigation into the whole past of the applicant from the time of his arrival in South Africa. My Association ventures respectfully to represent that to compel applicants for Visiting Passes to undergo an examination of this kind, is calculated to arouse the gravest suspicions in the minds of the community, nor does there appear to my Association to be any valid reason for the creation of an entirely new practice so far as the Transvaal is concerned.

"I have the honour to refer you to the spirit of the remarks made in paragraph 5, page 34, of the report of

the Indian Enquiry Commission. It appears clear therefrom that, so long as a Resident Magistrate was satisfied of the *bona fides* of the applicant, it was the desire of the Commissioners that a Visiting Permit should be issued to him by the Magistrate, and, so far as Transvaal Indians are concerned, my Association is strongly of opinion that these *bona fides* can be most easily tested by the production of the applicant's Transvaal Registration Certificate, and a statement of the purpose for which the Visiting Permit is required.

"My Association finds it extremely difficult, having regard to past history with reference to visits of a temporary nature to neighbouring provinces, to recommend members of the community, that it has the honour to represent, to answer all the questions printed on the face of the form herein referred to, and in view of the complaints that have already reached my Association on this subject, I venture to hope, on its behalf, that the Honourable the Minister will be pleased to re-consider this matter, and consent to the substitution for the present form of application of another document more suited to the occasion for which it is used.

(Sgd) "A. M. CACHALIA."

### Government Obdurate

The Under Secretary for the Interior replies, under date the 11th instant, as follows:—

"With reference to your letter of the 5th instant with reference to form D.I.4. used in connection with inter-provincial visiting permits, I have the honour to inform you that the procedure in question applies equally to applicants in all Provinces of the Union and no differentiation can be made in the manner suggested by you in favour of Transvaal Asiatic residents.

"I am to add that it is considered that your fears on the subject are entirely groundless and that you must realize that these visiting permits will be issued by Magistrates throughout the Union and not only through one Immigration Officer."

### Indians and the War

In connection with the offer of the Indian community in London to render assistance to the British Government in the war, a confidential circular was sent out to Indians. "We, the undersigned," states the circular "have, after mature deliberation, decided for the sake of the Motherland and the Empire to place our services unconditionally, during this crisis, at the disposal of the Authorities. We advisedly use the word 'unconditionally' as we believe that at a moment like this, no service that can be assigned to us, can be considered to be beneath our dignity or inconsistent with our self-respect."

The following letter dated the 14th ultimo, was subsequently addressed to the Under Secretary of State for India:—

"It was thought desirable by many of us that during the crisis that has overtaken the Empire and whilst many Englishmen, leaving their ordinary vocation in life, are responding to the Imperial call, those Indians who are residing in the United Kingdom and who can at all do so, should place themselves unconditionally at the disposal of the Authorities.

"With a view of ascertaining the feeling of the resident Indian population, the undersigned sent out a circular letter to as many Indians in the United Kingdom as could be approached during the 30 hours that the organisers gave themselves. The response has been generous and prompt and, in the opinion of the undersigned, representative of His Majesty's subjects from the Indian Empire at present residing in the different parts of the United Kingdom.

"On behalf of ourselves and those whose names appear on the list appended hereto, we beg to offer our services to the Authorities: We venture to trust that the Right Hon'ble the Marquess of Crewe will approve

of our offer and secure its acceptance by the proper authority. We would respectfully emphasise the fact that the one dominant idea guiding us is that of rendering such humble assistance as we may be considered capable of performing, as an earnest of our desire to share the responsibilities of membership of this great Empire, if we would share its privileges.

"It may be added that some of those whose names are sent herewith, are already doing work in connection with some of the organisations that are already rendering assistance, and we have no doubt that if our humble offer is accepted, as the news permeates the Indian community, many more volunteers will come forward.

The above was signed by M. K. Gandhi, (Mrs.) Kastur Gandhi, (Mrs.) Sarojini Naidu, M. M. Gandeia, Jivraj N. Metha, Sorabji Shapurji, N. R. Khan, D. Virana, Khushro S. Ghandhi, R. L. Lalvani.

The fifty-three signatories (says *India*) include six physicians and surgeons, one surgical dresser, two engineers, one stenographer, four merchants and traders, three barristers, one journalist, seven holders of University degrees, and three ladies.

### Government Accepts Offer

The letter brought the following reply from the Under Secretary, Mr. Charles Roberts:

"Dear Mr. Gandhi.—Lord Crewe desires me to thank you for your letter of the 14th, and to express his warm recognition of your loyal offer of service.

"His Lordship desires to accept the offer in the spirit in which it has been made, and he has given his earnest consideration to the manner in which the services of the Indian community can be utilised to the best interest of the empire.

"He is disposed to think that it would not be advisable for Indian students to volunteer for military duties. If they enlist in the force which Lord Kitchener is now raising they may not be able to leave it for three years; time. His lordship is very averse to encouraging them without the sanction of their parents to take a step which would so seriously interrupt the purpose for which they came to this country, and which might prejudice their whole future. Neither is it possible to advise them to join the Territorial Force, as the establishment is now complete, and a long waiting list is already in existence, so that at the present it is impossible to secure enrolment in that force.

"There is, however, another sphere of public duty not less important for which in this country we are in the habit of depending very largely upon voluntary assistance, and this consists in rendering aid to the sick and wounded. The number of these in the present war may, unhappily, be large, and if that should prove to be the case the military hospitals and military staff may have difficulty in coping with the demands made upon them. It will, therefore, be necessary to create temporary and voluntary organisations to meet this emergency. This duty is already being undertaken by a very large number of Englishmen and women in the voluntary aid detachments of the British Red Cross Society, and it is to work of this kind that Lord Crewe would direct your attention.

"His lordship suggests that a committee should be formed among the Indian residents and visitors in London, and that they should undertake to get up an Indian voluntary aid contingent. It is understood that Mr. James Cantlie, who has taken an active part in the organisation of the voluntary aid detachments of the Red Cross Society, has offered to train and drill an Indian voluntary aid contingent if a sufficient number of persons are prepared to undergo a course of instruction. Lord Crewe notices that several of the signatories to your letter are qualified medical men, and if they will co-operate with Mr. Cantlie there is reason to hope that the Indian voluntary aid contingent would become one of the most efficient detachments in the kingdom.

"It is, of course, quite impossible at the present moment to guarantee that the services of the Indian voluntary aid contingent will be utilised in any given direction. If the number of sick and wounded should, fortunately, not be large, the ordinary military and charitable hospitals will be able to deal with them. But the prevalent feeling in this country, which, as your letter shows, is shared by Indians, is that we ought all to prepare ourselves to render efficient service to the empire should the necessity arise.—Yours truly,

"(Signed) CHARLES ROBERTS."

Steps were taken on receipt of the letter of the Under Secretary of State for India, to act upon the suggestion made by Lord Crewe. A meeting of Indians was held at the house where Mr. Gandhi is staying, and a committee was appointed; Mr. Gandhi was chosen as chairman, Mr. M. M. Gandevia as hon. secretary, and among the members are: Mrs. Sarojini Naidu, Dr. J. N. Mehta, Mr. Sorabji Shapurji, Major Sinha, Colonel Kanta Prasad, Mr. Bhupendranath Basu, Mr. J. N. Sahay, and others. It is expected that work will begin at once with Dr. Cantlie.

### Indians in Action

A Reuter cablegram from Nairobi states that during the fighting in East Africa on the 6th instant the British made a most gallant bayonet charge against most fierce machine-gun fire. The 29th Punjabis suffered somewhat heavily.

Dr. Pearson has kindly consented to give instruction in ambulance and Red Cross work generally to those who have offered their services in Johannesburg.

The members of the Transvaal Indian Women's Association are engaged in making pillow cases in connection with the Red Cross work.

### The Condition of England

An article appears in *The Optimist*, an English quarterly review, by St. John G. Ervine, from which we make the following extracts:—

"Why is it that England to-day is so unsatisfactory? Why is it that in spite of the remarkable development of the amenities of life, existence in England is, on the whole, a rather cheerless thing? When the minds turn towards such an age as that of Elizabeth, and compare it with this age, one instantly feels that, generally speaking, that age was a happier age than this one is. I do not believe that that feeling arises from the natural tendency of people to exalt the past at the expense of the present. My own bias is towards my own times; but when I try to prove to myself that it is better to be alive now than to have been alive then, I fail to convince myself of the truth of my argument. England undoubtedly is richer to-day than it was in the seventeenth century, but I imagine that wealth to-day is less widely distributed than it was then; if we have a greater number of millionaires than the Elizabethans had, we also have a greater number of paupers. There were fewer machines in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, but there were also fewer industrial diseases. We produce a great many more articles than they produced, but our productions wear less well than theirs did. The Elizabethans made fabrics which lasted for at least a lifetime, and in most cases were so durable that they were bequeathed from family to family; we make fabrics which are worn-out at the end of three months. We spend an enormous amount of energy and money in organising factories and workshops for the manufacture of goods which are either trivial or of poor quality. They did not expend a tenth of the energy and money spent by us, and they produced goods of supreme value. There is very little in this age that men three hundred years hence will collect and

cherish; but there was very much made in Elizabeth's day for which we will gladly pay large sums of money.

It is ludicrous to say that a workman in a modern factory, performing some minute operation in a long and complicated process, which culminates in the production of a box of chocolates or a piece of shoddy cloth, has "progressed" beyond and is superior to the workman who, in the Middle Ages, produced stuffs which seem incapable of wearing out.

If we are not, on the whole, a happier people than the Elizabethans were, then we have not progressed, we have retrograded.

And why have we retrograded (for I believe that we have)?—When I compare the Elizabethans with the Fifth Georgians, I discover that there is lacking in our life a very vital thing which was abundant in theirs; and that is religion. I am using the word "religion" here in a sense which is foreign to the mind of the bulk of modern religious people. When I say "religion," I do not mean the Church of England, nor do I mean the Strict and Particular Baptists. The word conveys to me an impression of an exalting force which unifies a race and inspires it. When I speak of a religious people, I speak of a people who are so possessed of a spiritual emotion that they are compelled to expend themselves in the service of some power outside themselves. It is that power which empties a man's spirit of all mean and petty things, and fills it with an indomitable desire to live largely.

The Christian Religion died in England on the day that Arkwright invented the spinning-jenny; and it is very interesting to observe how good taste in drama so far as religion is concerned, grew up thereafter.

We in our day have allowed good taste to be substituted for a natural joy in God, and the result is that England is empty of religion. Turn your eyes where you will in this country, and you will almost certainly find doubt and denial and self-concern. The politicians are so insincere that they do not attempt to disguise their insincerity; an honest man in the House of Commons is regarded as if he were a prig; he is told that he has not got a sense of humour. The bulk of our newspapers are rotted with lies. The bulk of our drama is so foolish that men of intelligence ignore it. Our industrial life is so horrible that one longs for the judgment of God upon it. The mass of people are permanently ill, permanently partially starved, permanently denied access to the amenities of a decent life. In the churches, men are busy over-hauling creeds and recasting beliefs; the men of letters are examining established institutions and finding them wanting; our painters and musicians are carelessly trampling on the accumulated beauty and concord of centuries. One looks at Wigan and Warrington and the little dark towns of the Potteries, and sees instantly that God has fled from them.

A telegram of welcome to Lord Buxton, the Governor-General, on his arrival at Cape Town, has been sent by the Transvaal British Indian Association.

Telegrams of welcome were sent to His Excellency the Governor-General by the Natal Indian Association, Anjuman Islam and Zoroastrian Anjuman.

The Natal Indian Association sent a letter of condolence to the relatives of the late Mrs. Maurice Evans.

Mr. Rustomjee and the Secretary of the Natal Indian Association have received nice letters from General Smuts thanking them for the kind expression of sympathy at the death of his father and thanking the members of the communities.