

Indian Opinion

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MR. TILAK'S PRONOUNCEMENT

WE have great pleasure in giving prominent insertion to the following communication addressed by Mr. B. G. Tilak to the editor of the *Mahratta* of Poona on the 30th August last:—

In view of the exceptional circumstances of the present time, I have to ask you to publish the following in order to remove any possible misunderstanding to my attitude towards Government at this juncture. I have already given expression to these views when addressing my friends the other day at the Ganapati gathering at my house. But feeling that a wider publicity to them is advisable I am addressing this letter to you.

A couple of months ago, when I had an occasion to address those who came to congratulate me on my safe return to Poona, I observed that I was very much in the position of Rip Van Winkle returning to his home after a long sleep in the wilderness. Since then I have had opportunities to fill up the gaps in my information as to what has occurred during my absence, and to take stock of the march of events in India during the past six years. And let me assure you that in spite of certain measures like the Press Act—upon which, however, it is not necessary for me to dilate in this place at any length—I for one do not give up the hope of the country steadily making further progress in the realisation of its cherished goal. The reforms introduced during Lord Morley's and Lord Minto's administration will show that Government is fully alive to the necessity of progressive change and desire to associate the people more and more in the work of Government. It can also be claimed, and fairly conceded, that this indicates a marked increase of confidence between the rulers and the ruled, and a sustained endeavour to remove popular grievances. Considered from a public point of view, I think this is a distinct gain; and though it may not be all unalloyed, I confidently hope that in the end the good arising out of the constitutional reforms will abide and prevail, and that which is objectionable will disappear. The view may appear optimistic to some; but it is an article of faith with me, and in my opinion such a belief alone can inspire us to work for the good of our country in co-operation with Government.

There is another matter to which it is necessary to refer. I find that during the six years of my absence an attempt has been made in the English press here and in England, as for example in Mr. Chisolm's book, to interpret my actions and writings as a direct or indirect incitement to deeds of violence, or my speeches

as uttered with the object of subverting the British rule in India. I am sorry the attempt happened to be made at a time when I was not a free citizen to defend myself. But I think I ought to take the first public opportunity to indignantly repudiate these nasty and totally unfounded charges against me. I have, like other political workers, my own differences with the Government as regards certain measures, and to a certain extent even the system of internal administration. But it is absurd on that account to speak of my actions or my attitude as in any way hostile to his Majesty's Government. That has never been my wish or my object. I may state once for all that we are trying in India, as the Irish Home-rulers have been doing in Ireland, for a reform of the system of administration and not for the overthrow of Government; and I have no hesitation in saying that the acts of violence which have been committed in the different parts of India are not only repugnant to me, but have, in my opinion, only unfortunately retarded, to a great extent, the pace of our political progress. Whether looked at from an individual or from a public point of view they deserve, as I have said before on several occasions, to be equally condemned.

It has been well said that British Rule is conferring inestimable benefit on India not only by its civilized methods of administration but also thereby bringing together the different nationalities and races of India, so that a united Nation may grow out of it in course of time. I do not believe that if we had any other rulers except the liberty-loving British, they could have conceived and assisted us in developing such a national ideal. Every one who has the interests of India at heart is fully alive to this and similar advantages of the British Rule, and the present crisis is, in my opinion, a blessing in disguise inasmuch as it has universally evoked our united feeling and sentiments of loyalty to the British Throne. England, you know, has been compelled by the action of the German Emperor to take up arms in defence of weaker State, whose frontier has been violated in defiance of several treaty obligations and of repeated promises of integrity. At such a crisis it is, I firmly hold, the duty of every Indian, be he great or small, rich or poor, to support and assist his Majesty's Government, to the best of his ability; and no time, in my opinion, should be lost in convening a public meeting of all parties, classes and sections in Poona, as they have been elsewhere, to give an emphatic public expression to the same. It requires hardly any precedent to support such a course. But if one were needed I would refer to the proceedings of a public meeting held by the citizens of Poona so far back as 1879-80 in regard to the complications of the Afghan War, which was proceeding at the time. That proves that our sense of loyalty and desire to support the Government is both inherent and unswerving; and that we loyally appreciate our duties and responsibilities under such circumstances.

"Inadvisable"

At a special meeting of the Durban Town Council on the 2nd instant the Mayor (Mr. W. Holmes) presiding, an appeal was made by Mr. O'Hea, on behalf of Kaison Savjee against the decision of the Licensing Officer for a retail manufacturer's licence for 112A, Victoria Street. The ground of refusal was that the officer deemed it inadvisable to increase the number of Asiatic licences in Durban.

Mr. O'Hea said that the business in question was the manufacture of rough wood boxes in which fruit was packed. He pointed out that the business had been carried on before, but from January to September remained in a state of suspended animation, and as the licence was not renewed it was necessary to make a new application.

The Council retired to consider their decision, and upon returning the Deputy-Mayor moved, and Mr. T. Burman seconded, that the appeal be upheld. This was carried.—*Natal Mercury*

More Offers from India

The Secretary of State for India announces (says *India*) that the Madras War Fund is prepared to supply a fully-equipped hospital ship named the "Madras," with 300 beds, for the use of the Indian Expeditionary Force. The field hospital, previously described as the gift of the Delhi Medical Association, has been presented on behalf of all Indian Mussulmans, and forms part of the equipment of the All-India Medical Mission purchased out of the Turkish Relief Fund organised by the Delhi *Comrade*. It is also announced that His Highness the Aga Khan, in addition to directing the community of which he is the spiritual head to place their personal services and resources unreservedly at the disposal of Government, has volunteered to serve as a private in any infantry regiment of the Indian Expeditionary Force. Mir Ghulam Ali Khan of Khairpur and Sahibzada Nasir Ali Khan of Rampur have likewise offered their personal services.

The following additional information has also been received from the Viceroy regarding the offers which have reached him in connexion with the war:—

His Highness the Maharaja of Idar has been selected for active service.

Further contingents of Imperial Service Troops have been accepted from three States, making fifteen States in all, namely:—Alwar, Bharatpur, Bikaner, Faridkot, Gwalior, Hyderabad, Indore, Jaipur, Jind, Jodhpur, Kapurthala, Kashmir, Mysore, Patiala, Rampur.

Imperial Service contingents from Bahawalpur, Bhavnagar, Bhopal, Idar, Junagadh, Khairpur, Mather Kotla, Navanagar, Sirmur, and Tehri will be accepted later if need arises.

A joint offer from Dhar, Barwani, Ali Rajpur, and Jhabua, who maintain no Imperial Service Troops, is under consideration.

His Highness the Maharaja of Gwalior has also given £22,000 for motor-cars and transport, and £5,000 for relief of Belgian sufferers.

Their Highnesses the Rajah and Rani of Dhar have contributed to His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales' Fund.

Offers of horses have been made by the Chiefs of Baroda, Bhopal, Dhar, Jodhpur, Mysore, Patiala, Rewa.

Loyal offers of service have been received from the tribes of Kurram and the Swat Valley and from the Sam Ranizai, who are ready to raise corps of Frontier tribesmen if desired.

Offers have also been received from the Feudatory State of Amb, from the Bhutan Maharaja, and from the Arab Chiefs in the Aden Hinterland.

The *Daily Express*, writing of the countless offers of assistance received from India, observes that, while British rule has not been without its blunders and its misunderstandings, India has shown us that, with the fine instinct of a highly intelligent and highly civilised race, she appreciates the good intentions, and that, with an equally fine chivalry, she forgets the blunders. "Now we stand together for all time, two races made as one by loyalty to the same Throne and to the same ideals of progress and honour."

A Triumph for Temperance

Mr. Richard Harding Davis, the American journalist, who caught up with the French Army while it was fighting at Soissons, and saw much of the Turcos, the famous Mahomedan soldiers from Algiers and Tunis, writes in the *Daily Telegraph*:—

"Man for man, no white man drugged for years with meat and alcohol is a physical match for these Turcos, who eat dates and drink water. They are lean as starved wolves, they move like panthers, they are all muscle and nerves, and they have the comforting belief that to die sends them straight to the seventh heaven. As Kipling says, a man who has a sneaking desire to live has a poor chance against one who is indifferent whether he kills you or you kill him. The French are almost invariably using these black men to lead the charges. Some think this shows that they do not value their black brothers. On the contrary, they so use him because they know that in help-yourself fighting few white men care to face him."

Wives and Minor Children

The following resolution, dated Simla, the 3rd September, 1914, has been issued by the Government of India in the Commerce and Industry Department:—

The following procedure has been arranged by the Government of India in discussion with the Government of the Union of South Africa to facilitate the admission into the Union of the wives and minor children of Indians resident in that country.

2. The husband or father resident in South Africa who desires to obtain a certificate of relationship from a Magistrate in India to facilitate the admission into the Union of South Africa of his wife or children under the age of sixteen years, will, in the first instance, make application in the prescribed form to the immigration authorities in South Africa or to the Magistrate of the district in South Africa in which he is residing, and on obtaining from the proper officer in South Africa a certificate in respect of his application, will transmit the same to his wife or child, as the case may be, for production with his application for a certificate of relationship before the principal local Magistrate in India, *viz.*, the Chief Presidency Magistrate in a Presidency Town, the Political Officer in a Native State or the District Magistrate, elsewhere.

3. The principal local Magistrate in India on receipt of such application and on production before him of the certificate issued in South Africa, will institute an enquiry, either personally or through an officer not below the rank of a Deputy Tahsildar, a Sub-Deputy Collector or a Mamlatdar according to the province concerned, and if the senior Magistrate is satisfied as to the alleged relationship, he will grant a certificate of relationship in the attached form in favour of the person (or persons) referred to in the application who will present it to the Immigration Officer at the port of entry in support of her, his or their, claim to admission into the Union.

From the Editor's Chair

THE WAR

It will be a matter of deep regret to the whole Indian community, and especially to the Mahomedan section of it, to note that, acting under strong pressure from Germany, Turkey has committed acts of such a character as to compel a declaration of war against her by the Allies, after many remonstrances. The statement of His Highness the Aga Khan, published through the courtesy of His Excellency the Governor-General, states the Indian Mahomedan view very thoroughly. We understand that enquiries have been made as to the view of Mahomedan Indians in South Africa, but such enquiries were entirely superfluous in view of the known loyalty of the entire Indian community. It is quite clear that the causes of dispute between Turkey and those who are unhappily under obligation to oppose her in arms, are of a political and not a religious character, and consequently there can be no question of a divided allegiance. Nevertheless, we trust that in their criticisms and comments upon the new situation that has arisen, the South African newspapers will realise that Mahomedans will naturally have a considerable feeling of regret that the country that has for so long held the hegemony of the Islamic peoples, is now at war with Britain, and that large numbers of co-religionists, many of whom will probably strongly protest against this war, are now, in law, in the enemy's camp. We tender our sincere sympathy to our Mahomedan brethren in the trying circumstances in which they now find themselves, and we are sure that we are voicing their views when we express the hope that the present hostilities will be brought to a speedy conclusion, and that the Turkish element that is hostile to the acts of war committed by Turkey will soon have the upper hand in that unhappy country. Meanwhile the services of Indian Moslems in South Africa, as before, will readily be placed at the disposal of the Government.

To Help Indian Soldiers

The question which seems to be agitating many minds (says the London correspondent of the *Amrita Bazar Patrika*) is: "How will the Indian troops stand the winter?" It is explained that some of them are seasoned to the great cold of northern India, but no doubt the men will not be sorry to receive the warm garments which are being sent to them. One of the correspondents describing the scenes in the Indian camps at Marseilles—after waxing enthusiastic over the completeness of the whole equipment, men, animals, and all necessaries, as evidenced at a review—tells how an Indian demanded a photographer so that a record might be made of himself in woollen pants and vest before he covered them up with his uniform.

Indian ladies in London have also set to work, and will hold regular meetings to assist the supply of warm clothing and other comforts for the Indian troops. Among these who are taking an active interest are Mrs. N. P. Sinha, Mrs. P. L. Roy, Mrs. Bhola Nauth, Miss Bonnerjee, Mrs. D. Khan, and several English ladies, including Mrs. Beverley, Mrs. Warliker, Mrs. E. B. Havell. Messrs. William Whiteley and Co. have offered a room for the use of the ladies, and the work is being organised with efficiency.

The question of climate and the suitability of Marseilles and Alexandria for a hospital and convalescent home for Indian soldiers is still under discussion. The official side of the matter has strong leadership. Lord Roberts has issued an appeal for the "Indian Soldiers" Fund to provide "a hospital in a warm climate" for

the wounded and also to replace the warm clothing with which they will be supplied at first but in regard to which losses are inevitable. With the approval of the Viceroy and the Secretary of State a strong sub-committee has been appointed, including, among others, Sir John Hewett (chairman), Lord Curzon, Lord Harris, Lord George Hamilton, Sir Mortimer Durand, Sir Havelock Charles, Lord Roberts, Sir J. Dunlop-Smith, Mr. Ratan Tata, His Highness the Aga Khan, Lady Sydenham, Lady Minto, Lady Amphyll, Lady Lawley, Lady Dane, Lady Lansdowne, the Duchess of Bedford and the Maharani of Bharatpur.

Indians and the War

London, November 4th (Reuter).—The Press Bureau, in the course of a statement with reference to the Indian contingent, says:—

"Indian troops have now commenced to participate in the operations of the British Expeditionary Forces. One of the first regiments to go into action was heavily shelled, and the entrenching officer, who was present at the time, particularly observed the men's indifference throughout the novel experience. After the first few shells they hardly troubled to look round.

"An opportunity was afforded the Indians later of showing their attacking qualities when a certain village possessing tactical importance had to be taken. The task of storming was assigned to the Indian troops and others. They advanced, in circumstances of the greatest novelty and difficulty to them, under heavy rifle and machine-gun fire, with a dash and resolution worthy of the highest traditions of the army."

The statement adds that it must be remembered that the country in which the Indians are operating is wholly different from that to which they are accustomed, but they have shown a marked degree of adaptability, and as the campaign develops they will doubtless prove admirably trained and fully capable of holding their own.

General French's Message

London, November 4th (Reuter).—Field-Marshal French, in a message congratulating the commander of the Indian Contingent on the performance of the troops under his control, says: "Please congratulate your Indian troops on their gallant conduct, and express my gratitude to them."

British Mahomedans and Turkey

Capetown, November 5th (Reuter).—Reuter's Agency has received the following cable from the Secretary of State for the Colonies for publication:—

His Highness the Aga Khan desires that the following message may be communicated to Moslems in India and his Majesty's other Dominions:

"With deep sorrow I find that the Turkish Government has joined hands with Germany, and, acting under German orders, is madly attempting to wage a most unprovoked war against such mighty Sovereigns as the King-Emperor and the Tsar of Russia. This is not the true and free will of the Sultan, but of the German officers and other non-Moslems who have forced him to do their bidding.

"Germany and Austria have been no disinterested friends of Islam, and while the one took Bosnia, the other has long been plotting to become suzerain of Asia Minor and Mesopotamia, including Kerbela, Nejel, and Bagdad. If Germany succeeds, which heaven forbid, Turkey would become only the vassal of Germany, and the Kaiser's resident would be the real ruler of Turkey, and would control the holy cities.

"No Islamic interest was not in peril; nor was Turkey in peril, for the British and Russian Empires and the French Republic had offered to solemnly guarantee Turkey all her territories in complete independence if

she had remained at peace. Turkey was the trustee of Islam, and the whole world was content to let her hold our holy cities in her keeping. Now that Turkey has so disastrously shown herself a tool in German hands, she has not only ruined herself, but has lost her position as trustee of Islam, and evil will overtake her.

"Turkey has been persuaded to draw the sword in an unholy cause from which she could be but ruined whatever else happened, and she will lose her position as a great nation, for such mighty sovereigns as the King-Emperor and the Tsar can never be defeated. Thousands of Moslems are fighting for their sovereign already, and all men must see that Turkey has not gone to war for the cause of Islam or for the defence of her independence. Thus our only duty as Moslems now is to remain loyal, faithful, and obedient to our temporal and secular allegiances."

Colonial Secretary's Statement

Capetown, November 5th (Reuter).—A second statement which Reuter's Agency has received from the Secretary of State for the Colonies is as follows:—

"The grave situation which has risen with Turkey involves no religious question, and Mahomedans in the holy places of Arabia, as well as the shrines in Mesopotamia, will be immune from attack or molestation by naval and military forces of Great Britain, France, and Russia; nor will any hostile action be taken against the Port of Jeddah provided that the Turkish Government does not interfere with pilgrim traffic from the Dominions and Protectorates of his Majesty the King."

Durban Mahomedans' Views

There has been some conjecture locally since Turkey has been drawn into the European crisis as to what attitude the Mahomedan Indians would take, as the Turks belong to the same religion. India's recently-demonstrated loyalty and patriotism set at rest in most minds any apprehensions there might have been regarding the Indian community here. But the question has been asked in a few places: "With which side is the sympathy of the Mahomedan Indians—with the British or the Turks?" A chat that a reporter of the *Mercury* the other day obtained with a number of prominent Mahomedan Indians in Durban elicited the fact that there is deep-rooted in the minds of all the Indians a strong sense of patriotism. Those who were interviewed all agreed that "their first and foremost duty was to be loyal to the Sovereign and Empire to which they belonged." And this was vouchsafed to be the view in all Indian communities. Turkey's entry into the crisis is not regarded in any way as a holy war, as the religion is in no way attacked.

Each of the Mahomedan leaders interviewed was emphatic in asserting loyalty to the Imperial Government and to the Union Government, and stated that with regard to the latter they were considering what they could do to assist the authorities in restoring normal conditions.

Situation in India

London, November 8.—Reuter's correspondent at Delhi, telegraphing with reference to the situation in India, says it is an ill wind that profits nobody, and he points out that the war has united the Hindus and Mahomedans. All are determined to offer their lives for the Empire, and sacrifice everything for victory. The crisis had welded creeds and classes in a bond unknown hitherto in Indian history.

The Viceroy continues to receive messages from all parts of the country expressing disgust at the manner in which Germany duped Turkey.

The false report that British warships attacked Jeddah roused intense indignation amongst Mahomedans, and is regarded as a good example of Germany's tactics.

Everywhere in India recruiting is brisk, and the entire army in Hindustan is appealing to be sent to the front.—Reuter.

Lord Roberts's Congratulations

London, November 6 (Reuter)—Lord Roberts has despatched telegrams of congratulations to Sir John French and General Willcocks on account of the magnificent bravery of all ranks, both British and Indian.

His Lordship welcomes the Indian troops, who have come to fight for the cause of liberty and truth, and the upholding of the great Empire.

[This is the first intimation we have had (says the *Natal Mercury*) as to the name of the commander of the Army from India. Prior to the war, Sir J. Willcocks was in command of the Northern Army in India.]

The Indian Field Ambulance Corps

The London correspondent of the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* in her weekly letter writes:—The Indian Field Ambulance Corps has had its first taste of camp life; it spent last week end about ten miles from London, at Eastcote, near Pinner, Middlesex, the site being placed at the disposal of the authorities by Mr. Frank Debenham. Mr. Gandhi was with the Corps, and they came through their first experience very well. During the week they are at work in London, but spend the week-ends at Eastcote. They have had instruction in sanitation and hygiene, and will be most helpful in being able to understand what the Indian troops say; the Corps includes men from all parts of India. The spread of disease is one of the "side" horrors of war, and men able to fight it as they fight the enemy are doing great service to the Empire and the world.

British Press Comments

We give below some extracts from the press pronouncements called forth by the news of the landing of the Indian troops in France:—

The *Daily Graphic*, after declaring that the Indian soldiers will show themselves worthy of the splendid records they have achieved on countless battlefields in Asia, adds, "Never before has India been brought so close to the heart of England, and both will gain permanently by the increased spirit of mutual confidence between Briton and Indian that German aggression has called into being."

The *Evening News* writes: "We have given great freedom to the people of India, and as years go by we shall give them more and more, just as we have given our own self-governing Dominions freer and freer rein, until the bonds that bind them to us are only of the spirit and yet far stronger than any of purely material strength."

The *Daily Mail* declares that "It has been reserved for German policy to strengthen British sympathy with the Indian peoples and to weld the races of the Empire by that sense of unity and reciprocal affection which comes with common effort and sacrifice in the fighting line against a common foe."

The *Morning Post* says: "The spirit of camaraderie may be trusted to make the Indian troops at home in their new surroundings. They are, as it were, the guests of their British comrades in arms. We recommend them also to our good Allies, the French, who will find them good soldiers and true gentlemen."

The *Star* does not hesitate to say that "British rule in India, Ireland, and South Africa has not been faultless, but its human errors have been repaired by its steadfast strivings towards justice, liberty, and equal citizenship. . . . Every Indian soldier fights," adds our contemporary, "as a citizen and as an equal of his British comrades in defence of a common heritage."

The *Westminster Gazette* puts the parallel thus: "India recognises at this time that there is no other European Government which she could desire to have

installed in the place of the British Raj. It is our part in return to see that she has full opportunities of working out her destinies and taking a position in the Empire which satisfies her self-respect and her pride in her ancient civilisation."

"The landing of the Indian cohorts at Marseilles is a signpost of unheralded and unequalled meaning in the progress of human solidarity," says the *Pall Mall Gazette*.

The *Aberdeen Journal*: "All over the Empire the deeds of the Indian troops will excite a profound interest, and their efficiency and courage will, we may be sure, prove to the world that the high opinion formed of them by Lord Roberts and Lord Kitchener—Commanders-in-Chief of the Indian Army—is fully warranted."

The *Newcastle Chronicle*: "We cannot remain indifferent to such proofs of devotion. . . . and it will be more than ever the task of the Indian administrator to hasten the day when our suzerainty will remain as the corner-stone of a complete structure of autonomy."

The *Nottingham Guardian*: "Out of this terrible war good will in many ways come, and not the least of the permanent benefits will be the tightening of the bonds uniting Great Britain and India."

From an American paper, the *New York World*, we take the following: "What an army! Its native contingents belong mainly to a civilisation that was old when Germany was a forest, and early Britons stained their naked bodies blue with woad. The Sanskrit elements of their speech are the parent tongue of Aryan Europe."

Lala Lajpat Rai on India's Loyalty

The action of his Majesty's Government is both memorable and momentous (writes Lala Lajpat Rai in the *Westminster Gazette*). It raises the British as well as the Indian in the estimation of the world. It is an occasion for proving that British rule in India does not rest on the British sword but on British principles. Whatever may be said against that rule from a purely Indian point of view, it cannot be denied that British rule in India is a monument of British genius for government and for their general sense of justice. It is a pleasure to notice the liberal spirit in which the representatives of his Majesty's Government in Parliament and the Liberal Press throughout Great Britain have welcomed this decision of their Government. What, however, adds to the pleasure and pride of the Hindus over and above that felt by Indians as such is the fact that on this unique occasion they are represented by what stands for the highest chivalry and the noblest valour in the history of their race. By whom could they have wished to be represented than by the blue-blooded Rajput, to whose noble virtues even Abul Fazl, the historian of the great Mogul, Akbar, pays the following tribute: "Their character" (i.e., that of the Hindus), says Abul Fazl, "shines brightest in adversity. Their soldiers (Rajputs) know not what it is to flee from the field of battle." The Rajput is hard to be reduced, but once he submits and swears his allegiance, his word is as unshakable as the rocks of Aravalli, his native hills.

Speech by Sir Pertab Singh

London, October 28th.—In the course of an oration delivered by the veteran Indian ruler, Sir Pertab Singh, Maharaja of Jammu and Kashmir, who was accompanied by the Maharaja and Regent of Jodhpur, he said that Britishers were at the present time shedding their blood like water for a great cause.

Sir Pertab Singh said that the British had in the past been willing to shed their blood for the Rajput States of India and would be willing to do so in future, and that the time had now arrived for the Rajputs to show their great gratitude by taking the field and shedding their blood for the King Emperor. Consequently he and the Maharajah were going to the front;

and he assured his people that the British Government would take action to look after the interests of the States during their absence.—*Evening Chronicle*.

[NOTE: Sir Pertab Singh is not the Maharaja of Jammu and Kashmir. He is the Regent of Jodhpur.—Ed. I.O.]

Equal to the Best

Writing editorially on the action by Indian troops, the *Rand Daily Mail* says:—

Observers of the fight, we are told, were full of praise of the splendid courage and discipline displayed by the Indian soldiers, who apparently showed themselves to be the equal of the best troops in the field. It is evident that the well-trained and dashing army sent from India will be of great value to the Allies in a campaign in which so much depends upon the ability to push forward fresh troops. The German reinforcements are said to be far inferior to the first armies called up, whereas the Allies have the advantage of splendid regiments from Canada, Australia, and India. A spirit such as that which animated the Indians in their first engagement means much at this period of the campaign. It can more than balance the desperate efforts which the Germans are making to thrust back the Allies by pushing forward huge masses of men regardless of the loss of life sustained. The news of the gallantry of the Indian soldiers will be received with pleasure all over the Empire, and especially in India, from whence further offers of assistance are continually reaching London.

A White Man's World

Until less than a generation ago (writes A. G. G. in the *Daily News and Leader*) the right of the white man to inherit the earth belonged to the category of indisputable axioms. His adventurous spirit had carried him far and wide and he had raised his flag, usually the British flag, over all the great waste places of the globe, brushing the little peoples aside from his path in his masterful stride. The red man melted before him in America, the black man before him in Australasia. He laid India under tribute and cut up Africa as if he were cutting up a cake, allotting this section to the German, that to the French, another to the Portuguese, a fourth to the Belgian, the largest share to the Englishman.

There was no question in all this of asking leave of the natives. The white man would have as little thought of asking the natives whether they wanted him to take possession of their land as of asking the kangaroos or the buffaloes. He had the argument of force and he easily construed that into a Divine authority for his dominion over palm and pine. His attitude to the subject peoples was in keeping with this view. Here he enslaved them; there he tortured and slew them, elsewhere he sought to govern them justly and civilise them. He gave them sometimes the Bible and sometimes rum, his tastes and not seldom his diseases. He carried them in thousands from Africa to till the Virginian fields and incidentally to sow the seed of a great colour problem for himself in modern America. He brought them from India in thousands to enrich himself by their labour in Natal and incidentally sowed the seed of a great problem for himself in the South Africa of to-day. But behind all his varying methods there was one dominant unquestioned idea. Everywhere he proceeded upon the assumption that the white man was born to possess the earth and that the coloured man was born to be his hewer of wood and drawer of water, used if he needed him and thrown aside if he did not need him.

London, November 6.—The King to day received the Aga Khan in audience.—Reuter.

News in Brief

We regret to announce that Mr. Gabriel Isaac died in the Johannesburg Hospital on Monday morning, after an illness lasting more than a month. We intend to give in our next issue an obituary notice with portrait.

The Honourable Mr. Gokhale returned to London on October 6th being much benefited by the cure at Vichy, and his subsequent rest at Eastbourne. He had arranged to leave for India on the 7th instant.

We understand that among the nominations for the presidency of the Indian National Congress was that of Mr. Gandhi as a first choice by the Central India Congress Committee. Of course, apart altogether from Mr. Gandhi's personal views, his election is this year, as the *Leader* says, out of the question. The next president will probably be Lalā Lajpat Rai.

We shall give in our next issue interesting cartoons dealing with India's part in the great war.

Mr. Cachalia, Chairman of the British Indian Association, has received an autograph letter from the Honourable Dadabhai Naoroji, dated the 11th September, as follows:—"I acknowledge with many thanks your kind telegram communicating that Transvaal Indians 'tender respectful loving congratulations' on my 50th birthday. Kindly offer Transvaal Indians my very sincere thanks for their good feeling towards me."

We acknowledge with thanks copy of a photograph of Dr. Rabindranath Tagore reproduced by Mr. K. D. L. Pillay, 179 Umgeni Road, Durban. Mr. Pillay informs us that he is selling these photographs at 2s 6d. per copy, the proceeds, after deducting expenses, to go to Mr. Tagore's School at Bolpur.

The marriage of Miss Maud Polak to Mr. Cheesman took place in London on the 8th August last. Mr. Cheesman has volunteered for active service and Mrs. Cheesman is at present staying at 110 Grove Avenue, Habwell, London, W., where all correspondence should be addressed. We trust that, when the war is over, there may be a happy re-union and that their married life may be happy and useful.

A Fancy Fête was held at "Arcadia," the residence of Sir Lionel Phillips, on Wednesday, the 4th instant, in aid of the French and Belgian Widows and Orphans Fund. The British Indian Association had been asked to assist and the result was a well-executed Oriental stall, tastefully decorated and designed by Mr. Solomon Royeppen; within was a tableau representing the Court of an India Rajah and Ranee, for which Mr. D. Morgan was in the main responsible. The scene attracted much attention and its interest was added to by a display of Indian juggling and snake-charming. Amongst the interested onlookers was H.E. Lady Buxton, who opened the Fête. She made numerous sympathetic inquiries, expressing appreciation of the Indian assistance, and shook hands with and spoke cordially to some Indian ladies who were present.

London, October 27th, (Reuter)—A White paper was issued to-night, relating to the Indians' Relief Act. Mr. Lewis Harcourt, the Colonial Secretary, in a dispatch therein, dwells upon the Imperial Government's great satisfaction at the passing of the measure, and expresses its special indebtedness to the Union Government, the Union Parliament, and Sir William Solomon and his fellow members of the Commission. It also expresses an appreciation of the constant interest shown by Lord Gladstone, the then Governor-General of the Union.

Dewan Bahadur Ambalal Sankarlal D:rai, whose death at the age of 71 took place at Ahmedabad on September

12, was a staunch supporter of the Congress movement (says *India*). He was the first Gujarati to obtain a university degree, and was a contemporary at college of the late Mr. Justice Telang, of the Bombay High Court. For a number of years he filled the important office of Chief Justice of Baroda, and acted as chairman of the Reception Committee when the Congress met at Ahmedabad in 1902. He took a prominent part in educational work and in the industrial activities of his province. His influence was deservedly great and was invariably exercised in the right direction. Gujarat has lost a citizen whom it will find it hard to replace.

London, October 23.—Reuter's Tokio correspondent states that the exchange of telegrams which has taken place between the British and Japanese Admiralties has created profound gratification in Japan, where Britain's appreciation of Japan's high motives was especially welcomed.

The Hon. Rai Bahadur Sri Ram, C.I.E., (who died at Lucknow while presiding over a meeting of his community in support of the British cause), had reached his 60th year (says *The Times*) and had long been one of the most conspicuous public men in Oudh. He was for 22 years Public Prosecutor and Government Pleader in the Province, and since 1893, when the Legislative Councils were first enlarged, he had served almost uninterruptedly either on the United Provinces Legislature or the Supreme Council. He was created a C.I.E. in 1906.

A ready response has been given (says *India*) to the proposal of the Bengal Government that an ambulance corps should be formed by educated Indians in Calcutta. Nearly 600 were recruited in a few days, and a contingent of 40 medical men was obtained without difficulty. A communication has, however, been received that the corps cannot be sent out of India. This decision has been received with general disappointment.

The members of the Reception Committee of the coming Congress at Madras have met to consider whether the Congress should be held this year owing to the war, and that after much discussion they have decided that it should be held. It has also been suggested that a joint session of the Indian National Congress and the All-India Moslem League should be held, and "a united resolution" of devotion and loyalty to his Majesty the King-Emperor and his Government shall be passed by them on behalf of educated India.

The Leader Allahabad says:—None gave proof of more signal patriotism than the Indians of South-Africa last year. It was a sound political instinct that dictated their loyal adhesion to their heroic leader, Mr. Gandhi, and the passive resistance movement. It is again a sound political instinct that has led them now to lay aside their grievances for the time being and resolve to spend themselves in the service of the Empire in this crisis.

It is proposed to give effect to the suggestion made by Sir John Jardine in the House of Commons, that appreciation should be shown in tangible form of India's contribution to the fighting forces at the front by subscribing liberally to funds to provide comforts for the Indian troops. A committee is being formed (says *India*) for the purpose which, while unofficial in character, will work in co-operation with the military authorities as well as with organisations already existing in India. It will collect and administer funds and secure assistance from all available sources.