

Indian Opinion

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GERMISTON BAZAAR REGULATIONS

THE Chairman of the Transvaal British Indian Association has addressed the following letter, dated the 1st instant, to the Town Clerk, Germiston:—

My Association is requested by the Germiston Indian community to lodge the following objections to the draft Asiatic Bazaar Regulations that it is proposed to recommend for publication. My Association offers the following objections thereto:—

Section 5 can only be accepted by my Association subject to the elimination of those regulations to which my Association objects. The same remarks apply to schedule "A" referred to in section 6.

In my Association's opinion section 7 is *ultra vires* in that it purports to alter or amend the common law of South Africa. A similar objection applies to sections 8 and 9.

My Association objects to section 11, paragraph 1, in so far as it authorises the Inspector to take particulars of the registered number of leaseholders or residents.

Paragraph 2 is objected to on the ground that it imposes upon leaseholders or residents, obligations to which they would not be subjected if they resided outside of the Location. Objection is taken to section 13 on the ground that it is *ultra vires* as operating in restraint of trade and as opposed to the statute law of the Transvaal with reference to trading.

With reference to paragraph "B" thereof, it is, in my Association's opinion, highly objectionable that the Council should be allowed to charge any fee, having regard to the fact that a licensee has already paid either to the Government or to the Municipality, a fee for his licence.

Section 15 is objected to on the ground that the period of 14 days of grace is far too short having regard to the ordinary circumstances of a business man, and the fact that many standholders have already erected substantial buildings at considerable cost.

Section 19 is objected to on the ground that paragraph 2 thereof purports in effect to confer upon the Municipality a special lien which the common law of South Africa does not give it.

Section 21 as amended is objected to on the ground that the measurement given in section 21 of the Boksburg Asiatic Bazaar regulations were considered sufficient when these regulations were promulgated barely 9 months ago. To increase the dimensions as recommended without any apparent reason appears to my Association to be an arbitrary proceeding and calculated to operate disadvantageously to standholders from the financial point of view.

Section 22 is objected to on principle as giving wholly undesirable powers of a police nature to the Inspector. My Association regards this section as being of a most insulting and humiliating character.

The objection raised to section 19 operates equally against section 24.

My Association objects to section 25 on account of its general undesirability, and because it would operate in a manner detrimental to the interests of standholders.

In my Association's opinion section 26 and 27 are *ultra vires* of the law, and at the present time an appeal is before the Supreme Court with reference to section 26 of the Boksburg Bazaar Bye-laws. As the matter is *lis pendens* my Association is of opinion that these regulations should be held over.

In my Association's opinion a similar objection lies in regard to section 36. No Police Officer should have access to any lot, hut or dwelling, save in accordance with the common or ordinary statute law of the country, and no servant of the local authority should have any right of the inspection save at reasonable times.

In my Association's opinion the same objections that apply to sections 26 and 27 apply to section 40 against which similarly an appeal is being heard.

Objection is also raised against the tariff referred to in section 13 (b).

In conclusion my Association begs to remind you that it was upon the representation that the regulations to be framed were to be similar to those operating in the Pretoria Bazaar, that the Germiston Indian community were induced to remove from the Old Location to the New, and it is hoped that these representations made herein will result in fresh regulations being framed more in accordance with the requirements of the situation and the difficulty of the Indian community.

I may add that my Association was unaware of the tenor of the Boksburg regulations until recently when its attention was specially drawn to them. Had it known earlier of their provisions, my Association would have objected in a similar manner.

Indians Visiting India

Capetown, December 1st (Reuter).—At a meeting of the local Indians correspondence was read which passed between the Cape British Indian Union and the Minister of the Interior.

The former made representations to the effect that a number of Indians visiting India held identification certificates entitling them to return to the Union within a year. These were, however, unable to find any steamer whereby they could return within a year.

The Minister of the Interior, in reply, stated that instructions had already been given to all the principal immigration officers in the Union that all outstanding certificates of identity or certificates of identification issued to Indians prior to the passing of the Indian Relief Act, on which the period of availability was stated to be one year, should be regarded as being available for three years from the date of issue.

Honour to Japan

Sir Claude MacDonald, formerly British Ambassador to Japan, pays high tribute to the moral character of the Japanese in a remarkable letter to *The Times*.

"In a recent issue of your paper," he says, "you printed an appeal made by German theologians to 'Evangelical Christians abroad' together with the dignified, reasoned, and conclusive reply made by British theologians to the same. The German theologians in their appeal state as follows:—'Into the war which the Tsar has openly proclaimed as the decisive campaign against Teutonism and Protestantism heathen Japan is now also called, under the pretext of an alliance.'

"It was my privilege to be British representative at the Court of Tokyo from the commencement of the negotiations which preceded the war between Japan and Russia until peace was signed; incidentally, also, it was my great privilege to be an instrument, though a very humble one, in the making of the alliance alluded to by the German theologians. May I therefore venture to state as follows:

"The whole world knows with what splendid valour our allies fought, but it is not known as generally as I think it ought to be how straightforward, honest, and dignified, and how loyal to us, was the conduct of these negotiations; it is not generally known how appreciative of the stubborn valour of their opponents, how courteous and chivalrous to them in defeat, how cheery and patient in their own sufferings, were the 'heathen' Japanese.

"It is not known, perhaps, as I know it, that fullest information regarding wounded Russians in the hospitals of Japan, for transmission to their friends, was immediately obtainable, the nature and gravity of the wounds, and in some cases even the temperature of the patient, being telegraphed! The present Viceroy of India, then Ambassador at St. Petersburg, can bear me out as to this.

"I venture, therefore, to think that some Christian nations, not forgetting Germany, have much to learn of the Christian virtues of chivalry, courtesy, and honesty from heathen Japan."

"Upon a Foundation of Sand"

The Religious Society of Friends in England has issued a "message to men and women of goodwill in the British Empire." It has to do with the present war. We give the part which deals with the question of reconstruction at the close of hostilities:—

"It is not too soon to begin to think out the new situation which will arise at the close of the war. We are being compelled to face the fact that the human race has been guilty of a gigantic folly. We have built up a culture, a civilisation, and even a religious life, surpassing in many respects that of any previous age, and we have been content to rest it all upon a foundation of sand. Such a state of society cannot endure so long as the last word in human affairs is brute force. Sooner or later it was bound to crumble. At the close of this war we shall be faced with a stupendous task of reconstruction. In some ways it will be rendered supremely difficult by the legacy of ill-will, by the destruction of human life, by the tax upon all in meeting the barest wants of the millions who will have suffered through the war. But in other ways it will be easier. We shall be able to make a new start, and to make it all together. From this point of view we may even see a ground of comfort in the fact that our own nation is involved. No country will be in a position which will compel others to struggle again to achieve the inflated standard of military power existing before the war. We shall have an opportunity of reconstructing European culture upon the only possible permanent founda-

tion—mutual trust and goodwill. Such a reconstruction would not only secure the future of European civilisation, but would save the world from the threatened catastrophe of seeing the great nations of the East building their new social order also upon the sand, and thus turning the thought and wealth needed for their education and development into that which could only be a fetter to themselves and a menace to the West. Is it too much to hope for that we shall, when this time comes, be able as brethren together to lay down far-reaching principles for the future of mankind such as will insure us for ever against a repetition of this gigantic folly? If this is to be accomplished, it will need the united and persistent pressure of all who believe in such a future for mankind. There will still be multitudes who can see no good in culture of other nations, and who are unable to believe in any genuine brotherhood among those of different races. Already those who think otherwise must begin to think and plan for such a future if the supreme opportunity of the final peace is not to be lost, and if we are to be saved from being again sucked down into the whirlpool of military aggrandisement and rivalry. In time of peace all the nations have been preparing for war. In the time of war let all men of goodwill prepare for peace. The Christian conscience must be awakened to the magnitude of the issues. The great friendly democracies in each country must be ready to make their influence felt. Now is the time to speak of this thing, to work for it, to pray for it."

Right of Appeal Defeated

An immigration case of considerable interest was heard before the Judge President (the Hon. J. C. Dove Wilson), the Hon. Justice Broome, and the Hon. Justice Hathorn, at the Supreme Court on the 4th instant, says the *Natal Advertiser*.

An Indian named Bhana Daga applied for an interdict preventing the Chief Immigration Officer from exercising his power under a warrant received from the Under Secretary for the Interior prohibiting the applicant from entering the Colony.

It appeared that the applicant was refused admission into the Colony last year, but thinking that he had a right to come in, in view of subsequent legislation, he returned. The Chief Immigration Officer refused to admit him, and the man then intimated that he desired to appeal to the Board against the decision. The officer did not, according to the applicant, do his duty, submit the appeal to the Appeal Board, but secured a warrant from a person, authorised by the Minister of the Interior, prohibiting the applicant from entering the Union.

In giving judgment, the Judge President said that according to the Principal Immigration Officer, his hands were tied in the matter. The applicant was prohibited in 1913. The Court was asked to interdict in a case which would be an interference with the warrant of a Minister, which, it seemed, they had no jurisdiction to do so. The interdict, therefore, would have to be discharged. At the same time, it must be observed that in the present case, the applicant came to this country before the Immigration Regulation Act of 1913 came into force. Subsequent to his being deported the Act mentioned and the Indians Relief Act were passed, and under the terms of these Acts, the applicant thought that he might lawfully return to the country. He entered an appeal to the Appeal Court against the action of the Immigration Officer in restricting him from entering the Colony. He intimated his intention to appeal to the officer, and according to the regulations it was the duty of the officer to bring the fact, that the applicant intended to appeal to the Board, with a view to arrangements being made to the notice for the appeal to be heard. That was not done.

Continuing, the Judge President said that he was not going to express any view as to whether there was neglect of duty or not on the part of the officer; but the fact remained that he did not intimate the intention to appeal, even two months afterwards, to the Chairman of the Appeal Board. In the meantime the Immigration Officer had been in communication with the Minister, and upon the facts which were communicated by the Immigration Officer the Minister proceeded with the issue of the warrant. The effect of that was that the right of appeal which the Act said the man should have was defeated, and he was deprived of the advantage of the decision of the Board, if any such advantage might be had. The applicant was certainly entitled under the Act to appeal, and that it was still possible that he should be allowed to appeal. With that expression of opinion he must content himself.

The Hon. Justice Hathorn said that he thought it was sufficient to say that the applicant was entitled to have his appeal heard. He was sure that no Minister would perform an act which would deprive the man of the one relief to which he was entitled.

The interdict was accordingly discharged, no order being made as to the costs.

From the Editor's Chair

GERMISTON AND BOKSBURG

A SHORT while ago we published the relevant sections of the Boksburg Asiatic Bazaar regulations published last February. It would appear that, following upon the evil precedent then set, the Municipality of Germiston has under consideration new draft bye-laws of a very similar character. There are certain slight alterations, usually to the disadvantage of those against whom the regulations are desired to operate. In another column we publish copy of a letter addressed by the Chairman of the British Indian Association to the Municipality and to the Transvaal Administration, objecting to several of these regulations, and the tenor of the protest is such as should enlist the sympathies of Indians throughout South Africa. It is quite evident that the whole purpose of these regulations is to reduce the status of Indians residing in these Locations to that of aboriginal natives for whom similar bye-laws have been passed, and have been enforced for some years. It is quite evident that the regulations purport to make the location Inspector a petty tyrant, armed with practically arbitrary powers over the residents, or rather, should we say, the denizens, of these select localities. If the Indian community tolerates such an attack upon its self-respect as the regulations imply, we can only say that it will deserve everything that it gets. It is absolutely necessary that a strong stand should be taken. Indians are not aboriginal natives of South Africa, and they will not tolerate treatment as such. We venture to hope that the Transvaal Administration will take warning whilst there is yet time to avoid unpleasant happenings. It is a sorry commentary upon the loyal co-operation of the Indian community that this time should be chosen by selfish and narrow-minded communities such as those represented by the Boksburg and Germiston Municipalities for an overt attempt to thrust humiliation and dishonour upon the Indian population that has the misfortune to be subject to their control.

Transvaal Shop Hours and Licensing Ordinance

(Concluded)

CHAPTER III

Inspection by Authorized Person

12. (1) The Administrator shall appoint officers to be called shop inspectors to have authority within the areas mentioned in paragraph (c) of sub-section (1) of section two and within a distance of five miles beyond the boundaries of any such area, and may appoint other such inspectors for any other area in this Province. The said shop inspectors may at any time enter any shop in order to ascertain whether the provisions of this Ordinance are being complied with and for such purpose may inspect any attendance register.

(2) In any area where no shop inspector has been appointed as aforesaid any member of the police force may carry out the duties of a shop inspector as prescribed in sub-section (1)

(3) Any person who prevents or obstructs any such shop inspector or member of the Police Force from entering any shop or carrying out his duty therein shall be guilty of an offence.

Power to Make Regulations

13. The Administrator may from time to time make regulations—

(1) prescribing the articles which may be sold at coffee stalls without bringing them within the provisions of this Ordinance;

(2) prescribing the day which at the request of any local authority may be substituted for Wednesday in terms of sub-section (1) (b) of section two;

(3) prescribing the methods whereby means of internal communication between rooms or portions of buildings may be closed and kept closed in order to comply with the provisions of sub-section (3) of section four;

(4) defining the localities in which meat, game, poultry and fish may be sold and delivered on Sunday in accordance with the provisions of proviso (b) to section five;

(5) prescribing and defining the description of attendance registers which may be used under the provisions of section nine in addition to or in substitution for that prescribed in the Second Schedule, and the methods of recording the hours worked by deliverymen;

(6) prescribing the method of recording by means of attendance registers or otherwise the daily hours worked by deliverymen;

(7) prescribing the duties of shop inspectors.

Penalties

14. (1) Any person who contravenes any of the provisions of this Ordinance or the regulations framed thereunder shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction to a fine of not exceeding fifty pounds or in default of payment to imprisonment with or without hard labour for a period not exceeding three months.

(2) The occupier of a shop shall not be guilty of an offence against this Ordinance—

(a) When a customer is served after the closing hour prescribed for that shop, if he proves that the customer was in the shop for the purpose of making a purchase before the time when the shop was required to be closed; provided that in no case shall any customer be served or any shop assistant be kept in the shop later than half an hour after the prescribed closing time on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday or Saturday, or later than a quarter of an hour after the prescribed closing time on Wednesday or such other day in which that shop is required to be closed at one o'clock in the afternoon

(b) when any shop assistant is employed after the closing time prescribed for that shop solely in dispatching goods sold thereat; provided that no such assistant shall be so employed for longer than half an hour after that closing time.

Occupier's Defence if Charged

(3) Where the occupier of a shop is charged with an offence against this Ordinance, if he proves to the satisfaction of the court that he has used due diligence to enforce the execution of the Ordinance and that another person has committed the offence in question without his knowledge, consent, or connivance, he shall not be deemed guilty of the said offence.

First Schedule

Hairdressers' Shops
Tobacconists' Shops
Book-sellers' Stationers'
and Newspaper Shops
Bakers' Shops

Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays till 7 p.m. Wednesdays, or the half-holidays substituted therefor under section two (r) (b), till 1 p.m. Saturdays till 9 p.m. Sundays not to open. Provided that on Sundays and public holidays a baker's shop may be open till 9 a.m. for the sale of bread except in the areas mentioned in section two (r) (c)

Kaffir Eating-houses.

Every day, including Sundays, till 8 p.m.

Every day, including Sundays, till midnight.

Refreshment Shops
Shops where the sale of fruit, vegetables, flowers, or sweets, or any or all of them, is the sole business carried on therein

Provided that any occupier of a refreshment shop situated within the area of a local authority, and wherein no other business is carried on, who has obtained special permission in writing from the local authority in that behalf may keep that shop open till such hour after midnight as may be prescribed in such special permission.

The Economic Effects of War in India

The latest news from India shows that the war is likely to cause widespread distress in that country (writes Lala Lajpat Rai in *The New Statesman*). People there had hardly recovered from the effects of the financial crisis brought about by the failure of important Indian banks in the Punjab and Bombay during last year. As one of the directors of the premier Indian bank (The Punjab National Bank, Ltd., Lahore) in the Punjab, I know full well what that crisis meant to the Indian trader and to the poor and middle-class depositors of the northern provinces. The distress caused was as widespread as can be imagined. There was hardly an Indian family in the upper provinces which was not hit directly and indirectly; but the sufferings of the poor depositor, the widow and the orphan, were simply indescribable. The People's Bank of India, Ltd., Lahore, alone had seventy-two branches all over India, and attracted a large number of deposits by widows and orphans on account of special rates of interest it allowed on such deposits. The panic brought about by its failure caused the failure of ten more banks within three months of the day when it stopped payment, and since then six more have been added to the list. Several other banks failed at Bombay and

Karrachi, the most important being the Indian Specie Bank, which had also a branch in London.

The failure of these banks brought about the failure of numerous trading firms dealing with them or otherwise depending on them. Some of the first-class houses at Karrachi and Bombay collapsed, and in their train brought about devastation and ruin on numerous families. Trade came to a standstill. Cotton went down heavily. Money was scarce. The rate of interest, even on the best security, was as high as 12 per cent. The Presidency banks at different provincial centres would not guarantee loans or advances even on the security of Government paper; at least, the Bank of Bengal at Lahore did not. On top of this came the misery brought about by the failure of rain in the United Provinces of Agra and Oude. The latest bank failures at Lahore happened only in July and September, 1914. The war has, so to say, filled the cup to the brim. The Money Market is again tight. Most people have withdrawn or are withdrawing their capital from circulation. The biggest banking firms at Calcutta, Bombay and Karrachi are closing their businesses and retiring to their homes in the interior of the country.

The latest news is that the rainfall is good and we may expect good crops. It should not be forgotten, however, that a plentiful rainfall is not the only thing wanted for good crops. However, assuming that luck is going to favour us in that direction, a good cotton crop with no buyers in the market, or with buyers at exceedingly low prices, lower even than what cotton fetched during last winter, means utter ruin to the producer. Hundreds and thousands of acres of land that formerly produced foodstuffs have been diverted to cotton crops, and if the latter fail to bring even living wages to the cultivator, the misery wrought may be better imagined than stated.

To sum up, the war is likely to cause widespread distress in India: (a) by the tightening of the money market and the scarcity of money; (b) by the collapse of import and export trade; (c) by the rise in the prices of necessities; (d) by the fall in the price of cotton. If to this be added the necessity or the duty of subscribing liberally to the War Fund, the conclusion may be left to be drawn by the reader.

Evils of the Indenture System

Dr. Charles W. Eliot, a distinguished American who recently undertook a tour in the Far East at the instance of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, has some very pertinent remarks to make on the subject of the regulation of the migration of labourers: "The regulation of emigration and immigration," he says, "should be the object of anxious care with all the Oriental Governments, whether alien or native; and great pains should be taken to prevent emigrants from leaving their own country under conditions that will involve them in serious moral and physical deterioration and economic loss. Wherever large bodies of unmarried men emigrate to a strange land in search of work under conditions imperfectly known to them; the chances are that they will live in barracks on isolated plantations, or near isolated mines or factories, and that family life will be impossible for them. Under such circumstances, labourers degenerate rapidly, both morally and physically, and out of their wretchedness come inter-colonial, international and inter-racial disputes."

It is practically certain (says the *Madras Mail*) that the Government of Madras will deny that the labour they allow to emigrate experiences conditions such as those quoted above. For instance, in the Report of the Protector of Emigrants, Madras, for last year, a point is made of the fact that particular care was taken to ensure that the proper proportion of married couples formed part of each shipment to Fiji. But the fact remains that by far the larger pro-

portion of labourers are unmarried men; or men who have left wives behind, and it may be possible that their conditions of life are not removed from those described above.

Indians and the War

Casualties among officers of the Indian Expeditionary Force are beginning to be reported (says *India*). The 9th Bhopal Infantry appears to have suffered most severely. It has lost its colonel and one subadar, while one English officer and two Indian officers have been wounded, and two other Indian officers, both Brahmans, are returned as "wounded and missing." The casualties in other regiments are as follows up to the moment of going to press:—

47th Sikhs, one English officer and one jemadar killed, three English officers (including the colonel) and two Indian officers wounded; 34th Sikh Pioneers, two English and one Indian officer wounded; 15th Ludhiana Sikhs, two English and three Indian officers wounded; 3rd Brahmans, one English officer wounded; 59th Scinde Rifles, one English officer killed, and two English and one Indian officer wounded; 57th Wilde's Rifles, one English officer (the colonel) wounded; 23rd Sikh Pioneers, one Indian officer wounded; 129th Baluchis, one English officer, died of wounds; 3rd Sappers and Miners, one Indian officer wounded.

London Indian Volunteers

We take the following from a circular letter, dated the 4th ultimo, signed by Mr. Gandhi and Mr. Gandevia:—

"There were at the Netley Hospital last Sunday nearly 470 Indian wounded soldiers. Many more are expected to arrive shortly, if they are not there already. Nearly all the available members of the Indian Volunteers Corps are working either as nurses or as orderlies at Netley. The cry is for more orderlies.

"The Committee thinks that it should be considered a proud privilege by us to be able to nurse our own wounded countrymen. At least two hundred more recruits will be required in order to cope with the work that lies before us. The service will be required for no more than three months. Students therefore will not be called upon to sacrifice more than three months of their time after being enlisted.

"Several of our elderly countrymen have gone to Netley as orderlies. Mr. M. A. Turkhad, ex-Vice-President, Rajkumar College, Kathiawad, Mr. J. M. Parikh, Barrister-at-Law, and Lieut.-Col. Kanta Parsad, I.M.S., (retired) who has served in five different campaigns before, are now working as orderlies at Netley."

An earnest appeal was made for more volunteer orderlies.

A Bishop's Utterance

In an address delivered recently in Johannesburg the Bishop of Pretoria is reported as follows:—

The war had shown them many things, one of which was that the only thing that mattered was to do the right thing and see it through at all costs. War had been a great leveller, and the scales were gradually falling from their eyes. Were they not ashamed of their reflections on what they called "the coolie" when they remembered that the Gurkhas and Sikhs were fighting shoulder to shoulder with their white brothers on the Continent? It made his blood boil when he thought of the useless waste of lives in this country and disregard of the solemn oaths of allegiance and fidelity. On the other hand, one reflected on the glorious, splendid loyalty of the natives of this country under a hundred times worse provocation. It made one feel ashamed of the mean-minded prejudice which had been brought to bear on the native question. Was there not a finer scheme than that of merely exploiting

the natives? They must realise how essentially real was the brotherhood of man, no matter what the colour.

"Our Anchor Holds"

Moslem opinion in India can be gathered from a long article in the *Comrade* of Delhi, a paper which represents advanced opinion. Discussing the policy of Moslems, under the heading of "What Must We do?" it remarks:

What shall be our attitude towards our Government is a simple question, and presents to us no difficulty. He who goes by principles and not by consequences should have not the slightest hesitation in answering it. We have of our free will, and as masters of our destinies chosen to remain in this country as the subjects of our King and Emperor and the fellow-citizens of our neighbours. We have done this because the benefits of his rule and their co-operation exceed whatever discomforts we may have felt at any time, or we may be likely in future to feel. . . . And whatever the fortunes of the game, we must abide by the rules and take both defeat and victory in the manner of sportsmen. . . . Every other consideration is foreign to the subject, and whether we fight the Turks or the Russians, our services we must place at the disposal of our Government and our souls we must commend to God.

We have already filled many pages, but before we conclude let us repeat that, whatever England may do to Turkey or Egypt, our anchor holds. All truly loyal people have closed the chapter of civic controversy with the officials, and into that book they are likely to look no more. Whatever our grievances, whatever reforms we desire, everything must wait for a more seasonable occasion. Even if the Government were to concede to us all that we ever desired or dreamt; if, for instance, the Moslem University were offered to us on our own terms, or the Press Act repeal were to be announced, or even if self-government were to be conceded to us, we would humbly tell Government this is no time for it, and we must for the present decline such concessions with thanks. Concessions are asked for and accepted in peace. We are not Russian Poles. We need no bribes!

Moslem Loyalty

London, December 1st.—Reuter's correspondent at Delhi states that the Amir of Afghanistan has addressed a letter to the Viceroy, couched in the most cordial terms, and expressing regret at Turkey being at war with Great Britain. The letter has further strengthened Moslem opinion concerning Turkey's folly in joining Germany.

The King's Visit

The King, says Reuter, is visiting the hospitals at the front. The King spent 40 minutes talking with wounded in the Indian Hospital, and was impressed with the extraordinary hardihood and patience with which the Indians are bearing their wounds. The eyes of one who had just been operated upon filled with tears when his Majesty spoke to him. A Sepoy in the convalescent camp rose from his bed and exclaimed "God Save the King," being the only English he knew. The incident was entirely unrehearsed.

The Moslem Ambulance Corps

A.P.O. is pleased to hear that the Government has requisitioned the services of the Cape Moslem Ambulance Corps. Six of their members are now doing duty at Wynberg Camp. It is rumoured that the full Corps will be called out and be despatched to the front.

What India is Doing

London, December 5th.—Reuter's Delhi correspondent telegraphs that all the great native States of India have now expressed their regret to the Viceroy

that Turkey has joined Germany in fighting England, under whose benign rule, they declare, Moslems, have enjoyed perfect religious freedom.

All the ruling princes continue to take the keenest interest in the war. They have now subscribed about £190,000 to the Prince of Wales's Relief Fund and the Indian Relief Fund; and approximately £800,000 to the expenses of the war. This latter includes a sum of £400,000 from the Nizam of Hyderabad, and £330,000 from the Maharajah of Mysore.

A further sum of nearly £300,000 has been given by chiefs to provide motor cycles, binoculars, telescopes, etc., and £24,500 of this has been given by the Maharaja Scindia of Gwalior, who has also presented a motor ambulance, consisting of 41 cars, for the use of troops in Europe, and who is arranging for the establishment of a convalescent home in East Africa.

Besides these gifts, the many chiefs have presented a large number of horses, mules, camels, and even their private motor-cars.

A hospital ship, which is splendidly equipped, is another of their donations.—Reuter.

The Wounded Indians

General Sir Alfred Gaselee, who was in command of the Indian Contingent in China in 1900 (says the London correspondent of the *Amrita Basar Patrika*), has now undertaken charge of the arrangements for conveying clothing and comforts from the sea base in France to the Indian troops at the front; a separate organisation of motor lorries has been arranged for this purpose. On being landed in Southampton the wounded Indians are conveyed by motor ambulance to Brockenhurst, in the New Forest, where the hospital arrangements are being carried out for them. The special site was accepted in Brockenhurst Park, kindly offered by Mrs. Morant, because it was conveniently near to Southampton and obviated a train journey. It will be remembered that Their Majesties the King-Emperor and the Queen-Empress, in addition to contributing £500 and £250 respectively to the Indian Soldiers' Fund, each gave a motor ambulance for the sick and wounded.

Moslems and the War

The London All-India Moslem League recently passed the following resolutions unanimously:—

1. The Committee of the All-India Moslem League desire to place on record their deepest sorrow at the action of the Porte under malign German influences in allowing Turkey to be drawn into the European war, and their strong condemnation of a step which is not only fraught with the gravest consequences to the Ottoman Empire but is certain to bring infinite suffering and distress among the Turkish people (who, the Committee feel assured, have no hand or part in the Porte's policy) besides jeopardising the best interests of the Islamic world.

2. That in view of the grave situation created by the unwise and disastrous action of the Porte, the Committee consider it to be the duty of the Mussalimans of India to maintain the strictest fidelity towards the British Crown.

"It was an emergency meeting (writes the London correspondent of the *Amrita Basar Patrika*), and was well attended, and among the leading Moslems present were H. H. the Aga Khan, Mr. Ameer Ali, and Mr. Latif. I may mention that the British Red Crescent Society has contributed £255 to the Indian Soldiers' Fund, and, of course, there are many Moslems already fighting against Germany and her supporters both in the British and French armies. According to rumour, the Sultan gave his consent most unwillingly and in tears; the further rumour that the German Emperor had promised to become a Moslem is not likely to bring him much comfort."

Duty of Moslems and Hindus

The *Hablulmatin*, a leading Moslem organ in Bengal, declares: "Germany has not wasted the bones of a single Pomeranian Grenadier for the welfare of Turkey, which, as Bismarck said on a memorable occasion, was no concern of hers. The test of the sincerity of friendship is sacrifice, and, judged by that standard, England has greater claims on Turkey than any other European Power."

The same newspaper during the recent Bakrid festival, published an article pleading for both races to sink animosities in view of the critical situation in Europe and the anxieties of the British Raj. The *Hablulmatin* said: "The duty of every Moslem and Hindu is to do his best towards promoting a feeling of comradeship between the two leading sections of the Indian community. We have been proclaiming to the whole world that we are loyal to the British Raj. The immense value of Indian support has been acknowledged by the Emperor and the British public. It is, therefore, a matter of vital importance that we should refrain from doing anything at this critical juncture which would lower us in the estimation of the civilised world. If we do anything to hamper the Government and add to their burden of cares at the present moment then our loyalty will be regarded as a mere outward show, without any influence upon our hearts."

News in Brief

We regret to announce the death, at Durban, on the 30th ultimo, of Mrs. Royeppen, the mother of Mr. Joseph Royeppen of Johannesburg. She was 85 years of age. Mr. Joseph Royeppen had come down from Johannesburg a few days before and was by her side at the last. The funeral took place on the 1st instant. Mr. Rustonjee and other Indian leaders attended.

We deeply regret to announce the death of Mr. Rajoo Narsoo after a brief illness, on Friday morning last. The late Mr. Rajoo was quite a youth and had served a term of imprisonment during the last phase of the Passive Resistance Struggle. He was unassuming to a degree and his service for the community was much appreciated. The funeral took place at the Braamfontein Cemetery on Friday afternoon, the following amongst others being present:—Mr. H. S. L. Polak representing the British Indian Association, Mr. C. K. T. Naidoo Chairman of the Tamil Benefit Society, Mr. P. K. Naidoo, Mr. Supoo Moodaly, Mr. David Ernest, Mr. Vassan, Mr. S. B. Medh, and representatives of the various Transvaal Football Associations.

We regret to note the death of Sir Taraknath Palit, one of the most distinguished men of Bengal. Our readers will remember that apart from his other donations to public institutions, he gave not very long ago a munificent donation of nearly £95,000 to the Calcutta University for higher science education amongst his countrymen. In this way Sir Taraknath had given away practically the whole of the large fortune that he had made at the Calcutta Bar, of which he was one of the foremost members. His name will be grateful to South African Indians as one of the most generous contributors in Bengal to the South African Indian Relief Fund during the recent struggle. We tender to the relatives our sincere sympathy at their great loss.

London, December 7th (Reuter).—The Sydney correspondent of the *Morning Post* says that Mr. Harcourt, the Secretary for the Colonies, has sent to the Australian Government a communication relating to the entrance of Indians into the Dominion, and dwelling on their support in this war.