

Indian Opinion

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LONDON'S FAREWELL TO MR. GANDHI

WE all gathered to say goodbye, but Mr. Gandhi would have none of it (says the London correspondent of the *Amrita Bazar Patrika*). "My hope is to come back and, if the war should last till then, I shall be ready to do my share of service as a Nursing Orderly!"

The decision to return to India had been taken suddenly and, to many, unexpectedly, and very little time was left in which to organise the send-off; but, in spite of short notice, a large number of friends responded to the invitation, even at some personal inconvenience, and appeared at the Westminster Palace Hotel in order to take part in the proceedings. After sometime devoted to tea and personal talk with Mr. and Mrs. Gandhi, Sir Henry Cotton expressed the feeling of all friends when he declared that the object of the gathering was to wish Godspeed to Mr. Gandhi who, by his labour and self-sacrifice, had won the honour and esteem of every Englishman, and to congratulate him on the successful results of his great work in South Africa. "Nor do we forget Mrs. Gandhi," added Sir Henry, "who has also suffered in the good Cause." "I hope Mr. Gandhi will be able to practice his profession in his native land under happier auspices than in South Africa, but in both countries there are hundreds of thousands who will never forget his name."

Mr. J. M. Parikh presided over the informal gathering and made a touching little speech with regard to Mr. Gandhi's work and influence in which he assured him that his example would be an inspiration to young and old. He hoped that the beautiful climate and sunshine of India would restore the health which had failed so sadly here and hindered his keen desire to serve with the other members of the Indian Ambulance Corps, and that Mrs. Gandhi might regain her accustomed strength in her own land.

Among the many friends present was Mr. Charles Roberts, Under-Secretary for India, and he made a brief speech expressing his personal appreciation of the friendship existing between Mr. and Mrs. Gandhi and himself and his wife. He bore testimony to the work accomplished in South Africa which, he added, "remains to be more completely fulfilled in other parts of the Empire." He spoke, too, of his personal appreciation of the work done by Mr. Gandhi for the Ambulance Corps; its members have not a real need and are doing excellent work. He sympathised with Mr. Gandhi's keen disappointment in being prevented by ill-health from taking his share in the work in the Hospitals, as he had done in South Africa, but he expressed the warmest thanks to all who had come forward and done such admirable work. "I hope the return to brighter skies will bring re-established health and the power to accomplish in India the work to which Mr. Gandhi is looking forward."

Another most interesting visitor was Mrs. Olive Schreiner, whose name is known the wide world over

as a powerful advocate of the advancement of women economically and politically. She, too, is a devoted friend of Mr. and Mrs. Gandhi, and although she refuses to make speeches at meetings, she was quite willing to make an exception in order to express her admiration of Mr. Gandhi and his work. "He was just what South Africa needed," she said. "He gave us a great moral lesson and one which will stretch far beyond the boundaries of South Africa, namely, that in striving for freedom success comes not by violence but by the force of the spirit. Mr. Gandhi is one of the great teachers of our age."

Then followed the garlanding of Mr. and Mrs. Gandhi by Mrs. Barshesbar Singh, the garlands being beautiful white flowers and pink carnations.

Mr. Charles Roberts had said that the only one who should make a speech on the occasion was Mr. Gandhi himself and he hoped he would say something of his aspirations for future work in India. Mr. Gandhi made the desired speech, but his aspirations for the future, as I have already indicated, were simply to get strong so that he might return to serve if circumstances still demanded his service. He declared, too, that, despite the dictum of two doctors, he felt that if he had been allowed to take his part even now, the work itself would have cured his weakness! He told what a joy it was to him that when the Volunteer Corps was founded both students and older men, such as Mr. Parikh and Col. Kanta Prasad came forward to undertake the work. He thanked Mr. Roberts for his appreciation of the services that are being rendered. It was, he said, after prayerful consideration as to how Indians could help in the crisis that the Corps had come into being; his joy was mixed with pain because he could not do his part; but pleading with Mr. Roberts to find him some place in which he could serve had not succeeded. He had not, however, resigned from the Corps; he had simply written to the Commanding Officer for leave to absent himself for a time, and he hoped to return to duty. As to his work in South Africa, he insisted that it was only his duty to put his services at the disposition of his countrymen in their need; his only aspiration now, as then, was to be able to do his duty day by day as he found it. India, he felt, was the country where the greatest spiritual treasures were to be found for the comforting and uplifting of the whole world and all could work towards strengthening the tie between India and Great Britain by each giving of its best to the other. His speech concluded with expression of warmest thanks on behalf of Mrs. Gandhi and himself to all who had shown them kindness in this country; Mr. Javeri, their first host; Mr. Gandevia, their last; Dr. Mehta for advice so often unheeded; Mr. Roberts and Lady Cecilia for such kindness as made Indians feel that the tie between Britain and India must be for good. "We are blest with many friends," he added, "who have helped and cheered us, and we hope and pray that we may so discharge

ourselves as to deserve the kind things that have been said and the tribute of this gathering as well as that arranged on our arrival from South Africa. We hope this is not a final good-bye to so many good friends."

Among those who regretted their inability to be present were The Prime Minister, Lord Crewe, Mr. Lewis Harcourt, Princess Sophia Duleep Singh, Sir William Wedderburn, Mr. and Mrs. Mirza Abba Ali Baig, Mr. and Mrs. Ratan Tata, Lord and Lady Reay, Col. Baker, Commanding the Indian Field Ambulance Corps, Mr. C. E. Mallet, Col. and Mrs. Warliker, and others. To mention a few who were present in addition to Mr. and Mrs. Gandhi and Mr. Kallenbach; Mr. Charles Roberts, Sir Henry Cotton, Sir Krishna Gupta, Mr. and Mrs. N. C. Sen, Mrs. Olive Schreiner, Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Polak, Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Parikh, Dr. Babha, Mr. H. E. A. Cotton, Dr. John Pollen, Miss Winterbottom, Dr. J. N. Mehta, Mr. Sorabji Shapurji, Mr. and Mrs. Barsheshar Singh, and Mr. M. M. Gandevia, who organised the reception.

The following morning there was a good gathering of friends at Liverpool Street Station to give Mr. and Mrs. Gandhi the final send-off. Presents of flowers and books were made and, as the train steamed out of the station, a rousing cheer was heard which meant that the travellers were taking with them the most affectionate wishes and love of their many friends. Much sympathy is felt for Mr. Kallenbach, for years Mr. Gandhi's almost inseparable companion, who has not been able yet to leave London for India; probably his departure will not be long delayed.

Japan and the Empire

The present war must inevitably cause a large number of people to revise their ideas on a good many subjects (writes G. H. L. in the *Standard*.) . . . The Germans have attempted to arouse feeling against Britain in neutral countries on the ground that she incited an Asiatic race to attack Europeans. The truth is that the "Asiatic race" has honoured its signature to an international contract, and the contrast between its conduct and that of Germany in regard to the independence of Belgium, which was also the subject of an international agreement to which Prussia was a party, places Germany in a very inferior moral position to that of Japan.

Apart altogether from the capture of Kiao-Chau, Japan has rendered splendid service to the Allied cause. Her warships have been employed in extensive convoying operations, and they have taken a prominent part in the hunt for German cruisers in the Indian and Pacific oceans. It was the warships of the Mikado which pursued the German gunboat *Geese* to Honolulu and, by maintaining a constant patrol outside the harbour, forced her commander to submit to internment. British mail steamers between Aden and Australia, in the days when the *Enden* and *Kanigsberg* were still at large, owed their safety in no small measure to the friendly watchfulness of the Japanese Navy. When the R.M.S. *Osterley* reached Fremantle some time ago her officers were surprised to find that she had been convoyed from Colombo by a Japanese cruiser, which arrived in port five hours after the liner. The wireless operator of the *Osterley* had discovered that someone was constantly tapping her wireless signals, but, fearing that the mysterious vessel was a German cruiser, he did not answer, and it was not until Fremantle was reached that the true explanation was revealed.

In the matter of the German islands in the Pacific also Japan has behaved in a most exemplary fashion. For some unexplained reason Australia did not occupy the Marshall, Caroline, and Pelew groups when the more southerly German colonies were seized. In order to prevent stray German cruisers from making use of these islands they were occupied by Japanese naval detachments.

Australia's Indebtedness

The Japanese Government has just intimated its willingness to withdraw in favour of Australia as soon as the Commonwealth is ready to take over the islands. A force is being got ready for the purpose, and the groups seized by Japan will form part of the Melanesian territory to be administered by Commander Pethebridge, C.M.G., as Australian Commissioner in the North-West Pacific, until their destiny is finally decided at the conclusion of the war. Commander Pethebridge, who succeeded Captain Muirhead Collios, C.M.G., as secretary of the Defence Department of the Commonwealth in 1910, will have authority to arrange for the effective occupation of these islands.

The fact that Japan has fought at our side in the fiercest struggle that the world has ever known cannot be without influence on the future relations between the Asiatic Power and the British Empire. Those who have hitherto looked askance at the Anglo-Japanese Alliance will no longer be able to entertain the old suspicion that too much reliance must not be placed in the good faith of our Ally, and any difficulties that may arise in future from the economic friction between the different standards of living of the two peoples will be settled more easily as the result of the sympathy engendered by our comradeship in arms against the Germanic conspiracy to dominate the world.

"Komagata Maru" Inquiry

London, January 15.—Reuter's correspondent in Delhi telegraphs that the first report of the Committee of Inquiry into the circumstances surrounding the voyage of the *Komagata Maru* with Indians, who were refused permission to land at Vancouver, and the riot on their arrival at Calcutta on the return voyage, finds that most of the emigrants believed they would be allowed to land. The leaders, however, were aware of the law, and deliberately misled the more ignorant passengers.

The judgment by the Hon. Gordon Hunter, Chief Justice of Canadian Courts, was also an important factor in the emigrants' belief that they would be allowed to land.

The report shows that the emigrants behaved in a lawless manner at Vancouver, and obstinately resisted the authorities.

Owing to successful efforts during the voyage of certain revolutionary organisations outside India to promote disaffection among the emigrants, they were in a dangerous frame of mind when they left Vancouver, and intended to cause trouble on their arrival in India. In accordance with the law, they were refused admission at Calcutta, after which they fired on the police with firearms, which they had concealed when their luggage was examined. The troops then fired in reply.

The Delhi Committee considers that the emigrants should have been effectually searched for arms before they were permitted to land.

The Committee further states that the action of the Bengal Government in prohibiting the men entering Calcutta was justified by the circumstances.

The Government of India, in covering the resolution, accept the report as an eminently fair and judicial pronouncement, the findings of which are reasonable. While emphasising a wish to have treated the returned emigrants with sympathy and consideration, the Government of India regret that their motives were misunderstood, and the unfortunate loss of life which resulted owing to the folly of a few.

It is not intended to institute any prosecutions in respect of the riot, and the majority of the men who have been confined pending the inquiry are being returned to their homes. The minority, comprising the dangerous ringleaders, will be kept under restraint for the present.—Reuter.

From the Editor's Chair

THE PRINCIPLE OF CONSULTATION

THE Archbishop of Capetown has delivered himself of a most important pronouncement on the Native question, which we produce elsewhere. He pleads for the adoption by the Government of the principle of consultation with the Natives in matters of legislation and administration specially affecting them. No more important principle than this exists under a democratic government. It is intolerable that any section of the community should be legislated for or against without an endeavour being made to explain to them the necessity for such legislation, and an enquiry being made as to their views in regard to it. The establishment of this principle so far as the Indian community is concerned was one of the principal objections of the Passive Resistance Struggle, and that it was successfully established, in spite of the attempt to frustrate it when the Indian Grievances Commission was appointed, was fully admitted by the Government in the settlement that was subsequently reached. There are points arising out of that settlement which even now are the subject of consideration both by the Indian community and by the Government, but we are confident that, with the continuance of the policy of consultation that has hitherto been adopted, these points will be satisfactorily decided. With the increasing political education of the Indian community there must necessarily be an increasing degree of consultation with it; but whilst the Government may be asked to take the community into their confidence, they have, of course, a right to impose a condition that the community continues to be worthy of that confidence, and this we believe the community will endeavour to do, and thus justify the more sympathetic relations that at present happily exist.

(DOMICILE CERTIFICATES)

We are receiving serious complaints of the wholesale manner in which the Natal Immigration Officer is going behind the plain recommendation of the Indian Grievances Commission on the subject of domicile certificates. It was distinctly laid down by the Commission that "domicile certificates which have been issued to Indians in Natal by the Immigration Officer of that Province, and which bear the thumb impressions of the holder of the permit, should be recognised as conclusive evidence of the right of the holder to enter the Union as soon as his identity has been established." General Smuts, in introducing the Immigration Amendment Act of last year, distinctly pledged the Government to carry out in full the recommendations of the Commission. No doubt he imagined that section 7 of the Act afforded the protection recommended by the Commission's report, and that was indeed the general impression. Apparently, however, the Natal Immigration Department interprets the section differently from the Indian leaders, and as a result is doing the very thing that the Commission strongly objected to, namely going behind the domicile certificates and instituting a new inquisition. The result is, we are informed, that by every steamer Indians returning to Natal, after having been long resident and in some cases possessing fixed property in the Province, are rejected as prohibited immigrants, even though they produce certificates of domicile bearing their own thumb impressions, on the pretext that in the course of the investigations then conducted, their statements do not in every respect coincide with statements originally made by them many years ago. Large numbers of these people are poor and are unable to find the means of testing their rights before the Immigration Board, and, as a result, such

protection as the Act gives is confined to those few who are able to produce the necessary amount required as a deposit, and as legal expenses. In effect, therefore, a grave injustice is being perpetrated upon the Indian community, and the spirit, if not, in fact, the letter, of the report of the Commission is being sedulously ignored by the officers administering the law in Natal. The Natal Indian Association, in our opinion, will be lacking in its duty if it fail to move the Government on this important question, and we look to that body to perform its duty effectively.)

"Indians in the British Empire"

(Concluded)

I have so far enlarged somewhat on this question of the material importance of this country in the British Empire, and I hope that I have conveyed what I wanted particularly to bring out, the extent to which the self-governing dominions—the whole of the Colonies of the British Empire—have benefited by the association of India with the Empire, and that it has only been by the Imperial wealth to which India has so largely contributed that they have been able to grow up and flourish, as they have done, and that the mother-country has been able to put them in the position that they are now. So, these self-governing dominions in an indirect way and almost in a direct way, very largely owe the position that they occupy, not only to their own enterprise and energy for which they deserve every credit, but also to the Imperial protection which British dominion over India has principally enabled Britain to give them.

Then again I want to point out what a very great and important part in every other way India has played in the making of the British Empire. It is the general assumption of the Imperialists in Britain that when they talk of the British Empire they mean the mother-country and the self-governing dominions, and everything else is left out as though it were of no importance at all. Whereas, as a matter of fact, the fact—which I presume is well known—is that India has played a very much larger part than any other British possessions in building up the British Empire, in assisting the mother-country to build it both from the military as well as from the trade and commercial point of view. When we are asked to give such a preponderating consideration as Imperialists to the self-governing Colonies in relation to their attitude towards India, the reflection comes upon me, and I do not know why it should not come upon anybody else—that we owe so much to India in this respect, and the self-governing dominions have done so little for the Empire at large, as apart from their individual interests, that it is presumptuous to treat India as if she were not on an equality with these self-governing dominions. They have enjoyed the military protection of the mother-country for all these years without paying a pice for it. India, on the other hand, has paid through the nose for every penny that has been spent upon the internal defence of this country; in the maintenance of the army in this country, an army which is of great value not only for the purposes of the protection of India itself, but as a factor in the whole outlook of Imperial defence, as evidenced by the large force sent out to Europe in the great war now going on. India has to spend a sum of more than twenty millions annually on the maintenance of her military forces—a sum larger than the whole of her land revenue—and she pays every pice for the support of the British Contingent in that army. In addition to all this, she pays a tribute of a hundred thousand pounds annually to the Navy. South Africa has now begun to make contribution of eighty thousand pounds a year towards the Navy, and the others have only just begun to take a share in their own defence. There is not one of them that would have been able to exist up to this time without the protection of the

Imperial forces; there is not one of them that could exist for a week at the present day without that protection. But India is the only part of the British Empire with the exception of the mother-country, which depends upon herself for her own military protection. There is not any other country in the Empire that provides for her own military protection in the same sense, and if any of the self-governing dominions ever got into any sort of trouble of that kind, now or for many years to come, they could not possibly deal with it without the full assistance of the whole of the Imperial military power that could be put forward. I do not mean to say for a moment that India does not enjoy a very large measure of Imperial protection, that the supremacy of the sea, which the British Empire enjoys, is not a factor of enormous value to this country, factor without which the Indian Empire could not expect to exist or progress; but I do say that India, looking at it from a purely military point of view, is the only part of the British Empire, outside the British Isles, that is self-dependent in a military sense, and pays for it. More than that. Before leaving this part of the question, I want to draw attention to one particular instance, which ought to make Englishmen peculiarly grateful to this country. When the Boer War broke out in South Africa in 1899, it was the Army in India which saved Natal for the British Empire. It seems to me that, when we find the self-governing dominions taking up this extraordinary attitude of superiority towards India and Indians, that we should remind them what they owe, and still owe to India in that respect; and of the fact that, if it had not been for the burden that India had for all these years borne to keep a standing army of British white troops, from which we were enabled to send a contingent to South Africa at that moment of emergency, the whole situation in Natal, at that particular juncture, would have been entirely changed. That is only one instance of what India has done in a practical way for the Empire from the military point of view. There are many others.

Well, of course, it is very easy to demonstrate that the self-governing dominions owe a great deal to the Indian Empire, and that morally they ought to take towards India a very different attitude. But unfortunately I am sorry to say we have to deal with a state of affairs that prevents us from being able to do very much in a practical way. The self-governing dominions have for good or for evil adopted an unfortunate attitude towards the Indians, and although the Imperial control nominally exists and the Imperial responsibility for any wrong-doing by the self-governing dominions remains, the Imperial Government is apparently not willing to exercise its powers. We have had two unfortunate demonstrations of this lately. We have to deal with the fact that the Imperial Government apparently will not take the responsibility of directly and definitely vetoing any improper action by any of the self-governing dominions affecting the interests of any other part of the Empire or the Empire at large. We have seen that in the case of the Indians in South Africa, and we have seen it in the way in which the South African Government dealt with the recent labour strikes, and in the deportations without trial of British subjects. All those things nominally require the assent of the Imperial Government. But even the strong Liberal Government that has existed in England has not the courage to fight the self-governing colonies, and it therefore leaves this country in a very unfortunate position, because you have to do exactly what you are told to do, and the self-governing dominions may do exactly as they like. But there is a great deal to be done—and we have had recently a demonstration of that—by moral pressure and by agitation. It must be clear to everybody that a very great impression was recently created in England and throughout the British Empire—an impression that has even extended to South Africa—by the intense feeling and the strong and unanimous expression of feeling which was caused in this country by the troubles in South Africa;

and I am sure that, if every Indian makes it his business, and if Indians, as a whole, make it their business, to keep up that agitation and that moral pressure, to keep up the constant assertion of their rights—and not to let the matter drop, to go on with and to insist upon it being dealt with and settled as a whole in a manner that is consistent with the self-respect of this country, they will be able in time to force a solution, which will be satisfactory to this country as to other parts of the Empire. But that can only be done by insisting on the matter not being allowed to drop, by insisting upon some such measure as an Imperial Conference in London, in which India shall take her place on an absolute equality with the representatives of other parts of the Empire, and to which she shall go with the full understanding that all her citizens are co-equal in every possible respect with the citizens of South Africa, Australia and Canada. I believe that if that can be achieved, if a Conference of that kind can be brought about, when these matters begin to be discussed between the representatives of India and of the self-governing dominions, in the presence of the representatives of the mother-country, the Colonial representatives will be compelled to take a different view of this matter to what they take when they are in their own country.

Indians and the War

London, January 19th.—A Reuter telegram from Delhi states that all India re-echoes the tribute paid by the Viceroy to the Commander-in-Chief. The work of the military departments is regarded as splendid.

Large numbers of Indian Army Reserve officers are offering to serve with the Indian regiments. Recruiting for the Indian Army continues to be most remarkable. The fighting races have been stirred by the news of the Indian successes at the front.

Wounded Indian soldiers who have returned to India are most enthusiastic concerning the kindness and attention they received in Europe.

The volunteer movement has been given a big fillip throughout the country.

Useful gifts for the combatants and sick are being received daily—Reuter.

A "Pataka"

"How were you hit?" asked a visitor of one of the wounded Indian soldiers.

"By a 'pataka,' Sahib."

"A cracker!" At first I did not understand. A 'pataka' is the cracker which is thrown about the streets when the religious processions pass in the bazaar.

"A bomb," he explained.

It slowly dawned on me that the man thus lightly dismissed a "Jack Johnson" or a Black Maria." "The war is not like the war in old times," he added regretfully.

To Remove the Australian Colour Bar

One direct result of the war (says the *Wednesday Review* of Trichinopoly) is the conversion of undesirable aliens into "our Indian brothers!" That is something worth living for. The colonies who have hitherto placed an embargo on colour have now begun to realise what that colour can do to fight a common enemy and safeguard the integrity of the Empire. The president of the Chamber of Commerce of Adelaide said recently that when the war was over India might ask Australia to revise her ideals in regard to exclusion of Indian fellow British subjects from that country. It was not a mere sentiment which the president asked his compatriots to promote. But as a business-man he threw

business into the sentiment and explained to them that Australians could not much longer hold the great empty northern lands of the continent as no man's territory, and they realised that they could not develop the northern territory with white labour. He was careful to add that none of them would advocate the flooding of the temperate zone with cheap coloured labour and it was therefore necessary to invite Indian labour, though, on a limited scale to Australia. We shall not object to his combining business with sentiment and we shall be thankful if he would get the Australian Government to remove the colour bar and take the opportunity to do so which the present war affords.

The Good Samaritan

There was a story in an Indian hospital ward of a wounded havildar who fell into the hands of a Good Samaritan. The German officer spoke to him in Hindustani, asking him the number of his regiment and where he came from. He bound up his wounds, gave him a drink, and brought him a bundle of straw to support his head. This will be remembered on the credit side of our German account.

A sepoy asked the embarkation officer at Bombay how many were coming back.

"Ten thousand, Sahib?"

"I cannot say."

"A hundred?"

"I think I can promise you that."

"It is good. They will be enough to carry word to our homes that we have died fighting honourably."

A Splendid Gift from India

We read of many things, but how much more interesting they become when we see them. This was evidently the feeling of a large number of Londoners when they saw the splendid fleet of motor vehicles enter Buckingham Palace, for formal acceptance by the King-Emperor, which the Maharaja Scindia has presented to the Army and Navy. It is indeed a most munificent gift. There are 41 ambulance cars, just now quite dazzlingly white, with the red cross standing out conspicuously; on each is a brass plate bearing the name "Scindia." The gift also includes 5 motor lorries and repair waggons and 10 motor cycles, and in equipment every possible accessory seems to have been remembered. It is a Christmas gift to be devoted to the use of wounded soldiers and sailors as His Majesty may determine. The scene in the grounds of the Palace was interesting. The sun shone out brightly as the cars were driven slowly past the foot of the steps where both King Edward and King George have on previous occasions welcomed representatives of the Indian Army. On Monday the King was accompanied by the Queen, Princess Mary, Prince Henry, and no more keen investigators can be imagined than the various members of the Royal Family. They wanted to know all about the arrangements for heating, for food storage, for general comfort, the methods of fixing the stretchers, etc., and seemed highly delighted with what they saw. The gift was made, on behalf of His Highness, by Sir David Barr, and His Majesty warmly expressed his appreciation of the gift. Whether the cars will reach the front on Christmas Day is not known, but they are not likely to be many days late. This further proof of the generosity of His Highness in this time of need has been widely acclaimed, and his share, with the Begum of Bhopal, in the hospital ship, *Loyalty*, is not overlooked. Needless to say the cars have been much photographed.—*Amrita Bazar Patrika* (London Letter).

Indians for the Front

On being told that the Government were recruiting Indians for German South West-Africa, we made enquiries and were officially informed that 200 were being recruited for service as military camp sanitary workers and that the agreement entered into was for a period not less than four months and not exceeding six months, the rate of pay being £3 10s. per month and 10s. extra for sirdars, with food, medical attendance and all other necessaries found. The men, we understand, are mainly town workers who, at the present time, find work rather scarce. Fifty-eight men left Durban last week and further batches are following on as soon as they can be got ready. Mr. Beg, of the Licensing Office, Maritzburg, who is on active service with the Durban Light Infantry, is in charge of the Indians. Further particulars regarding the question of the right of these men to return to the Province, etc., will be found in the following correspondence:—

P.O. Box 715, Durban.

18th January, 1915.

To the Protector of Indian Immigrants, Durban.

Sir,—I have the honour on behalf of the undermentioned Associations to approach you with regard to the 200 Indians which you intend sending to German West Africa to perform Military Camp Duty there and to request that you will be good enough to reply to the following questions:

- (1) In what manner will these Indians be affected by the provisions of the Immigration Restriction Act on their return to this Province. In short what assurance have they that no objection will be made to their landing here on their return?
- (2) In the event of any Indian being killed whilst away on such duty what provision is intended to be made for the support and maintenance of his wife and children?
- (3) In the event of an Indian being incapacitated to what extent is he to be recompensed?

Trusting to be favoured with an early reply and thanking you in anticipation.

I have, etc.,

(Sgd.) LUTCHMAN PANDAY,

President Colonial Born Association and President Hindustanie Association, Durban.

Office of the Protector of Indian Immigrants.

Durban, 19th January, 1915.

The President, Colonial Born Association, and Hindustanie Association, Durban.

Dear Sir,—I have yours of the 18th instant, with reference to 200 Indians being recruited for German South-West Africa for Military Sanitary work, and beg to reply to your questions as under:

- (1) Instructions have been issued that these Indians are to be allowed to re-enter the Province, and, to this end, I have issued them documents, countersigned by the Principal Immigration Officer, authorising their re-entry. In the event of failing to produce this on return, I will see to it that no man sent forward by me will be debarred.

The answers to questions No. 2 and 3 are that the Government are considering the matter of compensation. I have nothing further to add in that connection at present.

Yours obediently,

(Sgd.) J. A. POLKINGHORNE,

Protector.

[NOTE. In giving the above information we do not recommend Indians to go to German South-West Africa as sanitary workers, neither do we advise them

not to go. It is purely a matter for them to decide as to how they shall earn their bread, and, so long as their rights as residents in the Province are safeguarded and provision is made for the support of the families of those who may be killed or injured, we can raise no objection.—Ed. I.O.]

Indians and the Durban Market

The stall-holders at the Durban Indian Market (as briefly reported in our last issue) have recently had cause for serious complaint against the way in which business is conducted at the Borough Market. These stall-holders are large buyers daily of potatoes, etc., and one of the complaints made was that the bids of Indian buyers were ignored by the auctioneers. It was also contended that in several matters discrimination was made between European and Indian buyers. A letter, signed by twenty-five buyers, was therefore sent to the Market-master and in the meantime all refrained from attending the sales. As some of these men buy up to £40 or £50 worth of goods in a single day it can be imagined that their absence was felt. A prompt reply was received to the letter, inviting a deputation to meet the Chairman of the Market-Committee and the Market-master, at the Town Hall, on the 18th inst. About fifteen Indian buyers attended and they were given a patient hearing. The interview lasted an hour and the various matters were carefully gone into, the Chairman of the Market Committee promising to make an enquiry and assuring them that every care would be taken to meet their wishes along with other buyers at the Market. It is expected that the questions put forward will be discussed by the Market Committee of the Town Council and that the Indian stall-holders will be informed later of the decision. Meanwhile the Indian buyers have been advised to withdraw the boycott. Mr. West acted as spokesman for the deputation.

Death of Lieut. Hardinge

In her weekly London Letter the correspondent of the *Amrita Basar Patrika* writes:—

The news of the death of the Viceroy's eldest son brings with it deepest sympathy for the sorrowing father, to whom the sad loss of his wife is yet a grievous wound. The devotion of the sons for their father and of the father for his sons is well known and this second vacant place in the family circle will be very hard to bear. The hon. Edward Hardinge has laid down his life for the country, and with all the gallantry that is associated with the distinguished name he bore. He was severely wounded in the earlier weeks of the war, and it was a curious, as well as pleasing, coincidence that when he was being brought back to England the nurse into whose care he was put was the same who had nursed his mother, Lady Hardinge, in her last illness. It must have been gratifying to the young man as well as to his father that the Distinguished Service Order was conferred upon him early in October after having been mentioned in Sir John French's dispatches and highly commended "for ability and gallantry in reconnaissance under great difficulty and machine gun fire on the 22nd, 23rd, and 27th of August, during which he was severely wounded." The Viceroy bears a heavy weight of responsibility inseparable from his high office, but the weight of personal sorrow must be borne unflinchingly at the same time. One consolation will be that the people of India, who love him for his love to them, understand and share his grief, and pray that God will comfort him. He may be proud of his son's record.

The Principle of Consultation.

Capetown, January 16th (Reuter).—The Archbishop of Capetown, in the course of his charge at the Provincial Synod to-day, remarked that the present was a time of testing. What, he asked, would be the result of it all? In connection with the great events now taking place, one thing which stood out clearly and distinctly was the extraordinarily fine spirit of service and sacrifice everywhere apparent. That spirit was breaking down the spirit of smugghiness and selfishness which had prevailed so long; that spirit must be captured, and not allowed to wane and die. It was the very spirit the world wanted. A cold and indifferent attitude towards men of other races and colour must surely be changed; it must be softened as they read of the magnificent Indian troops fighting side by side with our own brave soldiers. When they heard of native men in this country taxing themselves so much a head to contribute to the common cause, when they heard of others pleading to be given an opportunity of throwing a stone at the common enemy, it could not be but that towards such people our feelings would be changed. (Applause.)

"To my mind," continued the Archbishop, "one crying need which should be remedied with as little delay as possible in this country is that our native people should at least be given a voice in the management of their own affairs. This system, which is carried out with considerable success in part of the Cape Province and in Basutoland, should be extended to other parts of the Union in the direction of the establishment of Native Councils. Again, to my mind, there should be a council of men experienced in native affairs, to which all questions relating to native affairs should be referred before being brought before Parliament, and such questions should be discussed as far as possible apart from party politics."

[At the time of going to press we have received the report of the speech of Bisoop Furze of Pretoria on this subject, which we hope to give in our next issue.]

News in Brief

We are officially informed by the Provincial Secretary that the Administrator has received a communication from the Governor-General in which His Excellency states that it is his intention to visit Natal towards the end of June next.

The Rev. C. F. Andrews writes from Delhi to the *Tribune*, Lahore, as follows:—Mr. Gandhi placed his own sons and the Phoenix boys entirely in my own hands. He was quite willing that they should be sent to the Gurukul, Kangri or Bolpur, as I should decide; he mentioned both places by name; but he expressed a wish that if possible they should be at Bolpur as he desired them to be under my special care. While I have been in the Hospital, through my dear friend Mahatmaji's great kindness they have been the guests of the Gurukul. They have written to me the happiest letters from there speaking of the love with which they have been welcomed. But now that the new term at Bolpur has commenced I have sent them to be there permanently and I hope as soon as the doctor will allow me, to rejoin them. I cannot be too grateful for the generous kindness to me in this matter of the Gurukul authorities in my hour of need.

[NOTE: We have received letters from Bolpur stating that the boys were settling down to their studies and that they had already recommenced their agricultural work, which is an innovation at *Shantisohetan*, and the example is likely to be followed by others.—Ed. I.O.]

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THE PRINCIPLE OF CONSULTATION

Bishop Furse's Plea

AT the Anglican Synod held at Capetown the Bishop of Pretoria moved that the Synod should consider that a more uniform and sympathetic native policy, together with closer personal relation between governed and governing, was essential to the well-being of the native people and the security of the country. He urged that some method should be found by which native legislation and administration might be lifted above the changes and chances of party politics.

The attitude to uphold in this country, he contended, was that the white Government representing the King was here to develop, educate and uplift the native races, and not to exploit them. What was best for the native was best for the white man.

Archdeacon Turpin, speaking as the oldest missionary in the country, in seconding the motion, said that every native disturbance that had occurred across the Kei had taken place because the natives had never been consulted.

The debate, which was generally sympathetic towards the motion, was adjourned until Monday.

In speaking further to his native policy motion, which, it should be stated, also embodied a request for the establishment of native councils in every Province, the Bishop of Pretoria said that there was no strong line with regard to the native question. They ought to be prepared to say that the white man was here not principally for his own benefit, but for the good of the native. He knew that was a strong thing to say, but it was the only thing that would justify the white man in South Africa. Native affairs should be in the hands of a permanent body of three able-bodied and expert men, who would be in the position of judges, and not at the mercy of any party Government. They should be three men well versed in native affairs, to whom the natives might look as friends. He was in favour of the native council scheme being extended, though he did not say the natives should have votes or that these councils should have legislative powers.

Continuing, the Bishop said that a good deal of bad feeling had been aroused between the white man and the native in connection with the Native Lands Act, which could have been avoided if the native had been taken into the confidence of the white man before the Act was passed. Natives were not only not consulted with regard to legislation, but were not sufficiently instructed in regard to legislation already passed.—
Reuter.)

Proposed Council of Chiefs

Mr. S. W. B. Shepstone, a well-known authority on native affairs, writing in the *Natal Mercury*, says:—

No one who read the Archbishop of Capetown's address to the Provincial Synod could fail to be impressed with the far-seeing wisdom of his remarks on what our attitude should be to the native races of South Africa. "To my mind," said the Archbishop, "one crying need which should be remedied with as little delay as possible in this country is that our native people should at least be given a voice in the management of their own affairs."

Let us examine this statement, putting away all prejudice and bringing only common sense and a little sympathy to our aid. It is in politics and wrong for a powerful minority such as we are to continue to govern the huge mass of natives without regard to their legitimate aspirations, and without giving them some means of expressing their desires, hopes, and fears. I have repeatedly urged in letters to the Press that a Council of Chiefs should be established in each State of the Union (other than the Cape, of course), wherein all matters relating to native affairs could be fully discussed with the hereditary representatives of the natives, and that this should always be done before any legislation affecting natives is introduced. This Council should consist of the more prominent chiefs, who would act as an advisory committee, not to dictate to the Minister for Native Affairs, but to put clearly before him and Parliament how the proposed legislation would affect them; to bring to his notice all matters which press hardly or unjustly on their people; to suggest alternative measures, and generally to assist in their own government.

If, as suggested by the Archbishop, the native were given a voice in the management of his own affairs this feeling of bitterness and oppression which is daily increasing among the tribes would entirely disappear. No form of enfranchisement will be granted to the natives in the Transvaal, Natal, or Zululand. The natives in these States are not yet fit for it, and the white race would not allow it. But if a Council of Chiefs was established, if it met only once a year, with ample time to discuss all matters relating to their own affairs, and to go into these matters with the Minister—who should be supported by a committee to assist him to review the suggestions of the Native Council—a very great step towards the solution of the whole problem will have been achieved. The composition of this committee is a matter that will have to be dealt with separately.

Human nature is the same all the world over, whether it is covered by a black, white, brown, or yellow skin. Let us realise and admit this fact, and take it as a basis. The native is oppressed with an ever-growing sense of repression. He desires ever more