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THE INDIAN BEARER COMPANY

VERY little has been heard so far (says the *Natal Mercury*) of what the coloured people of the Union are doing in the Imperial cause. Various messages from parts of the Union have shown that they are exercising ready patriotism with regard to volunteering for service at the European front, but they have conveyed again that our coloured fellow-subjects are in doubt with regard to the treatment of their dependents. It is not the matter of immediate pay to himself which troubles the coloured man offering himself for this loyal duty as to the manner in which those for whom he is responsible will be looked after while he is away. There was a Reuter message from Capetown two days ago emphasising this in some particulars.

Senator the Hon. Mr. Marshall Campbell, a well-known and sincere friend of the Indian inhabitants of Natal, has lately been able to accomplish a great deal in the removal of this discouragement. Senator Campbell has just returned from a visit to Pretoria, performed for this very reason. Interviewed by a *Mercury* representative Senator Campbell said he had made a journey to the Administrative Capital, representing Durban, on the representative Natal Committee of the Governor-General's Fund. At the meeting of the Central Committee his Excellency Lord Buxton presided. "I warmly pressed the case of Indian stretcher-bearers volunteering from South Africa," Mr. Campbell observed, "and I am happy to say that, with regard to their anxieties respecting their dependents, I hope I was the means of influencing similar facilities to Malays and other of our coloured people belonging to what is known as the 'Cape boy' class. The situation with regard to themselves will be placed on a standard according to their situation in life, and by the application of that standard be made largely to correspond with the treatment given to Europeans. Everybody giving their work at the front should be looked after, irrespective of their colour or creed or anything else, and I hope and believe that will be done. They are all giving their service to the maintenance of the British Empire, and they should all be treated alike."

It is known from other sources that Senator Campbell was warmly congratulated by Sir Charles Crewe, the Director of Recruiting, upon his successful efforts with regard to the coloured ambulance corps which the Union is contributing. Mr. Campbell added in connection with this part of the conversation: "I am impressed most deeply and most appreciatively with the liberal behaviour of our fellow-Indian Colonists towards the Imperial movement. When our public know the great extent to which our coloured population have responded to the Imperial call in this country I fancy there will be a surprise awaiting them."

Messrs. L. Gabriel and A. Christopher write to the press as under:—We are enabled, by the courtesy of Capt. Dunning, who is recruiting the corps, to state that the men joining it will be allowed to allot an amount

up to three-fourths of their pay and batta money to their dependents. The pay is only nominal, a lance-havildar's being 28s., a naik's 24s., and a bearer's 18s., and likely men have hesitated, not on account of the rate of pay, but since it became known that neither separation allowances nor any allowance from the Governor-General's Fund would be given to their dependents. But fortunately for the men, the Hon. Mr. Marshall Campbell on our bringing the matter on behalf of the men enlisting to his notice, took it up, with the happy result that, in advocating our cause, he has also been successful in obtaining consideration for the dependents of the Cape coloured men offering themselves for oversea service.

The dependents of the members of our corps will receive allowance according to their standard of living and status in life—that is to say, that each and every case will be treated on its own merits. For this the men are greatly beholden to the Hon. Mr. Marshall Campbell, and we are grateful to learn that his Worship the Mayor (Mr. Nicolson) has strongly supported him in the matter. In the event of Government introducing any legislation having for its object the taking over by the Union of South Africa the responsibility of bearing the pay and other obligations incidental to the men from this country serving on the battlefields of Europe and elsewhere, or dealing with the question in any way, it is sincerely to be hoped that no invidious distinctions will be made therein, and for an Imperial attitude in the handling in Parliament of anything arising in connection with the men in the Oversea Contingent we have the Hon. Mr. Marshall Campbell, Mr. Schreiner, Mr. Alexander, and other Britishers. Minor details in regard to equipment, ration, etc. will, we think, without any great difficulty be satisfactorily adjusted in due course.

The men were primarily concerned, not for themselves, but for their dependents, for whom provision has now been made, and having, as they do, the Hon. Mr. Marshall Campbell at the head of their affairs, their interests will not be neglected.

Our people will be glad of the message the Hon. Mr. Marshall Campbell brings from the Governor-General. His Excellency has been pleased so far with our response. But we cannot stop; we must go on. Those of us who cannot go to Europe to do our bit must subscribe our just and fair contributions, and continue so to do while the war lasts, and those of us who are prepared to sacrifice must hesitate no longer. The Colonial-born Indians, particularly, have at all times shown their willingness to discharge their responsibilities to the Union, realising, as they have always done, that for better or for worse they are here, and it is for them to make good their birth in this land—by sharing in its sorrows and its joy whenever they are permitted to do so. But to-day larger issues are involved. Great Britain has gone to the assistance of a small, but plucky little nation—to protect the rights of

the minority, as it were; and we ourselves can do no less than follow in its wake. Our countrymen in their thousands are assisting to uphold the "izjat" of the British Raj. Are their brothers in South Africa one whit less enthusiastic to do their duty as members of the Indian nation to the Empire? The recruiting officer has it. The Indian ladies, the mothers and the wives, the sisters and the sweethearts, are proving once more that they, too, can suffer, and that they, too, can sacrifice—for the good of the country they live in, for the honour of their Motherland, for the solidarity of the British Empire, and for the preservation of all that is good and beautiful in life.

A Visit to the Camp

Our representative paid a visit to the Camp of the Indian Bearer Company at Stamford Hill on Tuesday afternoon. He was cordially received by Major Briscoe, the Commanding Officer of the Company. Over a cup of tea, prepared by a smart Indian youth, the prospects of the Company were discussed in the friendly shade of the officer's tent. Just at that time the Staff-Sergeant commenced drilling the recruits, numbering about thirty, some of whom were evidently receiving their first lesson in marking time. As is usually the case, some were far in advance of the others. Some were keeping time correctly whilst a few made a mess of it. One man was taken apart by the instructor and patiently taught by demonstration, the officer slowly stepping with the recruit and in this way helping him to grasp the idea. On the whole the drilling was good and the instructor was pleased with the result achieved.

Major Briscoe, unofficially and in a friendly way, discussed the question of discriminating in the matter of pay between Europeans and colonial born Indians who have adopted the European standard of living. There was a difficulty, he admitted, but he hoped that no obstacles would be raised to the recruiting of men as the need was great and sacrifices had to be made by all. He pointed out that the Company was being taken over by the Imperial Government who would have in the same field, probably, men from India and South Africa. It would be impossible to pay the latter at a higher rate. Our representative hinted at the possibility of the Union Parliament passing a measure providing for the payment of all the South African Contingent. In that case it was agreed that it would be only right that the whole question should receive proper consideration with due regard to the special and peculiar circumstances of residents of South Africa.

In the meantime the drill came to an end and the conversation with the good doctor was finished on the station platform. The impression gained by the appearance of the Camp was certainly happy and these young men are to be congratulated upon the step they have taken and upon their good fortune in having for their Commanding Officer a thorough gentleman like Dr. Briscoe.

So far, no Indian medical assistants have been appointed, two of whom are required.

It should be mentioned that the Bearers are receiving a thorough training in first aid as well as a complete course of physical exercises. Some who are now joining have already attended lectures in ambulance work.

We are in a position to state that the report published some time ago to the effect that the Indian Bearer Company was proceeding to East Africa is incorrect. In order to settle the point, we telegraphed to the Defence Department, Pretoria, and we have received the reply that the destination is quite unknown.

Mr. Rajkoormar of Stamford Hill is very kindly sending a supply of milk daily to the Indian Bearer Company's camp for the use of the staff and company.

Other gifts in the way of comforts are being collected

and we hope to give further information later. Meanwhile those wishing to send any little luxuries along to the camp will, we feel sure, do so.

A loaf of bread and two small tins of meat is not a very substantial allowance for two days and nights in the train and yet this is what was given to a recruit for the Bearer Company who entrained at Pretoria. This poor man arrived in a starving condition we understand. If this should meet the eye of the authorities we would suggest that there is room for improvement here.

Another thing we might mention: Why must an Indian be given a third-class fare only? Is it because he is an Indian and he must not forget it? A little consideration would make it clear that a ride in a crowded carriage of natives is not exactly calculated to inspire one with the feeling that Indians' services are highly esteemed and badly needed.

We understand that, at the request of the men, a portion of bread will be given in place of a portion of the present ration.

Colonials in the Indian Civil Service

The Tribune (Lahore) has the following leading comments on the recent statement of the Government of India regarding the number of Colonials in the Indian Civil Service:—

The statement that was lately published by the Government of India in reply to a question put in the Imperial Legislative Council showed that out of 67 colonials holding high appointments in the service of this country as many as 29 are Australians, 16 Canadians, 12 New Zealanders and 10 South Africans. What a sad commentary on the attitude of these colonials that throughout the keen controversy on the subject of the ill-treatment of Indians by the self-governing colonies not one of the 67 colonials eating the Indian salt came forward to urge the just rights of Indians? They could not surely have been unaware of the agitation. Nor could it be that they never read even His Excellency the Viceroy's epoch-making speech at Madras and later on in the Imperial Legislative Council on the rights of Indians for reasonable concessions as the equal subjects of the Empire. It is nevertheless a fact that not one of the 67 colonials in our midst ever uttered a word or wrote a line of sympathy with the distressed Indians. However, the *Daily Graphic* (London) now informs us that the adamant hearts of Australians in the Dardanelles have melted like butter. It appears that a feeling of camaraderie has now been established between Indian and Australian troops serving in the Gallipoli Peninsula. Of course, the *Daily Graphic* does not consider it "possible or desirable" even now for Indians to settle in large numbers in the midst of a white population. We fancy it would far rather admit to the large uninhabited country foreigners like Italians, Swiss, or even Russians, but Indians, the comrades of British and colonial soldiers, it would not! Can perversity go further? The *Daily Graphic* asks for small mercies. It recommends that those Indians who have already obtained a settlement in any colony of European origin should not be subjected to any discriminating laws, but should receive the full privileges of British citizenship. "The recognition by Australians of the splendid qualities of their Indian comrades in the Dardanelles will," it adds, "greatly facilitate the attainment of this legitimate desire." It is not pleasant to contemplate that a devastating war of the magnitude that has been in progress was necessary to convince the colonists of the justice of the small concession which the *Daily Graphic* now graciously recommends.

From the Editor's Chair

THE NEW BROOM

THE Principal Immigration Officer, at Pretoria, has not taken long to get into his stride. We are informed that he is attempting to apply the system of photographs that has been in use at the Cape for some years, to Transvaal conditions. Applicants for form D.I.91, to enable them to obtain a certificate, on the official form, from a magistrate in India, to assist in the introduction of a wife or minor child into that Province, are required, if they do not themselves go to India to bring with them the members of their family, to provide the Immigration Department with duplicate copies of their photographs. This, we are told, is to enable the magistrate in India to identify the father or husband.

To our certain knowledge, magistrates in India have not hesitated to issue their certificates of relationship, after due inquiry, in the absence of father or husband. Numbers of such certificates, valid in every respect, have reached this country and been accepted by the Immigration Officers, as they were bound to be accepted. Even form D.I.91 has been issued in such cases, and unquestioningly, by magistrates in India. Why, then, the Immigration Officer at Pretoria should feel it his duty to cast discredit upon these certificates and try to teach responsible Government officials in India their business is beyond us. Had these officials, in individual cases, asked for additional means of identification, these would probably be given. But here it is the Transvaal officer, who is not called upon to issue a certificate, in effect dictating to those who have to issue it, the manner in which, with a far better knowledge of the circumstances, they are to satisfy themselves that the facts certified by them are correct. Anything more preposterous and humiliating than this attempt to interfere with the discretion of the Indian magistrates we can scarcely conceive. We are told, further, that the object of this demand is to provide against fraud. Obviously, not against that of honest persons, but of dishonest ones. What is there to prevent the latter from sending a third photograph to their correspondents in India with instructions to identify it, and thus add another misrepresentation to those they have already been instructed to make? In practice, the proposed procedure will not in any way prevent fraud.

But there are several other objections to this demand for photographs. There are many Indians, of the Mahomedan faith, who, on religious grounds, are sure to refuse to comply with it, and any attempt to insist upon compliance is bound to arouse the most bitter hostility. In many cases, again, owing to prolonged absence from India, identification from a photograph by relatives in India will be impossible. It was recognised, too, that the method of identification by photographs was unsatisfactory, when the Transvaal Asiatic Acts were being discussed, and what was unsatisfactory then, for good and sufficient reasons, cannot suddenly have become satisfactory to-day.

But the objection is even deeper-seated and of longer standing than this. As far back as 1903, when Lord Milner wished the Transvaal Indian community to identify itself by this means, he was brought to realise that the community would never assent to such a demand, and, after these many unhappy years of passive resistance, Transvaal Indians are not prepared to change their views and adopt methods that were allowed to come into use at the Cape because of the short-sightedness and lack of courage of the local leaders. It has been urged in high quarters that what is good enough for Europeans should not be objected to by Indians. The argument is based upon a patent fallacy, for there is no comparison between the two. Europeans have never been identified by the finger-print system. Transvaal Indians have been. The Immigration Officer will

certainly not issue a form D.I.91 unless he is satisfied, from the means of identification already in his possession, that the applicant is entitled to introduce his wife or minor child. That being so, and until the magistrate in India declines, of his own initiative, to issue his certificate, in the absence of the husband or father, without further means of identification, we hold that the Immigration Officer has neither legal nor moral right to make this demand. We can only say that, if he does, the unwritten agreement on the part of the Indian leaders to popularise form D.I.91, an admittedly non-statutory document, will at once fall to the ground.

The Kadodia Case

The *Indian Patriot* (Madras) makes the following remarks regarding the case of Mr. Goolam Mahomed Kadodia's son reported in our columns:—

Every issue of the *Indian Opinion* coming to India contains fresh and painful evidence of the fact that the "settlement," which drew forth from Indians such gratitude, is, after all, a mere "scrap of paper," and that the old spirit against which Mr. Gandhi valiantly fought is showing itself. Not even the war and the glorious part that India plays in it has blunted the edge of old realities. Sympathy is unknown, and the letter of the law is observed with almost cruel blindness. The son is separated from the father, and the feelings of communities are ignored. Mr. Polak describes a particularly sad instance where the South African officials failed miserably to display any breadth of mind or statesmanship. Friends of Indians, like Mr. Polak, have protested in vain. The boy must have been deported by this time. Such incidents must surely cast a gloom all over India.

The following resolutions were passed by the Pretoria Mahomedan Debating Society at a recent meeting:—

"This meeting of the Mahomedan Debating Society desires to express its regret at the action taken by the Government in the matter of Ahmed the son of Goolam Mahomed Kadodia, in spite of the recommendation by the Immigration Appeal Board. This boy has no relatives or friends outside the Transvaal."

"This meeting further respectfully considers that the action of the Government in this case is not in accordance with the promise, through General Smuts, to administer the Asiatic Law in a sympathetic manner. We therefore respectfully approach the Government with the request that the above case be reconsidered."

The following reply has been received:—"In reply to your letter of the 26th inst. I have to inform you that the case of Ahmed Goolam has received the Minister's very careful consideration and it is regretted that the decision arrived at cannot now be altered."

Zanzibar Indian Loyalty

We take the following from the issue of the *Official Gazette* of the Zanzibar Government of the 20th September last:—

At the half yearly meeting of the Indian National Association held on the 18th instant, the following resolution was proposed by Mr. Tayabali Esmailjee and seconded by Miansabeh Sheikh Ebrahimji Sheikh Musabhai:—

"The Indian National Association, Zanzibar, at the opportunity of its six-monthly general meeting, most respectfully and sincerely beg to assure His Majesty The King-Emperor of the unswerving loyalty of the British Indian Community of this Protectorate for ever, and most fervently pray the Almighty for the speedy and victorious issue of the war for England and the Allies who are so heroically fighting against the aggressive action of a foreign power, for the most sacred

cause of the maintenance of humanity, honour, justice and liberty."

The resolution was carried unanimously by the very large gathering of members present and a copy was subsequently forwarded to The British Resident with a request that it should be transmitted to His Majesty The King, telegraphically.

The Future of Immigration

Commenting editorially on the question of the admission of Indians to the British Colonies, with special reference to Canada, the *Bengalee* says:—

The only basis of settlement is reciprocity, to which His Excellency the Viceroy expressed his firm adhesion and which he pronounced in terms of unequivocal emphasis from his place in the Imperial Legislative Council. If there are to be restrictions and disabilities, imposed upon Indians emigrating into Canada, the same must be operative as against Canadians emigrating into or residing in India. The question is one of national sentiment and honour. If the national sentiment of Canada has to be respected, and we do not say that it should not be, then we claim that our national and racial susceptibilities are entitled to an equal measure of regard. It is all a question of the vindication of our equal status as subjects of the Crown. We cannot and will not reconcile ourselves to a position of inferiority, as compared to His Majesty's subjects in any other part of His Majesty's Dominions. Our equal status has been proclaimed in Charters and acknowledged in statutes. It is a precious possession with us, and we are resolved to vindicate it with the aid of the constitutional means at our disposal; and further we have the supreme satisfaction of knowing that in this controversy we have in an unstinted measure the moral sympathy and even the active support of His Excellency the Viceroy. He has been our spokesman, and we know that the whole of the influence of the Government of India will be exerted for the settlement of this question in a manner that will be consistent with our national self-respect and will vindicate the spirit and essence of the Royal Charters. In this vital matter, we can accept no compromise except such as will satisfy the national honour.

Morally Offensive

There is no Immigration Act at present drafted which would keep out the type of German who will wish to emigrate after the war. The average German workman is healthy, industrious, and well-behaved. He has a high standard of living, and his natural lack of self-reliance makes him a ready recruit to the trade unions. It is not on economic grounds that he will be excluded. And yet it seems inconceivable that he should be admitted. No man who has breathed the atmosphere of Western political institutions could fail to fear for their contamination at the hands of masses of Germans.

The case on which the exclusion of these Teutonic immigrants will be based is not that they are economically undesirable, but that they are morally offensive. Already this view is beginning to assert itself. The European Association of Calcutta has urged the Government of India to close down all German firms permanently, and to allow no German to settle in India after the peace unless he has been granted a licence.

The Association holds that in years to come the existence of a German community in India boycotted by other Europeans, full of the spirit of vindictiveness, sympathetic towards anarchical propaganda, would constitute a danger to the Raj. It can only be a matter of time for parallel views to be asserted in Western countries.—*The Outlook*.

News in Brief

We understand that Messrs. Andrews and Pearson have sailed for Fiji on their tour round the colonies.

A case of considerable importance is proceeding in the Supreme Court at Maritzburg. The question raised is whether the Licensing Officer may demand fingerprints on a trading licence. The matter stands adjourned in order that the Governor-in-Council may be represented. We shall give a report of the proceedings later.

Messrs. Imam Abdul Kadir Bawazeer and R. Soma-sundrum have been nominated as members of the Indian Committee Overseas Contingent Fund. Meetings are being held weekly at which the business in connection with collecting is discussed. Collections are going on and a further instalment will shortly be handed to the Finance Committee.

Capetown, Oct. 26 (Reuter).—Capetown has hitherto enrolled 58 for the coloured corps for service beyond the Union. Worcester was asked to supply 60, which number has been obtained. Port Elizabeth was allotted 45, of whom 31 have been recruited. The Johannesburg quota was 20, all of which have been obtained. The Kimberley allotment of 50 were got the first day. Other centres are also recruiting. The total number required is 600.

It has been decided to start a Home Rule League with "Home Rule for India" as its only object (says the *Commonweal*), as an auxiliary to the Indian National Congress and its British Committee in England. Its general aim will be to educate the people and to give to the demand of the Congress for self-government, formulated in its first article, the strength of a nation which has realised itself, and which, through its national organisation, has voiced its claim for years, only to see it rejected." It is added that Mr. Dadabhai Naoroji has consented to be President.

London, Oct. 21.—A Reuter telegram from Simla says that it is now proved beyond question that India is capable of making shells outside her ordnance factories, especially as the railways and other Government workshops are cordially co-operating with private enterprise. Thus ordinary firms and workshops of the princes and chiefs are able to carry out without difficulty the manufacture through all the processes from iron ore to the finished steel. The quality of the work is understood to have proved excellent. Shipments have already begun.—Reuter.

Both the English and Continental economists have this in common—that they regard the science of wealth exclusively from the point of view of dividends. As Mr. E. B. Havell remarked in an interesting paper read before the East India Association entitled "The Foundation of Indian Economics," in Western schools, economics is only considered from the standpoint of the trader, the cult of economics being the cult of the successful merchant. There is an Indian point of view in economics, he said, as there is in Indian art, music, and every other expression of Indian thought. What this is can be learnt only from study of the tendencies of Indian life and thought through the centuries. These tendencies are all not necessarily ethical, as Mr. Havell would have us believe, but they were and are distinctively Indian, and determine the Indian point of view in economics.—*Indian Social Reformer*.