

Indian Opinion

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PRICE ONE PENNY

INDIAN BEARER CORPS—"A" COMPANY

The following is a copy of the Official List of members of the Indian Bearer Corps ("A" Company):—

MAJOR J. E. BRISCOE, OFFICER COMMANDING		No.	Name
No. 51	Andrews, David Charles	No. 31	Moonasamy, Permal
No. 23	Aiyasamy, Gounden	No. 41	Munien, Gounden
No. 12	Aiyasamy, Moodlay	No. 46	Moonasamy, Naiken
No. 64	Applesamy, Gruto	No. 63	Moodley, Subramaniyan
No. 77	Abbu, Peraya	No. 137	Moodlay, Subhai
No. 96	Arson, Permal	No. 6	Moonsamy, Narayanasamy
No. 100	Arumagan, Munien	No. 79	Moonsamy, Candasamy
No. 159	Arnachellan, P.	No. 82	Moses, Joseph
No. 43	Baldao, Bahdar	No. 108	Moonsamy, Ramsamy
No. 61	Barnabas, Benjamin	No. 119	Moonpal, Singh
No. 4	Barnabas, Narayan	No. 141	Marcelline, Urban
No. 55	Bughwan, Baboo	No. 152	Moodley, Doorasamy
No. 98	Budhoo	No. 89	Naidoo, Arnachallam
No. 124	Buktola	No. 134	Naidoo, Appachetty C.
No. 113	Burrows, Badha	No. 145	Naidoo, Muthoo
No. 128	Beepath	No. 144	Nayana, Veramuthu
No. 72	Bulton, C. Doorasamy	No. 62	Nagapen, Chinapen
No. 7	Chengadu, Venagavalo	No. 75	Naidoo, Gopaul Moonasamy
No. 2	Chaugany, Anthony Bastian	No. 83	Naidoo, Ramasamy Kaniah
No. 1	Chengalrayan, John	No. 90	Naidoo, Fred Chinayonah
No. 49	Christopher, Albert (Staff-Sergeant)	No. 95	Narisaiah, Narisiah
No. 120	Changen, Moothan	No. 102	Narayanasamy, Chetty
No. 122	Chinnasamy, Francis	No. 123	Nadasen
No. 151	Davadasen, Paul Joe	No. 130	Naiker, Papiah Marimuthu
No. 58	David, Aloysius	No. 142	Palaney
No. 150	David, John Magimadasen	No. 13	Peter, Balakistan
No. 66	David, Anthony	No. 59	Poonsamy, Permal
No. 93	Dubardass, Joseph Garde	No. 60	Panchan, Jana
No. 27	Esau, Joseph	No. 81	Peter, Paul
No. 107	Eanisnuthu, Anthony	No. 91	Padayachie C. Subbiah
No. 67	Francis, Moses Joseph	No. 112	Phillip, Subban Moonsamy
No. 157	Francis, Alfred Edward	No. 156	Poonsamy, Subhai
No. 16	Gilbert, Billy	No. 17	Roberts, Henry (Corporal)
No. 38	Govinda, Moodlay	No. 125	Ramadin
No. 39	Gurubukkas	No. 155	Ranathai Rampier
No. 48	Govinda, Gounden	No. 32	Raman
No. 80	Gabriel, Alphonse Robert William	No. 139	Kampatal
No. 86	Gounden, Narayanasamy R.	No. 53	Ramsay, Suboo Thangervulu
No. 109	Gopaul, Challapen Naiken	No. 56	Raymond, Frank
No. 69	Gunnie, Marcus Paul	No. 88	Ramlal, Mayes
No. 105	Isaac, James Chas. Ruben	No. 106	Rambaram, Harriram
No. 50	John, Christopher Laurence	No. 146	Reddy, Goon
No. 65	James, David	No. 30	Sewcheran
No. 148	Kalli, Durry Billie	No. 33	Soondram, Poonsamy (Corporal)
No. 136	Kalicharan	No. 47	Sarvadiah
No. 8	Krithannan	No. 68	Stephen, Cornelius Beaumont
No. 97	Kishon Singh, Sorajbullie	No. 74	Singh, Lalbhadrur Junkadu
No. 111	Kandasamy, Ramasamy	No. 118	Soodyal, Mahabeer
No. 133	Luchman, Ramparsad	No. 160	Subbigudu, James
No. 87	Lalkanhai	No. 143	Thandrian
No. 135	Mahabeer	No. 71	Tommy, James Rangasamy
No. 5	Moonsamy, Kistan David	No. 127	Tulsee
No. 14	Manikum	No. 3	Vellapen
No. 15	Moonsamy, Peter Errigadu	No. 40	Vembly, Kandasamy
No. 21	Mudramuthoo	No. 101	Vengatsamy, Ghengum Chetty
No. 24	Moorgas, James Chinsamy	No. 73	Yenkanna, Kandrellia
		No. 140	Verasamy, Chengalreddy
		No. 121	Verasamy, Vengatasamy

Public send-off to Bearer Corps

A public meeting was held in the Town Hall on the 13th instant, under the auspices of the Natal Indian Association, to bid farewell to the Indian Bearer Corps, and had the weather been favourable the hall was expected to be packed with Indians from Durban and district. Unfortunately, owing to the rain, the hall was not much more than half-full, although the proceedings were of a thoroughly enthusiastic character.

Mr. Mark Miller (deputy mayor), in the absence of the Mayor at Capetown, occupied the chair. The Bearer Corps, in their full strength (114 in all), occupied the whole front of the organ gallery, and in their khaki dress, with turbans to match, they looked a stalwart body of men, who would have done credit in the fighting line, let alone the Ambulance Corps. Amongst those on the platform were Major Briscoe, Captains Dunning and Carmont, the Rev. Canon Hodson, the Rev. A. A. Baillie, the Rev. and Mrs. C. H. C. Bone, Mr. Polkinghorne, Mr. R. K. Khan, Mr. Parsee Rustomjee, Mr. Hajee Dawad Mahomed, numerous members of the Indian community in Durban, including a fair number of ladies.

The Chairman said it gave him great pleasure to preside over a gathering that had come to say farewell to the members of the 1st Indian Bearer Corps, who were shortly proceeding to the scene of strife.

It was not the first time the Indians of Natal had come forward in the cause of the Red Cross, the cause of humanity, to succour the wounded and the fallen, which was a noble cause. He assured the men that the citizens of Durban were proud to see such a fine body of men going forward to do the work they were to do. He regretted the absence of the Mayor, who, as they knew, had their interests at heart, and he concluded by stating that he felt sure they would give a good account of themselves in German East Africa, in the assurance that their dependents would be looked after in their absence. (Loud applause.)

Speeches were delivered by Messrs L. Gabriel (joint secretary of the Natal Indian Association), who gave a brief history of the Corps and its initial difficulties, Messrs. Hajee Dawad Mahomed, Parsee Rustomjee, Somasundram, and other Indians (several of whom spoke in Tamil), on the same lines as those delivered at the luncheon on Sunday.

Mr. R. K. Khan also made a short speech, in which he urged the men to do their work cheerfully and zealously, fortified in the knowledge that the British cause was the cause of justice and humanity.

Canon Hodson also spoke, and said that there was not a single person with decent feeling who did not feel touched at the manner in which the members of the Indian community, after all that had happened in the past, had come forward to assist the Empire, and we should see to it that the people who had given so freely of their riches, their gifts, and their service would not be forgotten after this war was over. (Applause.)

The Rev. C. H. C. Bone spoke in Tamil, by special request, and in the course of his remarks, said that thousands and thousands of years ago, the ancestors of Europeans and the ancestors of Indians dwelt together under the same roof and in the same homes. They divided then. One people came North to Europe, the other migrated to India, but to-day they were once more united. The loyalty which India had shown to the Emperor and the loyalty of the Bearer Company in offering themselves for this service had created that bond of Union, or, rather had shown that it was never really broken. To-day they stood shoulder to shoulder as loyal subjects of the King-Emperor. He wished them Godspeed.

Major Briscoe, who had a great reception, contented himself with thanking the audience for the splendid send-off they had given to his men, who, he hoped, when the time came, would be found ready to do their duty with honour to themselves and their country.

After a rousing speech from Sergt. Christopher, who appealed to the Indian men, not only of Natal, but South Africa, to come forward and form fresh bearer corps, the meeting terminated with the singing of "God Save the King" after which cheers were given for the King and the Bearer Corps.

As a mark of esteem from the members, Sergt.-Major Caddick received a presentation at the hands of Mr. Christopher.

The following telegrams were received:—

From Lord Buxton, Governor-General: "I am glad to learn that the Indian Bearer Company is already in a position to go to the front. The loyalty and patriotism of Indians is much appreciated, and this contingent has my best wishes."

From Mr. Advocate Alexander, M.L.A., "Regret cannot be present to-night to show appreciation patriotism and sacrifice. Indian community of Natal has made enormous sacrifice in Imperial cause. Indian troops have won undying fame in Flanders. Wish Bearer Company God-speed. Sure will shed fresh lustre on Indian name."

From General Smuts: "I am very glad that Indians in South Africa have secured representation in the part South Africa is taking in this great struggle to secure justice and liberty throughout the world, and the Indian Bearer Company raised in South Africa has my hearty good wishes and confidence that it will do its duty worthily under all circumstances."

From Senator Schreiner: "I congratulate you on being allowed to take part in this great war in which the British Empire and its Allies are engaged in defence of justice, liberty, honour, and fair play amongst the nations against an unprincipled and brute military despotism, and though your noble work on the battlefield will be to save life, rather than to kill, you will, I am assured, discharge that duty bravely, as your companions in arms discharge theirs. My best wishes and prayers accompany you."

Indian Bearer Corps Departure

"Dingaan's Day" (Dec. 16th) will be long remembered by those who made it their duty to be at the Durban wharf to see the Indian Bearer Corps off to East Africa to do their duty for King and Country. The men were entrained at Stamford Hill Station early in the morning and were taken to the transport ship *Trent*. Hundreds of Indians assembled at the Point to bid "bon voyage" to their sons, brothers, sweethearts and husbands. The Hon. Marshall Campbell was on board as early as 7.30 a.m. Mr. Campbell's association with the Corps is well known. He is the one man whom the men rely on to see that their dependents are provided for and that the Governor-General's Fund will be judiciously and generously applied. Then the Rev. and Mrs. Bone, who also are taking a keen interest in the Corps, were seen moving among the men, shaking hands and saying words of encouragement. Mrs. Bone, who has a happy way of making herself endeared to the people, sought out the wives and mothers and spoke words of comfort. Right on top of the promenade deck was Mr. Parsee Rustomjee, who can indeed be called the father of the Corps, with a well-satisfied smile on his face. About 11.30, the Hon. Marshall Campbell left after he had addressed the men on board. The reply from the Company was three rousing cheers. The men looked splendid in their new equipment. At last the siren sounded and soon after the ship began to move from the wharf, and up went three rousing cheers for the Indian Bearer Corps, amid the strains of the National Anthem.

Analysing the personnel of the Corps, there are 88 Tamilians and 26 Calcutthias.

Among those present on board were Messrs. Dawad Mahomed, Gabriel, and Parsee Rustomjee, (officials of the Natal Indian Association), Messrs. R. Somasund-

ram, H. M. Singh, B. L. E. Sigamony (of the Com-
forts Committee) and the members of the Local In-
dian Committee of the Governor-General's Fund.

From the Editor's Chair

THE KING-EMPEROR

There are apparently two King-Emperors in the British
Dominions, one being His Most Gracious Majesty King
George the Fifth, the other his less gracious majesty
the Acting Principal Immigration Officer, at Pretoria,
and it is of the latter that we are again constrained to
write. It appears that, although the Immigrants Ap-
peal Board had decided, in certain cases of minor ap-
pellants, that the boys are really the sons of the fathers
who claim them, Mr. Cousins is of opinion that the
Board does not know its business, and he has there-
fore threatened, not only to refuse registration to such
minors, but that, when they have obtained the age of
16 years, he will deport them under the Registration
Act of 1908. We have no doubt that is just what Mr.
Cousins would like to do, but it happens that there is
a fly in the amber, and we take pleasure in referring
him to the correspondence between the Department of
the Interior and Mr. Polak, of the existence of which
he appears to be entirely ignorant. In the face of that
correspondence, we shall be interested to see whether
Mr. Cousins will proceed to carry out his threat. Mr.
Cousins' predecessor committed many blunders in
his time. Mr. Channin's successor desires, it would
appear, not only to emulate but to excel in the com-
mission of blunders. But all things have an end, and
we seem to feel that the end of the long list of Mr.
Cousins' blunders is fast approaching.

**New Immigration Appeal Board
Regulations**

The following regulations issued under Government
notice No. 1360 dated the 11th December, 1915, are
published in the Government *Gazette* of the 17th in-
stant amending regulations No. 19 previously publish-
ed. We reproduce only the alterations:—

19 (1) Whenever a prohibited immigrant desires to
appeal to a Board appointed under sub-section (1) of
section two of the Act he shall obtain from the Immi-
gration Officer and complete a notice of appeal in the
following form:—

Notice of Appeal

I.....being
a passenger on the s.s...../person arrested at.....
hereby notify my intention to appeal against the de-
claration of the immigration officer that I am a pro-
hibited immigrant within the meaning of the Immi-
grants Regulation Act, 22 of 1913; and I deposit here-
with the sum ofpounds (£.....) as re-
quired to cover the cost of my detention and main-
tenance and such other expenditure as may be incurred
by the immigration officer on my behalf or in connec-
tion with my appeal, and also the cost of my removal
from the Union, this Province unless I am declared
not to be a prohibited immigrant.

I desire to be represented by counsel at the hearing
of my appeal, and have given my power of attorney to
Mr.....to appear in my behalf.

A statement of the grounds upon which I base my
right to enter/remain in the Province of.....
is attached hereto.

(Signature).....

Date.....
Place.....

Within the time specified in sub-section (7) of sec-
tion two of the Act he shall deliver or transmit such
notice of appeal and statement of the grounds thereof
to the immigration officer, together with the sum fixed
as a deposit for the purposes specified in sub-section
(7) of section two of the Act. No appeal shall be
heard by a Board unless a prohibited immigrant has
complied with the requirements of this regulation.

Should the appellant desire to be represented before
the Board as provided in section two, sub-section (8),
of the Act he shall, previous to the hearing of his ap-
peal, furnish the immigration officer with a written in-
timation accordingly and of the name of counsel or
other representative authorized by him to appear on
his behalf.

(7) If the appeal be dismissed the appellant shall
remain in the custody of the immigration officer, who
shall forthwith take such steps as may be required for
his return to the place from which he embarked, or
shall otherwise arrange for his removal from the Union
or for such temporary or conditional residence within
the Union as may be permitted under the Act. If the
appeal be allowed the appellant shall be discharged
from custody or shall be relieved from the conditions
of any temporary permit issued to him, and he shall
receive from the immigration officer in charge a refund
of such portion of any deposit as may be due to him
after payment of the charges for detention and main-
tenance and the like. The Board may, in its discretion,
order that the costs of any adjourned hearing of an
appeal shall be paid from the appeal deposit lodged in
terms of Regulation 18 (1) where such adjournment is
granted at the request of or in the interests of the
appellant.

(9) At the hearing of an appeal there shall be placed
before the Board:—

- (a) An intimation of an immigration officer that a
notice of prohibition has been served on the
appellant under sub-section (5) of section two
of the Act.
- (b) The notice of appeal by the appellant and the
written intimation of the name of the person,
if any, authorized to represent the appellant.
- (c) The statement by the appellant of the grounds
upon which he bases his right to remain in or
enter the Union or any particular Province.
- (d) A written statement by the immigration officer
setting forth the reasons why in his opinion
the appellant should be prohibited or restricted
in respect of his entrance or remaining in
the Union or any particular Province.
- (e) All written records of evidence produced before
the immigration officer under sub-section (1)
of section nineteen of the Act, together with
any documents referred to in such evidence.

The Board, subject to the powers conferred on it by
sub-section (9) of section two of the Act, shall decide
the appeal upon the documents specified in paragraphs
(a), (b), (c), (d), and (e) of this sub-section of the re-
gulation.

(11) The Board shall in its consideration of a case
brought before it determine the fact that the appellant
is or is not of the class or classes alleged by the immi-
gration officer, or of any other of the classes described
in section four of the Act, or if he is one of such classes
shall determine whether he has or has not brought
proper proof that he is a person exempted under
section five of the Act from being a prohibited immi-
grant; and if the Board finds as a fact that the ap-
pellant is such a person as is described in section four
of the Act, and has not brought proper proof or has other-
wise failed to satisfy the Board that he is a person so
exempted, the Board shall dismiss the appeal. Provid-
ed that in the case of an appellant who has previously
appealed to this Board or another Board under this
Act, the record of the proceedings of such appeal may
be put in for the consideration of the Board, which,

after considering evidence as in this clause hereinbefore provided, and if satisfied that the circumstances of the present appeal are not identical with those before the Board in such previous appeal, shall give a decision in accordance with the circumstances now before it.

Non-prohibited Immigrants in the Transvaal

We refer to the following correspondence in our editorial columns in this issue:—

31st August, 1914.

Dear Mr. Gorges,

You will remember that when I saw you last month, I discussed with you the position of Indians who were declared by the Board to be non-prohibited immigrants, and yet who were, for technical reasons, unable to secure registration. As I recollect, you then suggested that there should be no difficulty in the issue to such persons of letters of protection. It appears, however, that Mr. Chamney thinks it necessary that they should take out Visiting Passes to be extended from time to time, but I venture to submit that this is both cumbersome, undesirable, and unnecessary. As the people concerned are not prohibited immigrants, it does not appear to me that any obligation arises for them to hold Visiting Passes, which, after all, are intended only for those who are not lawfully resident, moreover it would mean, in addition to a fee of £1, the deposit for an indefinite period of £10, a very large sum for a considerable proportion of those who may be asked to take out these documents. It appears to me that it should not be difficult to issue a letter or some such document bearing the thumb print of the holder, showing that he has been declared not to be a prohibited immigrant, and that instructions should be given to the Police to respect these documents, which, at a later date, might be exchanged for permanent documents, if Parliament so decides. A case came to my notice to-day where a lad of about 17 years was required by the Immigration Officer to obtain a Temporary Permit and to deposit £10, but who has not £10 to bless himself with in the world, and who, as he had been declared by the Board to be a non-prohibited immigrant, cannot be expelled from the Transvaal, even though he may not be able to obtain a Registration Certificate.

May I hope that you will be so good as to go into this matter in order that such people as these may secure relief.

Thanking you in anticipation.

Yours very truly,
(Sgd.) H. S. L. POLAK.

27/33363

14th September 1914.

Sir,—With reference to your letter of the 31st ultimo, re the position of Indians in the Transvaal, who are declared by the Immigration Appeal Board to be non-prohibited immigrants, I have the honour to inform you that the matter has received careful consideration, and the Principal Immigration Officer, Pretoria, has been instructed to issue temporary permits to these persons without requiring any deposit therein.

I have etc.,

(Sgd.) H. B. SHAW,

Under Secretary for the Interior.

H. S. L. Polak, Esq.

The following ladies assisted the Indian community of Maritzburg in the street collections when £130 was realised for the Corps fund of the first Indian Bearer Company:—Mrs. P. Davis, Lady Hyslop, Mrs. Reed, Mrs. Bodie, Mrs. Shaw, Mrs. Chignell, Miss Hathorn, Miss Glynn-Coleman, and Miss Miller. Mr. Wynne-Cole also assisted.

Comforts Committee

A general meeting of the "Ladies' Branch" of the above was held in the St. Aidan's Girls School, Durban, on Monday, the 13th instant. The chair was kindly taken by Mrs. G. Mackeurton, supported by Mrs. Bone (President of the Ladies' Committee), Miss Muggelton and Miss Adams, members of Committee, and the Rev. Bone, Treasurer. In spite of the wet weather, there were about twenty-five Indian ladies present.

Mr. R. Somasundram explained the object of the meeting and appealed to the mothers present to think of the members of the Corps as their own children, and to set apart at least one hour every week to visit those whom the men were leaving behind, and attend to or represent their wants to the Committee. Mr. and Mrs. Bone spoke in the same strain.

Mrs. Mackeurton said that she was always willing to help in this noble work.

Mrs. M. C. Abraham and Mrs. V. Jeevanantham were elected joint secretaries, and Miss Tabbia Jeevanantham treasurer.

Mrs. Mary Joshua, of Verulam, wrote regretting inability to attend, but sent ros., monies saved up by her children.

A cheque for £5 5s. was received from the Acting Secretary of the Alexandra Indian community War Relief Fund.

A further meeting of the above committee was held in the Tamil Institute on Saturday last. Mrs. Oldham presided, supported by Mrs. Laughton. Several Hindustani ladies attended:

Mrs. Abraham read letters from Major Briscoe, expressing the gratitude of his men and self to the ladies for so promptly and in such a short time preparing under-garments and cholera-belts for the use of the men; from the Alexandra County Indians, enclosing £5 5s.; and from Mesdames Koilpillai and Dhooan, expressing sympathy with the movement.

Mrs. Oldham and Mrs. Laughton spoke a few words of encouragement to the ladies, and Mr. Somasundram delivered a message from the men of the Bearer Corps.

The Rev. Bone appealed for tobacco and cigarettes for the men. Mrs. Bone called for volunteer helpers, and the following were added to the Ladies Committee: Mesdames Oldham, Laughton, B. M. Singh, Rathpal Singh, A. A. Singh, A. D. Pillay, Ramdev Singh, R.W. Joseph, V. Moonsamy, Agnes Francis, D. Royeppen and Misses Violet, Beatrice and Gladys Samuels, Agnes Bissessor, Dumadar Rathpal Singh, G. C. Somasundram and Baldeo Singh. Several ladies took sewing home and the following gifts were offered:—Mrs Rathpal Singh, 1 box cigarettes; Mrs. A. A. Singh, 1 piece of calico; Mrs. Ramdev Singh, 1 box of cigarettes. Mr. R. Dehaloo, of Isipingo, who, in his quiet way, forwarded several gifts to the men of the Bearer Corps, was seen with a cart load of fruit, etc., at the wharf on Thursday last, for the men. This gentleman, we understand, has promised flannelette, etc. to the Ladies Committee.

Friends desirous of communicating with members of the Indian Bearer Company should note that the Regimental number, name, rank and company should be clearly specified, thus:—Private A. R. Wm. Gabriel, No. 80, Indian Bearer Corps, "A" Company, Army Base P.O., Kilindini.

At the meeting of the Durban Town Council recently Suliman Mahomed Kadodia appealed against the decision of the Licensing Officer who had refused him a retail licence for premises at 221, Berea Road. The Licensing Officer stated that he did not think he should grant an Asiatic licence for Berea Road. The applicant was represented by Mr. J. J. Sisson. The appeal was dismissed on the motion of Mr. Anderson, seconded by Mr. Miller.—*Natal Mercury*.

Indian Opinion

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MORE "SYMPATHETIC" TREATMENT

THE following letter, dated the 4th instant, was addressed by Mr. Polak to the Acting Secretary for the Interior, Pretoria:—

I am instructed to request the Minister's intervention in the case of Mahomed Mahmood Dahya and Ahmed Mahomed Dahya. Both are orphans since infancy, in each case the parents having died of plague. The first-named is at the present time aged about 11 years, and, upon the death of his parents, he fell into the charge of his aunt, a sister of his father, who subsequently married Mr. Mahomed Suliman Mia of the firm of A. M. Suliman Mia, of Johannesburg. Upon her marriage with Mr. Mia the latter assumed the guardianship of this child and, upon the death of his wife, and his subsequent re-marriage, he brought the child to the Transvaal with him from India upon a temporary permit. Practically ever since his arrival in Johannesburg, the boy has been a student at the Government Indian School. In the case of the second boy, who is aged about 13 years, he came to South Africa under the guardianship of his elder brother, Suliam Mahomed Dahya, who is a registered resident of the Transvaal. The latter has recently been called to India on urgent business and intends to return shortly. The only other near relative of this boy is Mr. Hassan Sale Mia, Merchant of Johannesburg, who married the boy's elder sister. This boy, too, has been a student at the Government Indian School since his arrival.

"I am instructed to represent that a grave and cruel hardship will be imposed upon these children if, at the present time, they are removed from the Transvaal, as in India there is no near relative who can look after them. I feel assured that it was never the intention of Parliament that in cases of this kind, children of tender years should be sent away from this country, even though, strictly speaking, they are not legally entitled to be here, whilst they are in the care of responsible members of the community nearly related to them and who have assumed the obligations of guardianship and without any provision being made for their intellectual and material welfare. I have been given to understand that these cases have been presented to the Honourable the Minister for consideration as to whether or not he should exercise his discretion under section 25 (1) of the Immigrants Regulation Act of 1913, and that the Minister has declined to exercise his discretion thereunder. I am now, therefore instructed respectfully to request that the Minister will be pleased to allow these boys to remain in the Transvaal under their present guardianship and, under due security, until such time as they reach the age of 16 years. Should the Minister be pleased to extend this act of grace, it will be deeply and gratefully appreciated by the relatives and also by responsible members of the Indian community who are acquainted with the circumstances and who are anxiously concerned lest a grave hardship should be inflicted. I beg, therefore, to request that you will be pleased to place this corres-

pondence before the Honourable the Minister at an early date.

With further reference to your telegram under reply, I do not know whether it is within your knowledge or under your instructions that this day a prohibition notice was served upon these two boys who were called upon to make a deposit of £10 each, upon the instructions of the Principal Immigration Officer. I venture to think that this action was unnecessary in the circumstances, especially having regard to your assurance that action would be delayed, and I venture, therefore, to request that the prohibition notice be withdrawn.

"Thanking you in anticipation."

The Acting Under-Secretary replied, on the 17th instant, as under:—

"With reference to your letter of the 4th instant representing the cases of the boys Mahomed Mahmood Dahya and Ahmed Mahomed Dahya, I have to inform you that these have been carefully considered, and the Minister regrets that he is unable to afford the desired relief."

Mr. Polak acknowledged the above letter on the 18th instant, and on the 22nd instance again wrote to the Acting Secretary for the Interior as follows:—

"With further reference to your letter No. 5/A/346 of the 17th instant, and to my letter in the same matter of the 4th instant, I beg to inform you that the boys, Mahomed Mahmood Dahya and Ahmed Mahomed Dahya, were surrendered to-day to the representative in Johannesburg of the Principal Immigration Officer. I understand that the latter was prepared upon payment of a fee of £1 in each case, to issue Temporary Permits to these boys, conditionally upon their leaving South Africa for India by the steamer leaving Durban on the 28th instant. Having regard, however, to the circumstances set forth in my letter herein of the 4th instant, the guardian has not felt morally justified in taking any steps by which he would make himself responsible for sending these homeless children back to India, and he has, therefore, declined the said temporary permits, feeling that the responsibility for such removal should fall upon the Government. I am now instructed to request a refund of the deposit of £10 in each case made by Mr. Mahmood Suliman Mia, as security for the due appearance of the boys, and I shall be obliged if you will kindly authorise the same."

[NOTE: We are advised that a last attempt was made on Thursday, the 23rd instant, to induce the Government to reconsider their decision by producing the boys in person before a high executive officer in order that ocular demonstration might be given of the extreme hardship that would result from the deportation of the children. This effort, however, ended in failure. —Ed. I.O.]