

Indian Opinion

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NOTES AND NEWS

WE learn from a Reuter's telegram that the Asiatic Commission will commence its sittings at Capetown on March 17. Sir Benjamin Robertson who is attending the Commission on behalf of the Indian Government is expected to be in Capetown this week.

It is stated that Mr. J. R. Hartshorne, Registrar of Asiatics, Transvaal, at present acting as Principal Immigration Officer, Capetown, will be appointed Secretary of the Commission.

The "Man in the Moon" of the *Natal Mercury* appears to have come down to earth once more and made the discovery that there is to be a Commission "to inquire into the grievances of the Asiatics" and he asks what are their particular hardships. This old fossil of a journalist does not even know that the Asiatic Commission was appointed to inquire into the grievances of the anti-Asiatics!

What I should like to see the Commission take in hand (says this writer) is the condition of the Asiatic population who labour for their own people, and an endeavour made to heighten the amenities of life amongst them. There is too much attention paid to their political cries. Like the white men, they are voluntary settlers in the country, and can leave it if they are dissatisfied, but as a matter of fact they want special privileges, so that, through lower working costs, they can secure the whole commerce of the country.

Is the "Man" so very anxious to "heighten the amenities" of Indians? We wonder! As for their "political cries," we would again remind him that these emanate from the repatriationists and segregationists. This Commission has been appointed to satisfy them and not Indians.

Repatriation is out of the question, at least for the majority (says the "Man"), but there are numerous merchants who are not British subjects, and attention might be paid to them. They exploit the true Indian, who is kept down, through caste or poverty. What wonderful knowledge! Will this fiction about "Arab" traders never die out?

Addressing his constituents Mr. W. J. O'Brien, the S.A.P. candidate for Maritzburg South, speaking on the question of Asiatics, said that he had been instrumental in getting the scope of the Commission that had been sitting on the Indian question extended to Natal. He held that the Asiatic storekeepers should be forced to pay the same wages as white storekeepers.

A meeting of prominent people in Pietermaritzburg, including Col. Wales, decided to ask the Corporation to erect a crematorium. A society was formed to promote the idea. Letters were received from the Rev. Mearns

Massie, Dr. W. Russell Strapp, Mr. Alexander Reid, Dr. Brown, Superintendent of the Mental Hospital, the Hon. F. S. Tatham each of whom favoured cremation and wished the Society every success.

The following is contained in the official programme of the Unionist Party of South Africa:—

"Opposing the introduction of Asiatics into South Africa, while securing fair treatment for those now lawfully settled in the country."

The Finance Committee of Durban Corporation report as follows:—

We have given consideration to the matters raised by the Indian Employees' Union, and while not yet in a position to report fully thereon, we submit the following interim recommendations:

(a) That all Corporation Indian employees, drawing rations, be supplied with 200 lbs. firewood per month, at a total cost of approximately £2,000 (Vote Excess).

(b) That Indian constables be provided with two pairs of ammunition boots per annum as part of their uniform, and further, that Chainmen working in bush or thorns be supplied with boots, as well as messengers employed on special services.

We are asked to draw attention to the following facts proved by medical research:—

1. That it is dangerous to make use of unboiled water from rivers or pools containing fresh-water snails.

2. That Bilharzia disease, or Red-water in children, is caused by a parasite which escapes from these fresh-water snails.

3. That these parasites can live on lettuce or water-cress grown where snails abound.

4. That these snails are very numerous in Mayville, Sydenham and other places.

It is also stated that Indian children are amongst the principal sufferers, because so many of them wade in stagnant water. The disease can be cured by the use of a drug. Salt or fresh lime both kill the parasite in water. Tame ducks very quickly eat up all the snails in a pool and much could be done to eradicate the disease if Indians would keep more ducks.

In reply to a question on the Asiatic problem Mr. Jas. Henderson, M.L.A., Unionist candidate for Berea, Durban, said that he was in favour of opposing the introduction of Asiatics into South Africa, whilst according fair treatment to those already in the country. The question was one of the most serious in the whole country, and almost insoluble. He was in favour of placing them in another country. There were great difficulties, because they wanted to treat them fairly, but he believed that it would eventually pay the Government to send the Asiatics out of the country.

Mr. Thos. Roydell, M.L.A., Labour member for Greyville, Durban, said that he was in favour of equal political rights for the black man in his own area, and for the white man in his own area.

At a recent meeting a large number of questions were asked Mr. J. G. Hunter, M.L.A., Unionist candidate for Stamford Hill, in reply to which he expressed himself as willing to support the principles of equal pay for equal work as between the sexes, and also the enfranchisement of women. He said that he was prepared to support free education throughout the Union, up to and including university education for all children who had sufficient ability to show that the latter would not be thrown away on them. With regard to the Asiatic menace, he said that the Unionist Party felt very strongly on the subject of Asiatic encroachment. He could assure his audience on behalf of the Unionist Party that they would unanimously support any legislation which would remedy the present difficulty.

Mr. Nel, Nationalist candidate for Umvoti, Natal, maintained that it was the duty of every farmer to submit to taxation in order to repatriate the Asiatics. They could not turn them out of the country.

Speaking at Umzinto, Mr. Edward Saunders replying to Mr. Leisegang on the Indian question as regards the issue of further licences and the buying of land, said that the Indian question was one beset with difficulties. He was not in favour of any increase in the ownership of property by Indians, but they had to remember that these people were British subjects, and the matter had to be very carefully and tactfully handled. He did not agree with any proposal to absolutely prohibit the holding of licences or land by Indians, because the matter had to be considered in connection with the Empire.

Mr. Nelson Palmer during his political campaign as an independent seeking the suffrages of the voters in the South Coast Division, referring to the Asiatic question is reported to have said:—Originally brought to Natal to work on the sugar estates, the Asiatics had now penetrated all the Provinces. In the Transvaal, action was being taken, and the people, English and Dutch alike, were agreed as to the inadvisability of granting them any further privileges. The feeling amongst the people in the Transvaal and the Free State would be sufficiently strong to rid those Provinces of the Asiatics in them. The result would be almost a certainty that the people in the Transvaal, the Free State and the Cape Province would say Natal was responsible for the introduction of the Indians, "let us return them to that Province." We wanted to deal with Asiatics fairly. The only thing was to compensate them and send them away. It was going to cost a lot of money to get rid of the Asiatic menace in South Africa, but whatever it costs, it would be money well invested. If they were allowed to remain, the time would come when the Asiatic population would out a large number of European population.

A well-attended meeting of ladies, with Mrs. J. McKenzie in the chair, took place in the Council Chamber, Dundee, on Thursday last which was addressed by Sir T. Watt. He said the question of women's franchise was one which Parliament will doubtless shortly deal with. In consequence of the magnificent work of the women who helped so much to win the war, there was now a strong feeling, in which he shared, in favour of giving women the vote. The great difficulty was, were the coloured women to have the vote? Coloured men and Natives in the Cape, if they earned £50 a year, or owned a small property,

and could write their names, were entitled to the franchise. But in no other part of South Africa have coloured or Natives a vote. He thought it would be wise to give the vote to white women only. So far as coloured women in the Cape were concerned, if they could comply with the conditions they also had a good claim to the vote, but he was opposed to other coloured women in the Cape getting the vote or to any coloured women in the other provinces being enfranchised.

The South African labour party platform includes the following:—

EQUAL PAY FOR EQUAL WORK

Insistence in all industrial questions on the principle that the only real value of any industry to the country is the degree to which it enables the workers engaged therein to live as civilised men and women in a civilised country, and on the principle of equal pay for equal work.

FREE EDUCATION

Free education throughout the Union, including University education for all who are able to pass specified and suitable educational tests; and an alteration in the system of education so as to instil into the minds of pupils the value of social and civic duties rather than personal advantage.

NATIVE POLICY

The development of Native areas and industries therein in the interest of the Native population. The encouragement of Natives to reside therein under conditions conducive to their own development. The prohibition of the importation of contract labour and the abolition of the present indentured labour system.

WOMEN'S RIGHTS

Equal rights to women.

A Reuter's telegram from Bombay reports:—The Nationalist leader, Lala Lajpat Rai, who was not permitted to stay in India during the war, has returned from his sojourn in the United States. A series of elaborate welcomes are being arranged.

A Reuter telegram states that several draft Ordinances are Published in the *Cape Provincial Gazette* the most important of which is an amending Ordinance relating to education. This provides that all instruction in schools under the control of the School Boards shall be free in all classes up to and including the Sixth Standard. An exception, however, is made, to the effect that the Department may after consultation with the Board concerned, determine that instruction shall not be free in any particular school or schools. Parents of children attending such schools will have the right to demand free instruction, but their children may be transferred from such schools to others within three miles of their residences.

We are rather curious to know why exceptions are made. Indians and Coloured people at the Cape have need to be watchful.

Speaking on the Peace Treaty and the Turkish question, in the House of Commons, Mr. Lloyd George referred to a couple of his pledges with reference to Turkey with which his opponents had made great play, and declared the first pledge, namely, that there be a different porter at the gates of the Bosphorus, would be fulfilled in the letter and the spirit. (Cheers.) The second pledge given in a speech in January, 1918, after full consultation, and with the consent of all parties, stated the Allies were not fighting to challenge the maintenance of the Turkish Empire with a capital at

Constantinople, subject to the passage from the Mediterranean to the Black Sea being internationalised and neutralised, also that Arabia, Armenia, Mesopotamia, Syria, and Palestine were entitled to recognition as separate nationalities, the Declaration was specific, unqualified, and most deliberate, and the immediate effect was that recruiting in India went up appreciably. Nearly a million and a half enlisted in India. Altogether Great Britain could not have conquered Turkey without that help, and nothing would damage British power in Asia more than the feeling that they could not trust the British word. (Cheers.)—Reuter.

Commenting on the official announcement regarding the South African Commission, the *Indian Social Reformer* says:—

The silence of the communication regarding an Indian representative who was to have been included in the deputation, demands attention. Has the Government of South Africa refused to receive an Indian or has it proposed terms on which no self-respecting Indian would care to go to South Africa? The public are entitled to an explanation of this sudden omission. We trust that the Government of India will lose no time in explaining the circumstances in which the Indian people are not to be represented by a representative of their own race.

The *Leader* is more outspoken:—

It is stated that on completion of his work in South Africa Sir Benjamin Robertson will proceed to East Africa and Uganda on a more or less similar mission. It is an open secret that Sir Benjamin's work in South Africa in 1913-14 was far from being satisfactory from the Indian point of view and that his deputation on the present occasion is not regarded by our countrymen as the best selection that could be made by the Government of India. This circumstance renders it the more necessary that a trusted Indian leader should be associated with him. We are told by the Secretary of State that this would be done and it has been believed that the choice fell upon the hon. Mr. Sastri. Why has no official announcement been made on this point?

Referring to Amritsar massacre the *Nation* writes

"We shall show ourselves as a nation unfit to rule if we pass this thing over lightly. To condone it, to minimise it is to court its repetition. We repeat that we may be on the verge of happenings in Ireland which will give the General Dyers of that island their chance. The British Empire would not survive many Amritsar massacres. It lies with the Parliament to make this the last."

General Royston Independent candidate addressing his electors at Ballit is reported to have said referring to the Indian question, that this was one which must be controlled from Great Britain, for it was also one of the problems of the British Empire. There was, however, a serious position in this country in connection with the Arab traders, who were attaching themselves to the small townships all over the country, and the Indian syndicates which were being formed. The fruit trade, too, in certain parts was largely in their hands, and they were ousting the small farmer. If they could get them out of the country, he maintained it would be for the benefit of their children, but if it was not possible to do so, then the only alternative was in a policy of segregation, the same as with the Natives.

Mr. Nelson Palmer, addressing his Verulam constituents is reported to have said that with regard to the Asiatic question, and more especially "Arab" traders, he was in favour of segregation, with reasonable compensation.

AN APPEAL TO THE PRIVY COUNCIL

VREDEDORP STANDS CASE

No less august an authority than the Privy Council will probably be beating its brows over one of the problems of humble Vrededorp in the not very distant future (says the *Rand Daily Mail*). And, from another point of view, the South African National Party is also taking up the same matter, so that between the two it seems likely that something of an international cause celebre will be created out of the question of whether Indians may or may not hold stands in Vrededorp.

The origin of the trouble dates to 1917, to certain proceedings between the Johannesburg Town Council and the Madrassa (an Indian limited liability company). Under the Vrededorp Stands Act of 1907, Asiatics are precluded from holding stands in that locality, the letting of stands to Asiatics being also prohibited. But apparently there are instances of Asiatic companies holding stands, and in order to test this the Council made application to the Supreme Court for an interdict to restrain the Madrassa from allowing coloured persons to occupy Stand 320, the property of the company.

This application was refused by the Rand Division of the Supreme Court on the ground that the Vrededorp Ordinance directed proceedings to be taken in the Magistrate's Court, but on appeal by the Council to the Provincial Division this decision was reversed and the order granted. The company appealed to the appellate Division, but the judgment of the Provincial Division in favour of the Council was upheld.

Application was thereupon made by the Council to the Supreme Court, Rand Division, for an order committing the directors of the Madrassa for contempt of Court for not carrying out the Court's order, and the company was condemned in the costs. From this order the company again appealed to the appellate Division at Bloemfontein, but without success, whereupon the company was called upon to carry out the Court's order and pay the costs.

The matter was thus carried as far as is possible in South Africa, leaving the Council the winners. At this point the matter rested for some time, though the company gave notice of an application to the King-in-Council for permission to appeal to the Privy Council. Since then, it is understood, efforts have been proceeding in the direction of getting together the necessarily large sum of money to prosecute the appeal on behalf of the Indians to the legal equivalent of the "foot of the throne."

A LABOUR CANDIDATE ON THE COLOUR QUESTION

Speaking recently at an electioneering meeting, Mr. Kemp, the Labour candidate for Stamford Hill, is reported to have said that he hoped the Asiatic Commission would give its best consideration to the prohibition of any further issue of new trading licences, or the transfer of existing licences, to any Indian or non-European, except in reserved areas or bazaars set aside for their trade and occupation, within which the white wage standards applicable elsewhere shall not be compulsory.

He was strongly in favour of safeguarding Europeans from unfair competition produced by low paid labour. He thought the interests of all would benefit by the principle of prohibiting future sales, rentals, or leasing of land or building to any Indians or non-Europeans, except in such areas as shall be set aside and exclusively reserved. Europeans should be kept to European quarters, Asiatics to the Asiatic quarter and natives to the location.

The Labour Party would insist that in all industrial questions the principle that the only real value of any industry to the country is the degree to which it enables the workers engaged therein to live as civilised men and

women in a civilised country, and on the principle of equal pay for equal work.

He was in favour of State-aided organisations to provide for skilled occupational training of Europeans, so as to get rid of the canker of "poor whites." In view of the increasing employment of women and girls in skilled occupations, he agreed that it was desirable to provide legislation ensuring the payment of equal pay for equal work.

SECOND ANTI-ASIATIC CONGRESS

HELD AT POTCHEFSTROOM

The second Congress of the South African League was held on the 4th inst. under the chairmanship of Mr. L. V. Phillips, of Krugersdorp, Sir Abe Bailey being unable to attend. The Mayor of Potchefstroom, Mr. J. P. Nel, welcomed the delegates, numbering about fifty, on behalf of the town people.

Mr. Phillips, in the course of a masterly address which is to be printed and circulated broadcast throughout the Transvaal reviewed the whole problem of the Asiatic menace in all its manifold phases. He paid a big tribute for propaganda work to Messrs. W. J. Holmes, M. Koning, Hoatson (Mayor of Krugersdorp) and J. Hunter (secretary of the League).

Continuing, he appealed to the leaders of all the political parties—that, whatever occurred at the hustings during the next few weeks, this question should not be made a sort of shuttlecock to be bandied between politicians to the detriment of South Africa. (Hear hear.) Unless they could think nationally about the matter and express themselves as a nation, they would never find a solution. He hoped they would not think him presumptuous when he said that if any politician tried to make capital out of the Asiatic question at the election he was not acting in the interests of the white South African. (Applause.) It mattered far more to true South Africans whether in fifty years time South Africa remained a white man's country than that the South African Party or Labourites or Nationalists formed the next Government.

That day it would be part of their business to try to ascertain how it was that, notwithstanding the restrictive laws prohibiting the occupation of land and residence, in the country towns the Asiatics had progressed until there were between 4,000 and 5,000 licences, and in respect of Potchefstroom could reside anywhere within the white quarters of the town.

TWO OUTSTANDING CAUSES

He thought there were two outstanding causes. One originated largely from the Transvaal and the other proceeded from the coastal provinces.

In regard to the first cause, he felt that they in the Transvaal had been over anxious to deserve the confidence placed in them by Great Britain when in 1906 they were granted responsible government. They had been over-delicate in the desire to avoid certain of the difficulties which the conflicting interests of the British Empire inevitably brought about. That he believed was the true cause of the drift which had been allowed to enter into the administration of those particular laws.

"I feel," said Mr. Phillips, "that I am treading on delicate ground in making these references, but I hold the conviction deep in my nature that if South Africa was a more united people—we should have the strength as a nation to state our aspirations with the determination and resolution which characterises Australia and Canada. (applause.) We should have the strength to say that the future of South Africa as a country for white men and women is the one consideration before which all else must give way. I believe that loyalty to Great Britain cannot flow from disloyalty to South Africa—(loud applause)—and I believe it would be the greatest act of disloyalty to South Africa if we

sacrificed those ideals which we cherish as white men and the status of white men, and, worst of all, if, by our weakness and cowardice, to-day we betray posterity and allow South Africa to become the expansion ground of India" (Hear, hear.)

INDIAN CAPITAL

Mr. Phillips quoted from British and South African writers to emphasise his contention that every nation must of necessity retain the unfettered right of choosing the constituent elements of its population, and went on to point out the second fundamental cause of the lax administration of laws, namely, the Government's reluctance to disturb suddenly and violently the enormous amount of capital involved in Indian trade by wholesale coastal houses, which would naturally reflect upon the progress and development of the country. This rightly, he said, exercised a big influence on the Government, but he contended that it was for the people themselves to determine whether their destinies as a nation should continue to be controlled and directed by a coterie of wholesalers or whether they should use every means lawfully at hand to convince them that their business policies must be made to accord with the ideal that South Africa was won for white civilisation by the blood and sweat of white men, and must so remain. (Loud applause.)

Unless they found the soul and will to say: "These things must cease," Great Britain could neither help nor protect South Africa. At present they were separated by the miserable dictates of racialism. If they could get rid of this, they would not need these laws for a year, and if that was so was it not worth appealing to South Africans of British and Dutch origin to admit of no disunion in their determination to set the thing right. (Hear, hear.) If that was not worth appealing for, the day was coming when the descendants of some of these sitting in that hall would mother the children of Asiatics in this country. ("Shame.")

Mr. Phillips dismissed the idea of compensation and repatriation as impractical, and advocated segregation as the only possible solution on grounds of public health, social and moral expediency and economic necessity.

The chairman resumed his seat amid long and continued applause, and at the afternoon session the delegates discussed the draft petition to Parliament.—*Rand Daily Mail.*

SOUTH AFRICAN INDIAN CONGRESS EXECUTIVE

A meeting of the South African Indian Congress Executive was held in Mr. Parsee Rustomee's office, in Field Street, Durban, on Saturday, Feb. 28, with Mr. Aswat, chairman of the Executive, presiding. The Provinces were represented as follows:—Transvaal: Messrs E. I. Aswat and Shsh, B.A.; Cape: Port Elizabeth, proxy, M. Beethase Maharaj; Natal: Newcastle, Mr. Bernard Gabriel; Dundee, Mr. J. W. Godfrey; Stanger, E. N. Amin; Durban, M. B. Naik; M. Beethase Maharaj, A. Christopher, D.C.M. Mr. L. Gabriel acted as deputy for the Secretary. Mr. P. K. Naidoo, who was unavoidably prevented from attending the meeting, owing to the necessity of his presence in Johannesburg in the public interest.

Mr. M. B. Naik was appointed to act with Mr. P. K. Naidoo as secretary of the Congress Executive, in place of Mr. N. Camay, who had left for India.

Messrs. Bernard Gabriel and A. Christopher were authorised to revise the proceedings of the Congress held in Johannesburg in August last, and arrange for the publication of the same.

The secretaries were instructed to carry on the correspondence with different Government departments in regard to matters on which decisions were taken by the Congress in Johannesburg.

It was resolved that each Province arrange for the presentation of its own case before the Asiatic Commission on the subjects of rights of ownership of land and trading, and to co-operate in so far as it may be necessary.

INDIANS OVERSEAS ASSOCIATION

A RECORD OF USEFUL WORK

The above Association which was established in London in December last with His Highness the Aga Khan as Chairman and Sir Mancherji M. Bhowagree as Deputy-Chairman and Mr. H. S. L. Polak as the Hon. Secretary, for the purpose of maintaining the rights and privileges and protecting the interests of Indians residing in places outside India, has since been active in promoting the welfare of Indian Communities settled in South and East Africa, British Guiana, the West Indies, Fiji, Ceylon, Mauritius, British Columbia, Australia and Mandated Territories.

SOUTH AFRICA

The Association has carried on an active correspondence with the Colonial and India Offices with a view to secure a wider reference to the proposed Commission promised by the Union Government, and also to ensure satisfactory Indian representation before the Commission. As the Association is of opinion that the question of occupation of premises situated in mining areas in the Transvaal is of vital importance, it has urged that the operation of the Gold Law and other similar enactments should be referred to the Commission.

BRITISH EAST AFRICA

Whilst appreciating, after the lapse of many years, the nomination of two Indian members to the Legislative Council, the Association, quoting the precedents of India under Reform Scheme, Fiji, British Guiana and Trinidad, has urged that the franchise be conferred upon qualified Indians in the Protectorate. The Association has pressed upon the Government the desirability and necessity of giving effect, as a matter of justice and equity, to the demand of the British East African population for equality of status and the removal of galling disabilities designed to produce the unfavourable conditions prevailing in South Africa affecting the resident Indian population, and restrict, if not even prohibit, Indian immigration into the Protectorate in favour of European immigration, in spite of the fact that Indians commenced to develop these lands three centuries before any white settlement was established there.

FIJI

The Association has pressed for the termination of existing indentures of Indian labourers in this Colony, and has been notified by the Colonial Office that Orders have been given for the termination of all existing Indian indentures on January 2nd, 1920, and for the repatriation, so soon as possible, of freed Indians desirous of returning to India.

TRINIDAD, JAMAICA AND SURINAME (Dutch Guiana)

Having regard to the strong feeling against the system of indentured labour prevailing throughout India among all classes of the population, the Association has since addressed an inquiry to His Majesty's Government seeking information as to the numbers of indentures at present in force in these territories and the steps, if any, being taken by His Majesty's Government to secure their cancellation at an early date.

CEYLON

The Association made representations to His Majesty's Government with a view to securing improvements in the draft Labour Ordinance and particularly to obtain the omission of the clauses imposing criminal punishment for breach of contract. The Association also made representations with a view to promoting the education of Indian children on the Ceylon Estates.

MAURITIUS

The Association being alarmed at the movement in French-Mauritian circles in favour of the transfer of the Island to France, in spite of the fact that the large majority of the inhabitants are Indians who had not been consulted in the matter, inquired of His Majesty's Government what steps had been taken in this direction, and has received an assurance from the Colonial Office that no serious consideration need be given to the movement.

AUSTRALIA

Having regard to the Commonwealth Governments undertaking to remove certain existing disabilities affecting Indians resident in Australia in the light of the Reciprocity Resolution passed at the Imperial War Conference, 1918, the Association has directed the attention of His Majesty's Government to the differential operation against Indians of the Queensland Sugar Cultivation Act, 1913, the interpretation of which was recently tested in an appeal before the Privy Council, when judgment adverse to the Indian Appellants was delivered. The Association has requested His Majesty's Government to press for the repeal or necessary modification of this enactment.

MANDATED TERRITORIES

With the coming into force of the Peace Treaty with Germany, Mandates under the League of Nations have now been conferred on certain countries for the administration of the former German Colonies. Thus the Samoa Islands fall to be administered by New Zealand, South West Africa by the Union of South Africa, and German East Africa by the British Government. The Association has accordingly made representations to His Majesty's Government to maintain for His Majesty's Indian subjects the rights as to immigration and residence, which they have hitherto enjoyed in these respects, and equal rights in the future with all other of His Majesty's subjects.

The Association has also reminded His Majesty's Government of the danger to the Indian interests of the movement officially favoured in New Zealand to supplement Native labour in Samoa by indentured labour, and has received an assurance that no further emigration from India under indenture will be countenanced by His Majesty's Government.

INDIAN NATIONAL CONGRESS

INDIANS OUTSIDE INDIA

At the Indian National Congress held at Amritsar last December, Mr. M. K. Gandhi moved:—

(a) This Congress protests against the attempt being made in South Africa and particularly the Transvaal to deprive the Indian settlers of the rights of property and trade hitherto enjoyed by them and trusts that the Government of India will secure the repeal of the recently enacted legislation and otherwise ensure the protection of the status of the Indian settlers in South Africa.

(b) This Congress is of opinion that the anti-Indian agitation now going on in East Africa is utterly unscrupulous and trusts that the Government of India will safeguard the right of free and unrestricted emigration from India to East Africa and the full civic and political rights of the Indian settlers in East Africa including the East African territory conquered from Germany.

Mr. Gandhi first forcefully spoke in support of the resolution in Hindi.

Speaking next in English he read a message addressed to the Congress by Mr. Andrews regarding the situation in Africa.

Mr. Gandhi then warmly commended the resolution for the acceptance of the Congress.

Mr. Nadirshah Cama, a delegate direct from South Africa, then seconded the resolution in Urdu. He

gave a detailed account of the indignities Indians in South Africa were subjected to.

Mr. K. Natrajan supported the resolution.

Mr. S. P. Bhakore from East Africa further supporting the resolution, said that the foundation of injustice and usurpation was being laid in East Africa. Had it not been for the enterprise of Indians East Africa would not have existed to-day in its present form. Europeans had no better claim in East Africa than Indians.

Mr. B. N. Anantani, a delegate from Zanzibar and occupied East Africa, further supported the resolution. He said if Lord Sinha were to-morrow to visit East Africa he would be called immoral by white settlers, no matter what his position was. He declared that for Indians the present predominance of Great Britain in Africa would have been a mere impossibility.

The resolution was enthusiastically and unanimously carried.

INDENTURES IN FIJI

Pandit Malaviya moved:—

(a) This Congress views with grateful satisfaction the Viceregal declaration that the existing indentures in Fiji are likely to be cancelled at the end of the current year and hopes that a final declaration to that effect will be made by the Government of India before the end of the year and this Congress further hopes that indentured emigration in any form whatsoever whether under the same or other name will never be renewed.

(b) This Congress places on record its grateful appreciation of the valuable and selfless services rendered by Mr. C. F. Andrews to the afflicted in the Punjab, to the cause of indentured Indians in Fiji and elsewhere and the services being rendered to the Indian settlers in East and South Africa.

The hon. Mr. R. N. Sarma seconding the resolution said that he was glad the Congress had given this problem a prominent place in its programme. Unless they were given full self-government where else could they discuss the problem with freedom. India was a component part of the League of Nations and they should urge their representatives in the League, no matter who appointed them, to do their duty towards Indians in this matter.

Mr. Bhawani Dayal supported the resolution which was carried unanimously.—*The Leader.*

ANJUMAN ESHA-A-TUL ISLAM

The Annual General Meeting of the above Anjuman was held on February 22nd last at which a large attendance of members was present. The Chair was occupied by the Chairman Mr. P. Asfyurkus. The Secretary's (Mr. S. Emmamally) Annual Report, together with the Treasurer's (Mr. M. Thajmoon) Balance Sheet and Statement of Accounts, were read and confirmed.

Mr. M. A. Motala of this town and a Honorary Member of the Society has kindly made a gift to the Anjuman of building a Hall, which will also be used as a Madressa. The tender for the erection is accepted and building operation will commence from the 1st March 1920, the cost of which will be well into four figures. For the noble efforts of this gentleman the Society places on record their heartfelt thanks and deep sense of gratitude.

Mr. S. Emmamally (Hon. Secretary) in his Annual report says:—Since the establishment of the Madressa in the year 1912 rapid progress has been made, the attendance now averages 100. The Council has deemed necessary to point an Assistant to Mr. Abdul Rajack, and Mr. Sheik Mohideen was engaged on 1st July, 1919, both these teachers spare no pains to see to the improvement of the children.

One of the noble deeds of the Anjuman is to conduct burials of Muslims dying in poor circumstances,

and I am pleased to record that during the year seven burials have been attended to. Two cases were from steamers calling in Port, two from the Hospital at Durban, one from the Durban Golf and two others were Muslims of Durban. In every case the shrouds (Kafan) and other requisites were supplied by Messrs Mohamed Ebrahim and M. A. Motala of Durban. In many instances the dependents of the deceased Muslims receive such help as is possible from the Anjuman. Many visits have been made by officials and others to sick Muslims and all deserving cases were given medical aid and other comforts.

The Annual Statement and Balance Sheet discloses a very satisfactory state of affairs.

SEGREGATION OF ASIATICS

FAVoured BY MINISTER OF JUSTICE

Potchefstroom, March 3 (Reuter).—The Minister of Justice, Mr. De Wet, addressed a S.A. Party meeting in the park here last night.

Dealing with the Asiatic question, the Minister said that the Nationalists hoped to have used it in Potchefstroom as a political weapon, but the attempt had been a failure. It was an absolute untruth to say that either the Governor-General or the Imperial Government had in any way interfered in the matter. He (the Minister) was against repatriation because it was impracticable, and he desired to wait for the finding of the Commission which had been appointed to inquire into the entire question. He had always been in favour of segregation, with compensation, and he was glad that the chairman of the Anti-Asiatic League had come to be of the same opinion. That must be a bitter disappointment to the Nationalists of Potchefstroom.

"Indian Opinion" Supplements

We have the following supplements on last paper for sale @ one shilling per dozen, post free:—

The Hon. Dadabhai Naoroji, Mr. V. A. Chettiar (Chairman, Tamil Benefit Society of Johannesburg), Mr. Badree (Vice President of the Transvaal Indian Association), The Late Mr. Narayansamy, South African Indian Stretcher-Bearer Company, Hon. Mr. Gokhale's visit, taken at Heidelberg station, Mr. L. Hans Raj B.A. (Hon. Principal D. A. V. College, President Lahore Arya Samaj), Mr. Imam Abdul Kadir Bawazeer, Mr. Omar Haji Amud Johari, Mr. Joseph Royeppen B.A. (A Natal born Graduate Passive Resister), Mr. Royeppen (A Barrister-Hawker), Indian Volunteer Stretcher-Bearer Corps, Three Transvaal ladies as passive resisters (Mrs. Sivprasad, Miss Minnatjee and Mrs. Somar), Mr. Ameeruddin Fajandar, Mrs. S. B. Mehtab, Asiatic Ordinance (A Chess play Cartoon) India's Great Loyalty (Cartoon), The Late Sir Pherozebhai Mehta, Mr. Ratan J. Tata, Mrs. R. M. Sedha, Sir William Wedderburn, B., Pioneer Settlers of Tolstoy Farm, The Late Count Leo Tolstoy, The Late Rev. Joseph J. Doke, The Late Mr. S. Nagappan, The Right Hon. Lord Ampthill, G.C.I.E., The Triumphant Arch outside Park Station (Mr. Gokhale's Visit), Shri Sanyasi Swami Shankeraram, Mr. Sorabji Shapurji of Adajan, Hafiza Bibi, H. H. The Amir of Afghanistan, Mr. Kallenbach, Mr. Kallenbach as seen walking from the Tolstoy Farm to Johannesburg, Mr. Henry S. L. Polak, Picnic Party at Tolstoy Farm, The Late Mr. M. H. Nazir, Shri Gopal Lal Hindu Temple Verulam, The Late Miss Valliamah Muddaliar, Sons of the Empire (Indian Soldiers), The 50 Indians Deported to India by the Transvaal Government, The Indian Monument in Johannesburg, The Late Mr. Hajee Hoosen Dawad, Indian Merchants who suffered imprisonment at Standerton, Babu Rabindranath Tagore, The late Hon. G. K. Gokhale, C.I.E., Right Hon. Syed Ameer Ali, C.I.E., Sir Benjamin Robertson and Staff, Some of the Addresses presented to The Hon. Mr. Gokhale, Vrededorp, 1919, parties, The Late Mr. Abdoola Ladi Adam, Indian Strikers in Durban, (Three Pictures).

BOOKS FOR SALE

to be obtained from the *Indian Opinion Press*, Phoenix, Natal. Postal Orders to be made payable at Durban. We have just received the following books from India. The prices given include cost of postage:—

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