

Indian Opinion

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NOTES AND NEWS

THE following telegram is reported to have been sent by the Imperial Indian Citizenship Association, Bombay, to the Revenue Department of the Government of India:—

"The Committee of the Imperial Indian Citizenship Association strongly protests against the Rural Dealers' Licensing Ordinance and the Local Township Franchise Ordinance, Natal, and emphatically urges the Government to impress upon H. R. H. the Governor-General of South Africa the necessity of disallowing both ordinances being contrary to the Smuts-Gandhi agreement of 1914 and to the spirit of the Imperial Cabinet's resolutions regarding equality of status, and subversive of all ties of mutual goodwill within the Empire. All India is indignant at this deliberate attempt to throw the Indian population of Natal into a position of helotry and helplessness, knocking down all hope of a peaceful settlement of the Indian problem in South Africa engendered by the Viceroy's sympathetic reply to the South African Indian Deputation in March last. The Rural Dealers' Licensing Ordinance clearly abolishes all safeguards for justice and sympathetic treatment against arbitrary refusal of licences to Indians for pursuing the ordinary avocations of life, and opens the door for relentless persecution with a view to compel expatriation or annihilation of the Natal Indians. The Township Franchise Ordinance is equally subversive of the long-standing rights of the Indian community in Natal. The Committee is convinced that these ordinances have created an intense anti-Imperial feeling throughout the length and breadth of India, and solicits timely interference by the Government of India and the Secretary of State for India as absolutely necessary to avert the most disastrous consequences."

Whilst, with the exception of one i.e. the Ordinance "to create and regulate certain Licenses" which has already been assented to by the Governor-General-in-Council and has been promulgated without the removal of the sections objected to by the Indian community, nothing has so far appeared in the local papers in connection with the other three Ordinances passed by the Natal Provincial Council, namely, the Rural Dealers, The Townships Franchise and the Durban Land Alienation Ordinances, as to whether they have been assented to or not. The *Natal Advertiser* London Correspondent throws some light on the subject. The *Times* correspondent at Bombay informs the *Advertiser* correspondent that, while the news has been received there that General Smuts had vetoed two out of the three anti-Indian Ordinances passed by the Natal Provincial Council and demanded the modification of the third, and is regarded with satisfaction, such attempts to drive the Indians from Natal will produce increasing resentment. It is felt, he says, that the rights and liberties of the Indians who have been long domiciled in Natal and who were invited there to develop that Colony hang by the thinnest of threads and will not be secure so long as these machinations and endorsement in Natal itself.

The above mentioned telegram that, attention is being drawn to the fact that the Government of India is not taking any steps to avert the consequences of the above mentioned Ordinances.

attempt to drive the Indians from the highlands is regarded as an acid test of the Empire. Protest meetings are being organised, and there is a movement afoot to withdraw India's participation in the Empire Exhibition unless a satisfactory issue is secured. In the present temper of the community any such movement, if prosecuted, will be certain of success in the Legislative Assembly and the Provincial Council of India.

Since the above was in print we notice in the Provincial Gazette of the 27th July that the Durban Land Alienation Ordinance has been duly assented to by the Governor-General-in-Council.

A Reuter's message from Calcutta dated July 26, states:—

After a lull of five months, Non-co-operators have resumed the picketing of shops selling foreign cloth. There was considerable excitement, traffic being held up. About 20 arrests were effected, but there were no disturbances.

Mr. Sastri and the delegates from India, who are inquiring into the position of Indians in the Empire, have sailed for Vancouver, says a Reuter's message from Auckland.

Wellington, July 20.—A crowded meeting at Suva unanimously passed a resolution opposing the grant of equal political status to the Indians in Fiji.

At a meeting after his release, Pandit Motilal Nehru delivered a vernacular address in Allahabad. In connection with the sale of foreign cloth he is reported to have said that if it continues he would resort to peaceful picketing without the least hesitation and regardless of consequences and he would allow merchants some time to enable them to prepare themselves and then begin the campaign in right earnest. He implored his audience to go in for khaddar.

Speaking at a public meeting in Allahabad, Pandit Motilal Nehru is reported to have repudiated the allegation that Non-co-operation has failed. How could it possibly, be said, to have failed before it is even tried with the most effective charge for which it is intended, namely Civil Disobedience? The speaker warned his audience against entertaining the false notion that Non-co-operation was dead any said:— "If it is not given to us to build the edifice of Swaraj with our own hands, you may be sure the noble pile will rise on secure foundation filled up with our bones."

The whole trend of the policy of the white settlers with regard to the Asiatics in South Africa (says the *Bombay Chronicle*), is to force the Indians to leave the country or to isolate them and keep them in conditions of perpetual subordination. The policy of segregation—the old "Ghetto" system of medieval Europe—has been applied to the Indians in a more systematic way.

Natal reserving the highlands for the Europeans. It is no wonder if reactionary legislation culminating in their commercial and residential segregation generates intense bitterness in the hearts of Indians. It remains for the Indian Government to approach the Union Government and to ward off the disaster threatening the Indian community in South Africa. The Viceroy gave a sympathetic reply to the South African Indian deputation in March last in the course of which His Excellency said:—"So long as the Indians do not enjoy full Parliamentary and Municipal franchise throughout the Union, the Government of India feel they cannot wholly dissociate themselves from responsibility for the welfare of a community whose very existence originated in an organised system of recruitment to which they were in the past a consenting party." But when will this Government take action suited to these words?

The Point case of Messrs. Ismail Gora, Sorabjee Rustonjee and Manilal Gandhi which came up last Thursday was once more re-adjourned till Tuesday the 1st of August.

ORDINANCE

TO CREATE AND REGULATE CERTAIN LICENCES

The above Ordinance No. 15 of 1922 which was passed by the Natal Provincial Council and to certain sections of which the Indian community had taken exception was assented to by the Governor-General-in-Council on the 3rd July 1922 and has been promulgated on the 20th July 1922:—

It is enacted by the Provincial Council of the Province of Natal, as follows:—

1 (1) In this Ordinance—

"Administrator" means the Administrator acting under the authority of the Executive Committee.

"Theatre" includes any building, room or place used for the public exhibition of dramatic, vaudeville or other stage performances or of bioscope or other scenic or pictorial representations, but shall not include any hall or building of a public character used for social entertainment and which is not conducted for commercial profit.

"Refreshment Room" means a shop or other building or booth or any fixed premises where light refreshments and tea or other non-alcoholic beverages are supplied and such other articles as are by the recognised custom of trade usually sold in refreshment rooms.

"Tobacconist Shop" means a shop where cigars, cigarettes, tobacco and smokers' requisites are supplied in retail quantities.

"Market Building" means a building or enclosure used for the purpose of conducting a market.

"Stall" means any compartment, table or space allotted to the special use of persons selling in a market.

"Licensing Officer" means the officer appointed under Section 16 of the Licences and Stamp Act No. 45, 1898.

(2) The provisions of this Ordinance shall, except as may be expressly otherwise provided, extend only to places outside the limits of boroughs and of townships established under Law No. 11, 1881, or any other Ordinance passed *in lieu* thereof.

2 The following shall be added to the list of annual licences in the Second Schedule of the Licences and Stamp Act No. 45, 1898:—

Theatre	£3	0	0
Refreshment Room	£3	0	0
Market Building	£10	0	0

Market Stall	£5	0	0
Tobacconist's Shop	£3	0	0
Hawkers of Raw Meat	£1	0	0

3. (1) The Administrator may authorise the Licensing Officer to grant to approved persons annual refreshment room licences, free from the payment of any licence fee, in cases in which it appears to him that the payment of the prescribed fee would be an excessive burden.

The Administrator may, however, at any time withdraw such exemption, and if, within one week after notice of such withdrawal has been received the licence holder does not pay the prescribed fee, the Licensing Officer may cancel the licence forthwith.

(2) The Licensing Officer may grant to any approved person a day-to-day refreshment room licence authorising the holder to carry on a refreshment room business at a specified place for a stated number of days upon payment of a licence fee to be determined by the Administrator according to the circumstances, but in no case exceeding One Pound a day.

(3) The Licensing Officer may in like manner grant a monthly market stall licence to each stall holder in a market building to be in force for one month upon payment of a licence fee of Ten Shillings.

4. Places licensed under this Ordinance shall not, as such, be required to close at the hours stated in the Shop Hours Ordinance No. 12, 1919, and its amendments; provided, however, as regards refreshment rooms and tobacconists' shops, that if they or any premises connected to them are used for other business coming under the operation of the said Ordinance No. 12 of 1919, the exemption shall cease, save as far as may be allowed by the terms of that Ordinance.

This section shall not be understood to give any exemption to ordinary shops attached to a theatre or market.

5. (1) Paragraph (b) of Section 15 of the Licences and Stamp Act No. 43, 1898, is hereby repealed.

(2) A licence granted under Act No. 43, 1898, shall not be capable of being transferred to any person not already named therein, nor shall the name of any other person be added to a licence.

A new licence shall accordingly be required and shall be applied for and decided upon in the same manner as other new licences in order to authorise the carrying on of a previously licensed business or act by any person not named in the licence: Provided, however, that—

(a) The licence fee in such a case shall be Five Shillings only for the unexpired term covered by the former licence.

(b) This section shall in no way affect any licence or transfer applied for before the commencement of this Ordinance, or the use of a licence by the curator, trustee in insolvency or similar legal representative of the person named in the licence.

(3) This section shall apply to the whole Province of Natal.

6. The proviso of Section 14 of Act No. 43, 1898, in regard to licences taken out after the 1st July shall not apply to licences granted under this Ordinance by the day or month.

7. The Administrator may direct the cancellation of any licence issued under this Ordinance, or its suspension for a stated time, if upon enquiry, it appears to him that the premises are used or the business conducted so as to countenance breaches of the liquor laws or other immoral or improper conduct or in disregard of the regulations hereinafter provided for.

8. The Administrator shall have power to prevent the exhibition at any theatre of any performance or scenic or pictorial representation of an immoral or unseemly character or which may, in his opinion, be of a dangerous tendency for any class of persons, and

may for that purpose give authority to the police or other officer to enter a theatre and close it or forbid any unapproved performance or exhibition.

9. (1) The Administrator may make regulations for the purposes of this Ordinance. Such regulations may, amongst other things, include:—

(a) The conditions for the approval of applications for licences under this Ordinance.

(b) The control and supervision of theatres, the submission to a proper officer of programmes, films or other pictorial or scenic representations or the giving of other information, and prohibiting any exhibition if dis-allowed or without compliance with such requirements as may be imposed.

(c) The proper conduct and use of refreshment rooms and of markets and the stalls therein.

(2) A copy of the regulations specially applicable to any class of licence shall be endorsed on or attached to each licence.

(3) Any person convicted of a contravention of the regulations relative to theatres shall be liable to a fine not exceeding Ten Pounds, or to imprisonment, with or without hard labour, for a term not exceeding one month, or, in the discretion of the Magistrate, such imprisonment may be awarded for default in the payment of a fine.

(4) Any person convicted of a contravention of the other regulations shall be liable to a fine not exceeding Five Pounds; but if at the trial the Magistrate finds that such contravention was committed in connection with a breach of the liquor laws or with immoral conduct upon the premises, the punishment shall be as provided in Subsection (3).

10. The following licences under the Licence and Stamp Act No. 43, 1898, shall as from 1st July, 1922, be deemed to be dealers' licences within the operation of Act No. 18, 1897, and its amendments: Bakers; Butchers.

INDIANS IN SOUTH AFRICA

MR. POLAK INTERVIEWED

Mr. Henry S. L. Polak gave a long interview to a representative of the Associated Press of India when he was at Lahore on June 9th, on the position of Indians in South Africa. Mr. Polak said:—Your Association published a few days ago a telegram from Durban referring to certain three ordinances passed by the Natal Provincial Council and which aimed at the very life of the Indian community resident in that part of South Africa. I have since received an urgent telegram from the Natal Indian Congress which represents the entire Indian community of the province numbering over 135,000, a majority of whom are born in South Africa, and know no other home; this has been recently admitted by the Minister of the Interior in the Union Assembly. The telegram states that a deputation is now waiting upon the Governor-General in Capetown to protest against the passing of this legislation and it has been referred to the Department of the Interior. The telegram adds that immediate intervention by the Government of India is imperative.

There can be no doubt to my mind as to the gravity of the situation. Long before the Asiatic Commission before which Sir Benjamin Robertson tendered evidence on behalf of the Government of India, the South Africans' League, composed of the extreme anti-

Asiatics, had endeavoured to force the Union Government to pass a legislation calculated to destroy the independence of the Indian trading community in Natal and to reduce the entire Indian population of the province, numbering four-fifths of the total number of the Indians in South Africa, to a position of political, social and economic serfdom. They did not succeed in their efforts, nor so far have they done so since the Commission issued its report containing certain most unfortunate recommendations which had received no support whatever either from the evidence taken by the Commission or by its own conclusions. The Anti-Asiatics have, therefore, lately been particularly diverting their energies with the object of inducing the Natal Provincial Council to pass Anti-Asiatic Ordinances itself which, if unchallenged by the Union Government, will serve the purpose of the Extremists, but if not they hoped to force the hand of the Union Government. Last year the Provincial Council passed two Ordinances, known respectively as the Rural Dealers Licensing Ordinance and the Township Franchise Ordinance. The first had for its object the creation of Licensing Boards, composed entirely of European electors, whose decision was final as to the issue of new licences or transfer of the existing ones, and which took away the right of appeal to the Appeal Boards, which the existing law gives. The second measure was designed to disfranchise the Indians in future so far as the Municipal vote was concerned, existing voters remaining on the roll. Both of these Ordinances were vetoed last year by the Governor-General-in-Council as being *ultra vires*. I understand that so far as the first Ordinance is concerned it has now been substantially re-enacted with such necessary technical amendments as to meet the objection of the Legal Adviser to the Union Government. I do not know whether any such trouble has been taken in regard to the second Ordinance which, so far as I am aware, verbally re-enacts last year's rejected measure. To these is to be added yet a third Ordinance enabling the Corporation of Durban to pursue a policy of racial segregation and to insert, in pursuance of that policy a clause in the titles of Corporation lands sold at public auction or otherwise forbidding an Indian to become an owner or transferee of the land in question or to reside on or occupy it. I believe that this measure too has been passed and is now awaiting motion. This Ordinance is the result of a recent incident at an auction sale of Corporation lands in Durban, when the Indians bid, but under pressure from the European would-be purchasers the auctioneer refused to take the Indian's bid and to proceed with the sale.

Continuing, Mr. Polak said a most important constitutional question has arisen by reason of this legislation of the Provincial Council. Section 147 of the South Africa Act (I am quoting from memory), reserves the control of matters especially or differentially affecting the Asiatics to the Governor-General-in-Council. This clause was especially inserted in the South Africa Act when it was before the British Parliament for the

express purpose of preventing the Provincial Councils, which have very limited powers, from legislating on matters affecting the Indian population and by so doing embroil the Union Government with the Government of India. It was intended that the sole responsibility for legislation and methods of administration affecting the Indian population should be with the Union Government and Parliament. The Indian community, therefore, takes the stand that, apart from all other considerations, these three Ordinances are *ultra vires* under Section 147 of the South Africa Act.

In my opinion, it is of the most urgent importance that the Governor-General-in-Council should be requested to reserve consideration of these ordinances pending a reference to the Attorney General of Great Britain on this point. As to the merits, there can be no doubt that the Ordinances will, if sanctioned, deal a death blow to the South African Indian population. It has been my experience that reactionary legislation affecting the Indians in one province of the Union is sooner or later extended and applied throughout the Union. I have never yet observed any instance when the less rigorous methods employed by one province have been extended to any of the other provinces.

I appeal to the Indians of all parties at this critical juncture in the affairs of Indians in South Africa to stand solidly behind the Government of India in the extraordinarily difficult task of approaching the Union Government with a view to ward off the fatal blow against the welfare and the very independent existence of the South African Indian population. If this legislation is sanctioned a disaster of the first magnitude will have occurred.

INDIANS IN NATAL

INDIAN PRESS COMMENTS

Commenting on the anti-Asiatic Ordinances recently passed by the Natal Provincial Council the *Bombay Chronicle* says:—

The frantic efforts of the European community in Natal which frankly aim at depriving the Asiatics bag and baggage from the soil of South Africa have once more been renewed in the shape of three Ordinances which bear an undisguised stamp of racial hostility and colour prejudice. More than ever the Whites are now desperately bent upon cleanly sweeping out the coloured people from South Africa. It is an historical fact that Natal owes its present prosperity to Indian labour. Apart from the inherent right of Indians to equal citizenship, no recollection, however, of past obligations seems to have any effect in inducing the Whites to shake off their deep-rooted racial animosity. The European settlers in Natal have launched a fresh campaign against Asiatics by the enactment of two pieces of anti-Indian legislation which, along with Mr. Mackenrian's segregation scheme, are calculated to deprive Indians of the vestiges of rights that they still possess as domiciled residents.

After explaining the Rural Dealers' Licensing and the Township Franchise Ordinances the paper says:—

These Ordinances in themselves are enough to reduce the Indians to the intolerable position of political and commercial helotry. But the last Ordinance empowering "the Corporation of Durban to pursue the policy of racial segregation and to insert in

pursuance of that policy a clause in the titles of Corporation lands sold at public auction or otherwise forbidding an Indian to become an owner or transferee of the land in question or to reside or occupy it," will complete the tragedy. As the President of the Indian Merchants Chamber and Bureau says in his telegram to the Viceroy:

"The Rural Licensing Ordinance takes away the right of appeal and enables a committee of Europeans to refuse arbitrarily granting of licenses and thus is likely to lead partially to the compulsory expatriation and elimination of Indians from Natal."

"The Township Franchise Ordinance takes away the existing rights enjoyed by the Indian community in Natal for many years past and strikes at the very roots of the unity of the Empire on the ground that India was not a self-governing country at the date of the South African Union in 1909, which was and still is due to no fault of hers, and thus places India in a worse position not only than Europeans but also some Asiatics who do not belong to the Empire."

The paper thus concludes its Article:—

"Where is all this to end?"—That is the question which every true lover of justice asks himself. The Indians were invited to South Africa on certain definite conditions and were promised rights as domiciled citizens as soon as their period of indenture was over. Are they now to be treated in this treacherous manner? Will not the measures, if sanctioned and executed, be tantamount to stabbing our confiding countrymen in the back? The persistent endeavour on the part of the Natal authorities to consign Indians to a condition of perpetual degradation is sufficient to shake off the lingering belief even of those people who look to them for a fair and equitable settlement.

The situation is getting unbearably acute. It remains to be seen how far the Government of India exert themselves to safeguard the rights of our countrymen in South Africa. The Indian problem in South Africa is one of the questions on the proper solution of which depends the worth of Britain's promises. The question of Indian status in Natal has become one of the acid tests of Government's sincerity.

Swarajya (Madras) has the following leading article in its issue of June 10th:—

In the light of what is daily happening in the Dominions and the Crown Colonies, it is increasingly manifest that we are being held in the Empire under a tenure of continuous vassalage. It will not be denied that the truest test of our status in the Empire is the one that is furnished by the treatment accorded to our countrymen in the Dominions and the Crown Colonies, and every one now knows in this country that Indian residents abroad are political helots, having practically no civic rights, and placed under numerous humiliating disabilities. But, we who are denied all rights of citizenship in our own home, need not be surprised if the Dominions choose to treat us no better than does our Government. While the sore of inequality is running through our own administration, it is too much to expect the Dominions to undertake the amelioration of the lot of our countrymen resident in their territories. 'White superiority' is as much the cult of the Government in Great Britain as it is of the Dominions. The Colonial Office in England is following a policy identical with that of the South African Union and has taken the initiative in furthering the segregation of Asiatics in Africa. In the face of pledges repeatedly made to us by British statesmen, and in deliberate violation of the principle of equal treatment conceded at the Imperial Conference, the Colonial Office, acting under the stimulus of the white settlers in Kenya, is attempting to impose restrictions on Indian immigration into the Colony and has already sanctioned the scheme of racial segregation in Kampala. The aim of the Colonial Office is to see in Kenya the establishment of the same conditions that now obtain in the

Dominion of South Africa. The Anti-Asiatic ordinances recently passed by the Natal Provincial Council deprive Indian settlers even of the few rights still left to them in South Africa. These ordinances form part of a large campaign started to hound out Indian settlers from the Dominion. By subjecting to a process of attrition the existing trading rights of Indian settlers, it is sought to make life so uncomfortable to them in the colony, that they would prefer being repatriated to their native land, to staying in the Dominion. The object of the policy pursued in Kenya and the Union of South Africa, is to exclude the Indian and make the colonies the preserve of the White population. The representations of a 'subordinate' Government, however eminently reasonable and just, do not avail against that policy. Kenya is a test case, say our Liberal friends, of British sincerity. We have had to test British good-faith on the more vital questions like the Khilafat and the Punjab but we then found that the British Government was unwilling to recognise the force of the national demand. We shall not be surprised in Kenya too is decided against us, but then there will be no prospect of India reconciling herself to partnership in the Empire.

"WHITE" NEW ZEALAND POLICY

HOW IT IS ENFORCED

The following letter by Mr. Banarasi Chaturvedi has been published in the Indian papers:—

Sir,—The New Zealand Government has almost stopped the entry of Indians in New Zealand by passing the Immigration Restriction Amendment Act. The chief thing that the Act has done is this, that it has substituted for the education test, a test of suitability to be a settler in New Zealand. The Act provides that no person other than a person of British or Irish birth and parentage shall enter into the country unless he is in possession of a permit in the prescribed form. An application for this permit must be made in the prescribed form to the Minister of Customs, New Zealand. The Minister has the discretion to grant or refuse a permit. There is no appeal from his decision. Thus an arbitrary power has been placed in the hand of a single Minister. How ruthlessly the power has been used against Indians will be clear from a New Zealand paper:—

'It is a significant fact that whereas this time last year every vessel arriving from Sydney and Fiji brought the full total of Indians permitted according to tonnage, the same boats are now bringing only two or three or none at all.'

'We get, on an average, about a dozen applications from Indians each English mail, said the Minister of Customs. Mr. J. P. Ridings. These are usually couched in very flowery and persuasive terms. We then send back application forms, requiring full personal details, a medical certificate, and police certificate, or a guarantee as to character from some other public official. These applications are then forwarded to the Comptroller of Customs at Wellington. I think permission has been granted for about 10 Hindus under the new regulations, but these are mostly children. There is no doubt whatever that the new regulations are proving most effective as a means of restricting Asiatic immigration.'

Here is an interesting letter from the Comptroller of Customs, which will show how permission has been refused to the Indians to enter New Zealand.

Customs Department

Wellington, 20th July, 1921.

Sir,—With reference to your letter of the 7th ultimo, I am directed by the Minister of Customs to inform you that it is considered that the climate and conditions of life in New Zealand are not suitable for

persons from the districts from which Wazir Singh, Gulab, Ram Rakha and Shankar Ramdita come, and that in their own interests it is considered that they should not come to the Dominion. Under these circumstances it is regretted that permits cannot be granted for them to enter New Zealand. 4—passports returned herewith.

I have the honour to be, Sir,
Your obedient servant,

for Comptroller of Customs.

This is how the New Zealand Government is enforcing their White New Zealand policy against us. Australia, Canada, and South Africa were already closed to us and now New Zealand is following the same example. Are we not then mere pariahs in the British Empire?

INDIANS IN EAST AFRICA

SEGREGATION POLICY IN KAMPALA

Mr. C. F. Andrews has received from East Africa the following cablegram from the Secretary of the East African Indian Association:—

'A mass meeting of Indian residents was held at Kampala in Uganda on June 21st, and it was unanimously resolved as follows':—

'Kampala Indians most emphatically protest against the continuance of racial segregation policy in the township of Kampala, and request the Hon. Secretary of State for the Colonies to reconsider his decision. Further more, this meeting begs to bring to his notice that the enforcement of this policy is calculated seriously to wound the feelings of all Indians. The few Indians who, through misunderstanding, applied for the new township plots have resolved to have nothing to do there with, unless the question of racial segregation is reconsidered and the present racial bar removed. The assertion of the Under Secretary of State for the Colonies that Kampala Indians fully approve of the township scheme, involving racial segregation, is entirely mistaken.'

Kindly take up this matter immediately and urgently with the Colonial Office, the Indian Government and the Indian Press.'

The following note is added by Mr. C. F. Andrews for public information:—

The few Indians, who provisionally took up the township sites on a misunderstanding that segregation would not be legally involved, gave me a written agreement that unless the segregation clause was entirely removed they would not complete their purchase. This written agreement was sent personally by me to the acting Governor, and I interviewed him on the subject and explained the exact position. This happened early in November 1921. A cable has reached me since, that there has been no change in the Kampala township position since my visit. This matter is of urgent importance, because Kampala is the commercial capital of Uganda. If racial segregation by law is introduced there, the other townships are certain to follow suit.—*The Tribune*.

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OBITUARY

EUNICE SIMON VEDAMUTHU

(By BERNARD L. E. SIGAMONEY)

The death of Eunice Simon Vedamuthu, widow of the late Revd. Simon P. Vedamuthu, took place in India on the 29th May 1922 after an illness of three months, when she passed away peacefully. The deceased was born on the 22nd October 1861, and was educated at Elliot Tuxford School, Mengnanapuram Tinnevely. She came to Natal with her brother the late Mr. Mark and her husband the Revd. Simon P. Vedamuthu who were brought by the Revd. L. P. Booth for St. Aidan's Mission, to do Evangelistic work among the Indians of Natal. The names of the Reverend gentleman and his good wife even though now dead are revered not only by Christian Indians but even by the older Hindus. The deceased was a great help-mate to her husband in his work and she was a lady of strong character and personality, whose Christ like life was a source of inspiration to many. She was highly respected by all who knew her. Wherever Indians were settled in those days the name of these two people were held sacred. The older members of the English Church in Natal held them in very high esteem. Her activities on behalf of the Indian women were many and varied, and she was the pioneer of vernacular schools being opened for girls and many a girl had first learnt her Tamil alphabets from Mrs. Simon Vedamuthu. She was a teacher in our boys' and girls' schools. She left for India in March 1912 with her husband when he took up work in the Parish of St. Thomas Church, San Thome and the Church of the Good Shepherd in Madras till October 1919 when her beloved husband passed away in October of the same year.

The deceased was greatly respected by Indian Christians, Europeans, and Hindus alike in India. She leaves behind her only son Winfred who is twenty-two years old and is still at the University of Madras where he is in the B. A. Senior class. He has been the organist of the St. Thomas' Church, San Thome for the last four years. Besides her only son she leaves a nephew and niece to mourn their loss, whom she had brought up and educated; Charles David having graduated and passed his B. A. honours at the Calcutta University and is now at the Chief Secretariat, Madras. The English Choir sang for the burial service which was conducted by the Revd. K. C. Macartney, M. A. and assisted by the Revd. H. S. Sagayan. Her remains were laid to rest by the side of her beloved husband.

BOOKS FOR SALE

To be obtained from the *Indian Opinion Press*, Phoenix, Natal. Postal Orders to be made payable at Durban.

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