

Indian Opinion

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NOTES AND NEWS

MESSRS. Parbhoodas Haribhai Patel, Nanalal M. Khanderia and Manilal G. Patel all of whom have been allowed to enter and reside in the Transvaal as educated Indians and hold exemption certificates issued by the Government have been served with the following notice declaring them prohibited immigrants:—

"Take notice that permission to remain in the Union (or this Province) is refused to you on the ground that you are a Prohibited Immigrant as defined in Section 4, 1 (a) of the Immigrants Regulation Act, 1913.

"You are notified that in terms of Section 2 of the Act you may appeal to the Board of Appeal, and if you desire to appeal a form of Notice of Appeal will be furnished to you. Such appeal must be noted within 3 days. (Signed) W. H. WARDEEN,
Immigration Officer.

Dated 23/10/25.

Place, Johannesburg."

How many more such Indians who have been allowed entry into the Transvaal under the agreement of allowing six educated Indians annually have been served with the above notice has not come to our knowledge but we are informed that several more have been served with the same notice. The cases have been adjourned *indefinitely*. This high-handedness on the part of the authorities is one which cannot be allowed to go unchallenged by the Indian community. We hope the South African Indian Congress which is sitting in Capetown during the next week will take this matter in hand. In the event of those Indians being deported it will not do for the community to sit quiet. No waiting for a Round Table Conference will do. Passive Resistance will have to commence immediately and the community must be prepared for it.

Mr. Thos. Boydell, Minister of Posts and Telegraphs, is reported to have stated, at Newcastle, that the Asiatic question would be settled, once and for all, during the next session of Parliament. So now we know.

Referring to the Minimum Wage Bill Mr. Boydell said that if it was found necessary in purely European countries to protect the under-dog from sweated conditions, it was far more necessary in South Africa where they had Asiatic and Coloured competitors.

Miss S. Marguerite Warner sails for India by the *Kaapara* on the 9th instant to attend the Jubilee Convention of the Theosophical Society in Adayar. Miss Warner has made herself at home with the Indian community of Durban, attending several public functions, social events and private parties, as well as delivering a lecture in the Parsee Rustomjee Hall which was well attended and highly appreciated. We wish Miss Warner *bon voyage*, a happy time in India and a safe return to South Africa.

Mr. Manilal M. Gandhi left for the Cape *via* Johannesburg on Saturday last. Along with others he will attend the meetings of the S. A. Indian Congress.

There is no more ardent Nationalist in India than Mr. Gandhi, says the *Children's Newspaper* (London), but he has just been rebuking his followers for thinking that their love of their own country means hatred for the British Government.

If our contemporary had left out the word "Government" it would have been nearer the correct interpretation. One may hate the Government but not the Englishmen who are members of it or who reside in India.

A Reuter's message from London dated Oct. 26 states that it is officially announced that the Right Hon. Edward Wood, Minister of Agriculture, has been appointed Viceroy of India.

The Right Hon. Edward Frederick Lindley Wood, who was made a Privy Councillor in 1922, has been Conservative M.P. for the Ripon Division of Yorkshire since January, 1910. He was born on April 16, 1881, and is the only surviving son and heir of Viscount Halifax. In 1909 he married Lady Dorothy Evelyn Onslow, youngest daughter of the Earl of Onslow, and has three sons and a daughter. He was educated at Eton and Oxford. In 1921-22 he was Parliamentary Under-Secretary for the Colonies, and from October, 1922—January, 1924, was President of the Board of Education.

Speaking at Bethlehem, in the Free State, Mr. E. Rooth of Pretoria, a S. A. Party member of Parliament, sought to impress his hearers by prophesying what would happen if the Union seceded from the British Empire. There was no doubt, he said, that the very Asiatic menace would then *overwhelm* us. At the present time, he said, any law we passed on that question we would carry out, but we had not the powerful British connection behind us, Japan would undoubtedly step in and demand rights for the Indians, which we should be compelled to agree to.

That puts it pretty plainly. So long as we have the British connection, South Africa may rely on a powerful backing, even to the extent of depriving fellow British subjects of their just rights. Once that power is done away with, Japan or some other outsider would step in and *compel* South Africa to act justly!

What a turning of the tables that would be! Well do we remember the days of the Kruger Government in the S. A. Republics when the British Government were in the position which Japan might one day occupy if secession is consummated. But what an unfortunate picture to draw; and what a

humiliating admission to make! To this item of news, the *Natal Mercury* gives the sub-heading: "The Dangers of Independence."

Another member of the S. A. Party, Mr. H. J. Hofmeyr of Johannesburg, speaking on the Wages Act passed last session, said "it did not matter where a man came from or what his ancestors were. It was what he himself was that counted." Exactly. That's what we say. Apply that principle all round and we should find all racial questions solved at once.

The Transvaal British Indian Association (Bethal Branch) has addressed a letter to the Minister of the Interior protesting against the Asiatic Bill.

Who Is The Sacrificer ?

(BY L. W. B.)

The need of the hour is sacrifice, sacrificial service. The World-Soul of Humanity is pleading for it. Nations who are over-lords, and nations who are vassals are straining weary-eyed for some sign of the birth of a new spirit that shall dethrone the old Egoism, that shall supercede the dominion of the domineering grasping personal-self. It is the World, that to-day groans beneath the yoke of a bondage suffered no less keenly because only dimly realised and imperfectly understood; the world of Great Empires, as well as that of subject peoples, for The tyrant Self is without cosmopolitan and comprehensive. Whence shall come the liberation alike of oppressor and of oppressed? Of both, since the one is no less bondsman than the other. A Moses is needed. A Moses who may lead the world, not only a tribal portion of it, out of the Egyptian darkness to freedom from slavery to the self-idolatry into which it has fallen. The idol "I," and the idol "Mine," with its feet of clay, must be broken, dethroned; and the true Impersonal God deep in the hearts of all Mankind receives man's long-delayed recognition and worship. "Leaders" have been and are plentiful, ample in quantity; why then have we failed to gain liberation? Why does the "house of bondage" still hold us captive? The reason is probably two-fold. Firstly, the leaders have all too rarely themselves been inspired with the true sacrificial fire; secondly when they have been, they have failed to impart the secret to the multitude. What are the marks of the true sacrificer? First and last every thought, every action, must be selfless. The "leader" must lose his egoism, his personal self, and become one with the Self of the greater unit to be served. Of that, he must be a server, a servant. His labour must be a labour of love. The keynote of his motive must be love, for love is the true hall-mark of sacrificial work; all others are spurious. Self-aggrandisement in any of its various guises, is an element of failure, a subtle poison that inevitably makes for disruption. The personal "I" and the larger Self cannot be both served save at the expense of one or other. And, as is the example set by the leader—as is the note he strikes—so is that example caught up and followed by the multitude. So all-important then is purity

of motive. Love is in all men's hearts, more or less deeply buried yet present, because Love is the very essence and substance of Life. Self-love selfishness, is but its mode of expression in lesser evolved beings. The Soul that has grown wise in discrimination, perceiving the illusion of separateness, dissolves the walls of selfishness and identifies itself with the Self that is the reflection of God in Man. Selfishness or egoism then gives place to selfless sacrificial service. A leader so imbued, so inspired, is as a flame lighting to flame the slumbering spark in the breasts of lesser men. Even though that flame may burn but for a while and then die down, even though the immediate objective sought be not at once achieved, there will have been an advance towards ultimate achievement. For the fire of Love burns up hatreds, misunderstandings, prejudices and other barriers arising from ignorance, and their destruction makes possible mutual toleration, sweet charity, and like qualities of brotherliness. The leader, then, who so leads his people is performing truly divine work, for he who from his heart can light the sacrificial fire in the hearts of a people and so vanquish the dark forces of separateness is the wielder of a force immeasurably beyond that of armies and navies, a force that advances humanity many steps along the hard road of evolutionary progress. On that road, the hates and prejudices are the chief obstacles and hindrances to be overcome, love the universal solvent, the irresistible force that naught can withstand; and that leader alone can lead to victory who, loving humanity for its divinity sake, immolates his personality on the altar of sacrifice and dies to himself so that the greater Self of his Kind may live.

Views Of Mr. C. F. Andrews

On Recent Seamen's Strike in South Africa

One of the most serious situations has arisen owing to the threatened despatch of Indian lascars to take the part as 'blacklegs' in the place of the seamen who have struck work in South Africa, and in this way to be used by the employers against the seamen in order to break their strike against a reduction of wages.

Let it be clearly understood that the sea-men have struck work for one condition only, viz., that their wages should not be reduced below a living wage. They contend that the terrible hardships that they have to suffer and the risk of their lives in storms and syphoons and hurricanes necessitate a living wage and the protection of their wives and children at home during their absence. Every right-minded and thoughtful person will sympathise with such ideals as these; and if in self-protection they refuse to go on working at a lower wage on board the great steam-ships of Companies, who have been making large dividends and profits, then it is not for the leisured classes who sit at home and run no risk at all to condemn them for refusing to work at a lower wage in order to increase the profits of the ship-owners and shipping companies.

Reaction On Indian Cause

Whatever may be thought, however, concerning the rights and wrongs of the sea-men's strike itself,

no sensible person can doubt that the bringing in of another class of sea-men, belonging to another race, called Indian lascars, in order to break the original strike and force the sea-men who have struck work to accept lower wages is an act on the part of the Shipping Companies which will stir up racial hatred and passions to no small degree and complicate the political situation of the world. The South African Indian Congress have very rightly and wisely cabled at once their protest to India and the rest of the world against this action of the shipping companies, and they are able being on the spot, and at close quarters, to know what is going on and to understand instinctively and immediately the serious harm which is certain to be done by the encouragement of such a policy of trying in India labour on behalf of the shipping companies.

Already the situation in South Africa is serious enough. Already the race hatred against the Indians is incredibly bad. Already the Indians have been driven from pillar to post, and their cup of misery and bitterness is very nearly full. But if the news which the telegrams from Bombay have published of the recruiting of 700 lascars who have been shipped off to South Africa to break the strike is really true, then, indeed, the cup of misery will completely overflow, and there will be no hope whatever of any lessening of the race hatred between the white and the Indian races in South Africa. The Labour Party in South Africa, to whom an appeal has just been made in London to meet the Indian delegates of the Indian Trades Union Congress, in order to find some way out of the present dead-lock, will be entirely helpless to press their point if such news reaches them from Bombay, and their resentment will add to their dislike to deal with the Indian question. They will use this action on the part of the Indian lascars in India itself if the news is confirmed as a weapon to destroy the rights of the Indian residents in South Africa.

A Warning

One further point needs to be carefully considered. The immigration of Indians to South Africa is strictly prohibited and the law of South Africa which is formulated in the Immigration Restriction Act leave no uncertainty on this point. General Smuts' own regulations, refusing to admit any Indian at all on economic grounds, are still in force. Yet, in the face of all these regulations and restrictions, the South African Government would obviously cancel its own laws and make light of its own rules and regulations if it took this step of inviting Indian Labour in order to help the capitalist steamship companies in this present strike. Could any position be more humiliating than this? When Indians wished to go on lawful business to South Africa and wished to land there for perfectly legitimate and honest purposes, they were prevented immediately by the strictest Government regulations. But now it is proposed to ask the Government of South Africa itself to introduce Indians in order to break the sea-men's strike. Indian lascars are to be welcomed into South African ports, and 700 of them are said to be shipped off at once without a moment's consideration, for this dishonourable purpose.

After writing this article for the Press, the welcome news has come that the Indian lascars have been detained and that General Hertzog has given his word that they would not be allowed to be taken on board the ships in Durban or Capetown harbours in order to break the strike. But the very fact that such things have been proposed should put us on our guard and warn us betimes of what is still not unlikely to happen, if not at this time and manner, then at some other time and in some other way no less disastrous and disgraceful.

OUR LONDON LETTER

[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT]

1st October, 1925.

The Labour Party Conference which opened in St. George's Hall in Liverpool in mail week, has made much what was doubtful clear as to their attitude on Communism. By an overwhelming majority, they have not only re-affirmed their opposition to communism, and to the admission of Communistic bodies to membership in the Labour Party, but they have gone further in laying down, that no Communist may become a member of a Labour Party. As there are at present quite a number of Communists members in Labour Societies, it will be interesting to observe how these Communists will be "eradicated" from the Labour Societies, as from the number of Labour Societies in London which sent notices of motion in favour of the admission of Communistic bodies into the Labour Party, it would appear, that these Societies have a large percentage of Communists or persons, with Communistic predilections on their roles of membership. Lady Cynthia Mosely, a daughter of the late Lord Curzon, has adopted the views of her Socialistic husband Mr. Oswald Mosely, and is a candidate in the Labour interest, at the next general election for Parliamentary honours. The Labour Party Conference has decided to contest every bye-election that takes place, and for this purpose has decided to raise a special fund, by increasing the present contribution of threepence per head, from each member of the party to six pence per head. The elections for the Borough Councils come on next month, and Labour will endeavour to increase its hold in the Councils. The Reform Party who are anti-labourites, will also do their best to maintain their position in the Councils, and at the same time work to recapture lost seats.

An organisation for the maintenance of the essential public services, such as those which affect food, heat, light, transport and sanitation if a general strike should suspend the activities of workers in those services is being formed in London and it is expected that other large cities in the British Isles will in due course do likewise. The organisation is styled, The Organisation for the Maintenance of Supplies, or shortly "O.M.S." The president is Lord Hardinge of Penshurst, and the members of the council are well known men. The "O.M.S." is non-party and for both sexes. The qualifications are:—

CLASS A, with an age limit of 45, is solely for protective purposes, and is being directed by Sir Francis Lloyd (formerly in command of the London district and later Food Commissioner for London and the Home Counties) and Col. Robert McCalmont (recently retired from a command in the London area after a distinguished career in the Irish Guards.)

Men enlisted in CLASS A will be offered to the Home Secretary to be sworn in as special constables, their primary duty being to protect workers registered in the other classes.

CLASS B will consist of volunteers for work in connection with railways, tramway-cars, omnibuses, electrical power, gas, water, and public health services. Such volunteers are to be organised by borough technical sub-committees.

CLASS C will deal with transport and consist of volunteers to drive vans, lorries, motor-cars, motor-cycles, and horse-drawn vehicles, and generally to handle foodstuffs and other commodities. In a national emergency they will be placed at the disposal of the Ministry of Transport.

CLASS D will undertake messenger duties. It is to be organised with small cars, motor-cycles, and

so forth to replace postal, telegraph, and telephone service.

CLASS E is for general unclassified services, including clerical work. It will include women, who will be registered for service in canteens, hospitals, and so on, but in no circumstances will women be employed in places where there is any danger of rough handling.

The Home Secretary interviewed by the Press on the O.M.S. is reported to have said, that the Government had all its plans ready for the eventualities following a general strike, and if necessary would call upon citizens and bodies like the O.M.S. for volunteer helpers.

It was in 1893, that the Venerable Anagarika Dharmapala a Buddhist monk was last in London. The boat train that brought the Begum of Bhopal also carried the monk. He is a tall spare man with a keen brown aesthetic face, flashing white teeth, and curly grey hair, and clad in a voluminous orange gown, wound round him with canvass shoes of the same hue. He has no personal possessions beyond a small case containing toilet articles, a few books of devotion, a quantity of Buddhist Literature, and a portable typewriter. He travels but has no money. He is here to consolidate the position of followers of Lord Buddha, in England, with the help of such followers by establishing a Maha—Bodhi Society.

The Begum of Bhopal on her arrival was met by Lord Headly the Mohammedan Peer and some of the officials of the Mosque at Waking. With her are her son Prince Hamidullah, her daughter-in-law, her grandsons Syed Lafir Khan and Raschid Lafir Khan, and her Minister-in-Attendance Sir Israr Hussein Khan. She has taken a house in Portman Square. To-day she placed a wreath at the foot of the Cenotaph.

The 1924 Nobel Prize for Literature was awarded to Ladislas St. Reymont, a Pole. The novel which gave him the prize is called "The Peasants," and is the first of a series of four of his novels. The author is at present in poor health, and peasants from all over Poland, have combined to collect sufficient money to give him an estate Reymont is of peasant origin, but by sheer brilliance he has raised himself to be the recipient of official Honours from three nations.

The disaster to the Shenandoah, the United States airship, is a big blow to those who consider that airships have a commercial future. The History of Airships is not a very cheerful one. A successful and safe type has yet to be evolved. ~~man's long-~~ ~~Leader's~~ ~~airship which is fast, and simple in construction appears~~ ~~have succeeded to gain~~ ~~is to produce an~~ ~~house of~~ ~~the stress of the sudden violent~~ ~~pressures which inevitably it must experience. The~~ ~~heavier than air" machine has overcome this~~ ~~obstacle; otherwise "stunting" would inevitably~~ ~~cause collapse. Undoubtedly aeroplanes have in all~~ ~~ways progressed further towards perfection than~~ ~~airships.~~

Original Correspondence

The Editor, INDIAN OPINION.

"Diffidence"

Sir,—I was speaking with a young Indian friend a day or so ago and was amazed—not to say annoyed—at his diffidence, for he valued himself so cheaply.

I know him to be upright, honest and clever, with good business ability, and he speaks several languages.

In answer to a pertinent question he replied: "We coloured people amount to almost nothing." At

once I jumped on him and gave him rather a caustic time.

"You coloured people" I cried, and pray what right have you to let down the whole of the Orient by calling them "coloured people" and then declaring that they amount to a mere fraction of value.

"It is this deplorable cheapening of yourselves that has brought about all this trouble. Cannot you understand that such words lower your standard and the whole of the Orient, and the old India who believed that the rest of the world revolved round their beloved land and received its substance from it?"

"Do you know, or do you not believe, that a rare like a man is always accepted on its own value? But they must live up to that value.

"You, yourself Don" (his name is not Don but it will serve) are "gilt-edged" but for this false diffidence you ticket yourself *cheap* and *naughty*. I should hate to hear you continually boasting yourself or your people—tho' advertising always pays, but I do want you to raise your standard which has fallen so low here, that you are treated and classed with everything you should not be bracketed with.

I claim you a valued friend and yet you try to cheapen me by thinking I would give my regard to something worthless—you would run my standard below half-mast."

"A man is known by the friends he keeps, so 'tis said, and the same theory applies to woman. I want a gilt-edged friend not a shoddy acquaintance. Respect yourself—your race, your abilities, your work and be true to yourself."

Bishop Fisher says "I am myself—I am above my ideals, my individuality I retain." His Ego is healthy and beautiful, he is gilt-edged."

Do not confound this with conceit which is offensive and despicable. "I was in New York about three years ago and accidentally ran across a South African one day. He seemed very much troubled at the lack of courtesy of the people. "Oh, Miss Mayo" he cried "are't these people dreadful, I say "I beg your pardon" but they take no notice and I have been waiting two hours on the Subway but they push and jostle me every time a train comes in and it is gone again before I get a chance to board it."

He allowed himself to be pushed and jostled and did not attempt to do a little of the jostling himself. He became ~~cheerful~~ ~~in the eyes of the busiest people~~ ~~on~~ ~~in~~. They had no time for him or any man who values himself so cheaply. And yet a more concerted man it would be hard to find.

These hustlers have no time for diffidence, but with the sick or aged it would have been a different story."

"I took the South African down to the paper office where I was working at the time—"The Globe" and showed him round all the latest machinery ect. Later he remarked "Did you have much trouble getting in here or have you a "pull" with anyone?" I replied "No my friend I have no pull, but I valued myself gilt-edged and so it follows that everyone else does."

So you see what I mean. Years ago you allowed yourselves to "not amount to much" and you had indignities thrust on you by this folly which now you are reaping a rotten harvest by. Be true and blame yourselves for it, but remove it. It is going to take some time and strenuous endeavour but it is surely going to be done, and your standard must fly high in the breeze it will create.

"Hitch yourselves to a star, but be sure it is a bright one and the right one"—to misquote Emerson.

Yours etc.,

AMBER MAYO