

Indian Opinion

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NOTES AND NEWS

WE learn with delight that Mr. J. D. Tyson, who was the official Secretary to the Rt. Hon. V. S. Srinivasa Sastri P.C., in South Africa, will arrive in Durban in three weeks' time. Mr. Tyson is coming out to assist the Indian community in connection with the Transvaal licensing question. With his consummate tact and ability Mr. Tyson will be able, we have no doubt, to help the Indians out of the difficulty.

The Hon. Evelyn Baring, Acting Agent for India in the Union during the absence of Sir Kurma Reddi, arrived in Johannesburg last week from Capetown on official duty, and will remain on the Rand for some days.

A deputation has been appointed by the executive of the Transvaal Municipal Association to give evidence before the Select Committee appointed by the Government to consider the difficulties caused to municipalities by existing legislation affecting Asia-tics, trading licences and kindred matters. The members of the deputation are Mr. H. J. Crocker (president of the Association), the Mayor of Standerton (Mr. Irving Steyn), Mr. T. N. Leslie of Vereeniging, and Mr. M. G. Nicolson, Town Clerk of Pretoria.—*Rand Daily Mail.*

A Reuter's message from London states:— Captain Weagwood Benn, Secretary for India, stated in the Commons that 166 Indian Central and Provincial legislators, out of 233 who were members of the National Congress, had resigned in accordance with the recent decision of the Lahore Congress.

The London correspondent of *The Star* writes:— Mr. Gandhi, who since the Lahore Congress has been busy trying to formulate a scheme of civil disobedience for the masses, has prepared a plan for submission to the Congress Committee. The scheme entails in the first place refusal to pay the salt tax from which the Government secures a big revenue.

Lucknow, Feb. 7 (Reuter).—"The sinister possibilities of civil disobedience" were stressed by Lord Irwin, Viceroy of India, in addressing a large Durbar here. He said that such a policy, if it ever succeeded, would involve India in irreparable disaster. It was impossible for people to be incited to break laws without such incitement culminating in violent action. The Government, he added, clearly would never be justified in permitting the development of a situation so fraught with danger, and there could, therefore, be no question but that the law must be maintained without reservation.

We have pleasure in announcing that Dr. R. M. Nanji has commenced his practice in Durban. His Telephone No. is 375.

Delhi, Feb. 12 (Reuter).—The franchise of Indians in Ceylon led to a first-class debate in the Legislative Assembly in which all political leaders took part. A resolution was unanimously carried urging his Majesty's Government not to put into effect the proposals of the Ceylon Government by which Indian emigrants to Ceylon are denied the vote unless they possess a certificate of permanent settlement and renounce the protection of the Government of India. The mover declared that the question vitally affected 700,000 Indians.

The conference on the operation of Dominion legislation and merchant shipping legislation, representing Britain, the Dominions and India, which sat in London last year, has issued its report. The opinion is expressed in the report that the power of the Crown, on the advice of Ministers of the United Kingdom, to disallow Dominion legislation cannot longer be exercised. The report recommends the enactment of legislation affirming Dominion Parliaments to be fully empowered to make laws having extra-territorial operation. The conference recommends that the Colonial Laws Invalidation Act of 1865 shall cease to apply to any law made by a Parliament in the Dominions, and declares that a convention should be framed laying down that any alteration in the law touching on the succession to the Throne or on the Royal style and titles shall hereafter require the assent of the Parliaments of the Dominions as well as that of the United Kingdom.—Reuter.

THE TRANSVAAL INDIAN LICENCES

THE unhappiest community in the Union is undoubtedly the Transvaal Indian community. It is remarkable how that community could have held its head above water after years of strenuous hardships. Since the time of Mahatma Gandhi's stay in Johannesburg the Transvaal Indians have had little rest. It is inconceivable how the Transvaal Province, with its enormous riches and resources, could not find a place for the Indian community whose number is infinitesimal in comparison to the other communities. The majority of the Indians comprise the poorest section whose presence in the Province in no way affects the Europeans. Even if the whole population of the Indians in the Province were taken into account they would merely be a drop in the Ocean. And yet that Province has always been seething

with trouble. It is an unhappy state of affairs. The Indian community has faced it all these years without any prospect of the trouble being settled.

The Transvaal Indian licensing trouble, which has been agitating the minds of every responsible Indian in the Union, is the result of an agitation set up by European traders. It is over a year now that the Johannesburg Municipality, holding the view that the Indians have been illegally occupying premises in the proclaimed areas, refused to renew their licences. Dr. Malan and his Law Advisers hold the view, however, that the Municipality has no powers to refuse the renewals. The position created by these refusals is in conflict with the spirit of the Capetown Agreement. The signing of that Agreement meant an armistice for the Indian community of the Union. But it would appear that the armistice was temporary for, hardly two years had elapsed before the Indians in the Transvaal Province encountered an attack which is calculated to wipe them off the ground as it were. The gravity of the situation would not be so easily apparent unless the fact were made known that the refusal of licences means the annihilation of the Indian community in the Transvaal Province.

Dr. Malan has been able to appoint a Select Committee in Parliament to enquire into the licensing question. We learn that the Select Committee will begin its work towards the middle of February. The Indian community in the Transvaal Province has been set a formidable task, but we are sure that with the careful handling of the question the Indians would emerge successfully.

Indians throughout South Africa will hail with delight the news that Mr. J. D. Tyson, who acted as official Secretary to the Rt. Hon. V. S. Srinivasa Sastri, will shortly arrive to assist the Indian community on the licensing questions. Mr. Tyson has made a special study of the Transvaal disabilities and his assistance will therefore be of immense benefit to the Transvaal Indians.

It must be frankly admitted that the fate of the Indian traders in the Transvaal hangs in the balance. That, we must say, is not in keeping with the spirit of the Capetown Agreement. We believed that the Agreement sounded the death-knell to the anti-Indian agitation. But that was not to be.

We feel, however, that the Select Committee will enquire into the questions from a broader aspect, and that a settlement equitable to all parties will be effected.

Licensing Question In Transvaal

Representative Indians' Views

"It is a sign that the Government of India takes an interest in the position and problems of Indians in South Africa," stated Mr. A. I. Kajeo, the former general secretary of the South African Indian Congress, to a *Natal Witness* representative when discussing Mr. J. D. Tyson's appointment in connection with the agitation arising from the appointment of a Select Committee to consider the licensing laws in the Transvaal.

Mr. Tyson, said Mr. Kajeo, was eminently qualified for the post, and possessed experience relating to Indian licences in the Transvaal, as he (Mr. Tyson) had already had to deal with the question.

"The appointment would give still greater satisfaction," said Mr. Kajeo, "if Mr. Sastri could be persuaded by the Government of India to come to South Africa.

"Send us Mr. Sastri," were Mr. Kajeo's concluding words.

Mr. A. Christopher, president of the South African Indian Congress, said in an interview that the Transvaal Indian Congress were handling the matter, and that a request would be submitted at a Congress Executive meeting especially called for the purpose, which meets at Johannesburg next Saturday.

Further than this he declined to go except to say that a statement of the position would probably be made to the Press after the meeting.

Mr. S. R. Naidoo, secretary of the South African Indian Congress, giving his personal views, said:

"At present the Indians in the Transvaal have no right to buy land and now the right to trade is threatened. Their position has always been bad enough, but has now become infinitely worse. This is a fact which the Government of India also recognised when it decided to send out Mr. Tyson.

"In my own opinion, the best way of approaching the matter is by a round-table conference between the representatives of the Indian and Union Governments and the South African Indians, so that the whole Transvaal question in relation to its Indian population may be studied afresh."

Sastri College

Opening Address By Principal

Mr. W. M. Buss, principal of the Sastri College, opened the institution with an address to the students.

Over 200 students were present when Mr. Buss explained to them the aims and purpose of the college as being primarily to prepare students for the junior certificate and matriculation examinations and also to train those who wished to become teachers. He emphasised that while the college bestowed a valuable privilege, it also imposed duties and responsibilities. It was essential that they should recognise the need for discipline, and also of never forgetting that they were members of a college whose duty it was to create and uphold its reputation not only in the building, but also outside.

Fruit Sellers In Eloff Street

The problem of dealing with fruit sellers who have taken up stands in the streets in the central area of Johannesburg has been raised by a petition sent by Eloff Street firms to the town clerk. The petition states:—

"Not only is their presence objectionable owing to the smell and garbage they leave behind them, but more especially in that they hinder our normal conduct of business in that they prevent customers from driving to our premises, thereby inconveniencing both the public and ourselves. Daily we get complaints from patrons that they are prevented from stopping in front of our premises with their cars, and are forced to drive some blocks away.

"In addition, the whole prestige of this part of the street is being lowered owing to the conversion of the street into a miniature bazaar.

"We do not wish to take the living away from these people, but there are many less important thoroughfares where they could ply their trade without injuring anybody."

By-law Provisions

A report on the subject by the municipal licensing officer states: "The shops of all the petitioners are situated in Eloff Street on the north of Jeppe Street, and in the area where fruit hawkers are permitted to ply their trade under the by-laws, between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. The by-law prohibiting these hawkers from plying their trade in the area bounded by Jeppe, Commissioner, Simmonds and Von Brandis Streets, was held to be *ultra vires*, but, after many complaints from shopkeepers in the area and prosecutions, the Courts have at last upheld the by-law, and hawkers are not permitted in the central area between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. This naturally compels hawkers to go north of Jeppe Street, where they congregate between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m., and they are a source of continual nuisance to shopkeepers and obstruction to traffic wherever they go. As they are all licensed hawkers they cannot be prohibited altogether, and, until some solution of this problem is found, they will continue.

Under the by-laws these hawkers must move every 20 minutes to a spot 75ft. away, and the police are doing all in their power to keep them on the move; many prosecutions have been instituted, and heavy fines inflicted for a breach of these by-laws."—*The Star*.

The Position In India

In a leading article under the above heading *The Star* (Johannesburg) writes—

Now that Mr. Gandhi, the stormy petrel of Indian politics, has come into the open with a definite demand for the complete sovereignty of the British connection, the situation in India, disturbing though it is, will at least be clarified. The Mahatma knows, probably better than most people, the impossibility of the demands he and his followers have put forward. Whilst there is not as yet anything approaching a general demand in India for the independence advocated by impractical idealists with little conception of the implications of their request, the influence wielded by men of Mr. Gandhi's stamp is likely to have a very disturbing effect on the situation. That he himself realises this is proved by his naive denial that he would be a party to any methods involving violence, whilst in the same breath admitting the possibility of violence being resorted to by "the extremists." The policy he preaches is fraught with all the elements of tragedy and civil war and no one knows this better than this man who endeavoured

—as he has always endeavoured—to disclaim in advance any responsibility for the natural consequences of his teaching.

A helpful factor in a most difficult situation is the attitude of the "moderates" among the politically minded classes of the people of India. It may be said that radical political changes are usually accomplished or successfully initiated by "extremists." There is certainly much in history to confirm this view; but there is also much to justify the view that, under the influence of farseeing statesmanship and wise leadership extremism ultimately merges into moderation. There are two points of view among Europeans in regard to India. There is the point of view of men like the present Viceroy, Lord Irwin, and there is what may be called the traditional point of view of men like Sir Michael O'Dwyer. It seems to us that the first point of view is the only sound one and the only safe one, having regard to the future interests of India and of the British Empire. It is often said that the political parties in India do not represent the inarticulate masses, but, after all, it is not so long ago that the masses of the population of the British Isles had little say in the government of their country and took little interest in it, except when they were directly and personally affected. The "moderates" in India are practically unanimous in favour of Dominion status, and if any British Government were to place itself in opposition to their wishes the only result would be to turn them all into extremists such as those who compose the Congress parties. Mr. Arnold Ward, who has recently been revisiting India after some years' absence, and is contributing some thoughtful and dispassionate articles to the *Spectator*, points out that when he reached Delhi he was surprised to find the great majority of the representatives of the commercial and landed interests in India not ranged behind the Government but acting with the Nationalist parties. He mentions two men in particular, Sir Purshottamdas Thakurdas, a great cotton merchant and one of the best known public men in India, and Mr. Birla, identified with industry on a big scale, both of whom are men of unquestioned patriotism and ability, enjoying the entire confidence of the Indian business classes, and both of whom are in favour of attaining self-government without further delay. It has been suggested that their attitude is merely due to a desire to impose a high protective tariff, but, as Mr. Ward asks, of what avail would be protection from the foreigner if India, under self-government, were to be a prey to the forces of anarchy and disorder. Mr. Ward says:

The conclusion which they have reached is that under responsible government the interest of property will be secure, law and order will be enforced, and, so far as the action of the State can promote prosperity, peaceful progress and development will be assured; but that, if British rule is to continue, the time will come when law and order cannot be enforced and when property will not be secure; that to maintain a system of government contrary to the general wishes of the people can lead only to boundless unrest and to prolonged disorder; that it will only be possible to carry on the government by repressive measures culminating in martial law; and that such a prospect is utterly repugnant to those concerned in commerce, industry and finance.

It may be mentioned that both these very influential members of the Assembly are resolute opponents of unconstitutional methods and staunch supporters of the British connection.

Outside British India it is noteworthy that the rulers of Indian States, while welcoming the ideal of Dominion status and pledging themselves to help it forward, repudiate the policy of independence,

During last year the following resolution was unanimously agreed to by the Chamber of Princes:—

"While adhering to their policy of non-intervention in the affairs of British India, and repeating their assurances of sympathy with its continued political progress, the Princes and Chiefs composing this Chamber, in view of the recent pronouncements of a section of British Indian politicians indicative of a drift towards complete independence, desire to place on record that in light of the mutual obligations arising from their treaties and engagements with the British Crown they cannot assent to any proposals having for their object the adjustment of equitable relations between the Indian States and British India, unless such proposals proceed upon the initial basis of the British connection."

It will be seen that not merely British India, but India as a whole favours Dominion status, but that only the Congress desires independence and secession. The Congress is undoubtedly a formidable organisation, but whether its recent proceedings and demands have strengthened its influence has yet to be proved. Its policy, if put into effect, could only have unhappy and disastrous results for everyone concerned. Meanwhile the attitude taken up by the Viceroy is both wise and expedient. Any other attitude would only play into the hands of the extremists.

Transvaal Indian Congress Sends Cables To India

The following cables were sent by the Transvaal Indian Congress in connection with the appointment of the Parliamentary Select Committee to enquire into the licensing question in the Transvaal:—

To HON. SASTRI, Poona :

"Dr. Malan announces in Parliament Select Committee to be appointed on Friday to enquire into the licences question in the Transvaal. Agent-General ill in India. Situation very serious very existence of Transvaal Indians threatened. Most humbly request you to come for at least a month to represent Indian case before Committee. Community will ever be under deep debt of gratitude. Kindly represent Government of India to prevail upon Union Government postpone sitting of Committee until suitable representatives from Government of India arrive. Suggest Bajpai accompany you. Reply cable."

To H.E. the VICEROY, Delhi :

"Minister Interior moves on Friday for Parliamentary Select Committee to enquire into the Licences held over from last year and regarding the residence on or occupation of properties by Indians. Transvaal Indian Congress request your Excellency to prevail upon the Union Government to postpone sitting of the Committee in order to enable the Agent-General to be present. Congress further requests your Excellency, if Sir Kurma not yet well, to send Honourable Sastri and Bajpai for at least one month on behalf of your Government to represent the Licence question and other grievances before the Committee. Transvaal Indians are threatened their very existence. Most capable representatives of the Government of India are absolutely necessary."

CABLE REPLY from Hon. SASTRI :

"Bangalore.—Engaged on Labour Commission. Cannot come. Accept sincerest sympathy and good wishes."

From Sir KURMA :

Replying to a cable asking him to prevail upon the Indian Government to request that the sittings of the Select Committee be postponed until his return to South Africa, Sir Kurma cabled:—

"Madras.—Your cable communicated to Indian Government. Necessary action being taken. Myself arriving March."

Wire To Dr. Malan

The following is a copy of a wire sent to Dr. Malan, Minister of the Interior, and the reply from the Minister:—

To Dr. MALAN, Capetown :

"Transvaal Indian Congress learns from Press reports that you are moving on Friday for a Parliamentary Select Committee to inquire into the licences question and regarding residence on or occupation of fixed property. Congress urges you to postpone sittings of the Committee until Agent of the Government of India returns."

From Dr. MALAN :

"Capetown.—Your telegram. Select Committees determine their own sittings so that Minister is not in position to give any assurance. He has no official information about time Agent is expected to return but can assure Congress that all reasonable opportunity for representative evidence will be given."

Immigration Bill

The Minister of the Interior (Dr. D. F. Malan) introduced a Bill to restrict immigration from certain parts of Europe. The Bill provides that an Immigration Board shall determine all applications for entry and permit not more than 50 in each year from any country or 1,000 from all the restricted countries. The Board will have final powers, and in the modern fashion of Government by regulation, the Minister will have almost despotic powers. The countries to which the restriction applies are not named but appear from the list of countries to which the Bill does not apply, which are the following:—

Territories comprised within the British Commonwealth of Nations, Austria, Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, Holland, Italy, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United States of America.

From this list it will be seen that the restriction applies to Russia, Lithuania, Latvia, Finland, Poland, Czechoslovakia, Rumania, Yugo-Slavia, Greece, Albania and Turkey. It also applies to the whole of South America and Asia, but from these continents there is practically no immigration. It has been said that the Bill aims at restricting immigration from "south-eastern Europe," but Russia, the new Baltic States, Poland and Czechoslovakia are not in that quarter.

Mr. M. Alexander, K.C., from 1910 to his defeat in the last general election a member of the Union Parliament for a Capetown constituency, and a recognised leader in South African Jewry, denounced the Bill. He said that many Jews who had rendered signal services to South Africa would not have been here had such legislation been in force. The Immigration Act was sufficiently drastic to exclude undesirables of all races. He could regard it only as an anti-Semitic Bill which every self-respecting Jew should regard with indignation, hostility and alarm. Its real object was plainly to restrict Jewish immigration to the Union.

The Jewish Board of Deputies in Johannesburg have arranged a protest meeting in the City Hall. The four Jewish members of the Assembly (Messrs. C. P. Robinson, Emile Nathau, Eli Buirski and M.

Kentridge) held a conference. (Sir Ernest Oppenheimer is away). Mr. Kentridge declined to make a statement on the Bill "as I shall be fighting it in the Assembly."

A Nationalist Party spokesman in an interview said the immigration figures for the last five years gave grave cause for alarm, and the Government hoped to obtain the Opposition's support for the Bill as a non-party measure.

The Bill had been read a first time, and the second reading was taken on February 10.—*The Star*.

Shop Rents In Johannesburg

A representative of *The Star* met Mr. J. Distiller and Mr. E. Creswell, chairman and secretary respectively of the newly-formed South African Shop-Rent Payers' Association, and was taken on a tour of investigation by them to see concrete examples of rack-renting.

In one street, within one block, there were three businesses that had gone insolvent, the insolvency being attributed to the rents being so high that profitable business became impossible. In many instances accommodation seemed out of proportion to the rent charged, and apparently also to the capital invested.

Some Examples

Among the examples pointed out was that of a little fruit shop, 10ft. x 18ft., for which the tenant pays £52 10s. a month. His rent must be paid three months in advance. He is restricted from selling cigarettes. Another instance was that of a grocer who was able to make a living when he paid £40 a month for his premises, but when the rent was increased to £60, and finally to £105 a month, he became bankrupt.

A third instance was that of a hair-dresser in Pritchard Street, who for many years had paid £25 a month. Recently alterations to his premises were made, one effect being to reduce the area by one-third, and his rent was then doubled. He has been compelled to sign a lease for three years at £50 a month with the option of renewal for another two years at £60 a month.

The outstanding example, however, is that of a firm that had been paying £177 10s. a month rent until the expiry of its lease. A demand was then made for £650 a month. The premises were vacated, and the same shop divided into a number of smaller ones, and the rental received from this is now £800 a month.

The owners of a long-established outfitting firm, and the owners of a jewellery manufacturing business, have both decided to give up business, because, they say, the exorbitant rents demanded by the owners of the property cannot be met. Yet another case was pointed out where the rent was raised from £225 to £325. The tenant was unable to pay this and vacated the premises. A portion of the premises has now been let for £500 a month.

Another matter the Shop Rent Payers' Association intends to fight is the demand for goodwill from a tenant on the renewal of his lease. Mr. Distiller was able to state that a jeweller in a big way of business in Johannesburg had to pay £1,000 before his landlord would renew his lease, and in another case £3,000 had to be paid in the same circumstances.

The sub-letting of a portion of a tenant's shop is often followed by a demand from the landlord for a payment for goodwill, and also an increase of rent. A case in which this occurred, when the rent of £125 was raised to £175, was vouched for.

The class of tenant principally victimised are those who have become well established in business in a certain part of the town. They have built up a custom, and to move would perhaps be equivalent to starting business all over again. Such a tenant, when the property passes into the hands of a rack-renter, is given the choice of paying a greatly increased rent or quitting the premises. Usually he pays, and later is subjected to another increase of rent.

Effect On Employment

Mr. Distiller is of opinion that not only were numbers of people being forced out of business by the enormous rents they were called on to pay, but the effect of this on employment was very serious. He gave instances where shopkeepers had been compelled to reduce their staffs to enable them to keep their doors open.

"Business, thanks to the rack-renters," he said, "is in an appalling condition. If the wholesale merchants were to press their customers in the slightest degree there would be a series of bankruptcies that would stagger South Africa."

The high rents charged were also stated to be a factor in the high cost of living.

Union-Wide Investigation

Mr. Creswell, secretary of the South African Shop Rent Protection Association, stated that concerted effort is being made to grapple with the state of affairs revealed. He will start shortly on a tour of all the big business centres in the Union—Bloemfontein, Durban, Maritzburg, East London, Port Elizabeth and Capetown. He will form branches of his association in these towns and will then lay evidence before the Government and petition members of Parliament for a remedy.

Mr. Creswell states that there is a feeling among legislators that action of some kind must be taken, and he is certain of support and assistance from all quarters. He was of opinion that an inquiry by a Parliamentary Select Committee would reveal a most unsatisfactory state of affairs with regard to charges for rent in all the big towns of the Union.

—*The Star*.

Messrs. Boydell And Marwick Come To Blows

Writing from Capetown on Friday last to *The Rand Daily Mail*, Mr. Arthur G. Barlow says:—

We were all expecting a humdrum day, with rather a dreary exposition by Mr. Jack Piensaar on his peculiar Bill to ban the coupon system, when Mr. Tommy Boydell, the ex-Minister of Labour, suddenly stepped into the ring and gave the members, old and young, a first-class sensation.

Mr. Boydell, who is a pupil of many years' standing of Tromp van Diggelen, and believes in the quick knock-out system, insisted on arguing the point with Mr. Marwick. He just, in the words of the "fancy," "put him to sleep."

It is an old trouble, this war between Senator Boydell and Mr. Marwick. For many years they have been sparing with one another across the floor. Mr. Marwick rather roasted the ex-Minister on the Doornkop Sugar Estates question.

During the last election he was a prominent figure in Greyville, and perhaps did more to cause Mr. Boydell to lose his seat than anyone else. In fact, at one of the meetings, Mr. Marwick, who was angry at something which Mr. Boydell had said,

mounted the Senator's platform and, after exchanging some words, to the astonishment of all present, aimed a blow at Mr. Boydell's chin.

Mr. Boydell, who, as he said at the time, was an old boxer, easily warded off the blow, and challenged his opponent to settle the argument by resorting to force at any time he liked. In fact, he was considerate enough to send his address to the member for Illovo.

After a meeting of the British Empire Association this morning (held in that part of Parliament House which comes under the control of the Senate, and not of the Assembly), the two met, and Mr. Boydell told Mr. Marwick that he, thought, it was time he apologised. This, the member for Illovo refused to do. Trouble started, with the result that Mr. Marwick received a heavy blow on the jaw which sent him spinning to the floor. He was knocked unconscious and had to be taken to Hof Street Nursing Home, where he now lies. He is said to be suffering rather badly from concussion.

Excitement in Lobbies

This regrettable incident soon set the Lobbies buzzing, and, the lunch hour found members in rather an excited state. All kinds of rumours flew round, and Parliament is the most dreadful place in the world for rumours.

When the House met there was a state of electrification in the air. Mr. Joel Krige, Acting Leader of the Opposition, rose amid tense silence, drew Mr. Speaker's attention to the fact that a member of the Assembly had been assaulted by a Senator, mentioned the names of both hon. members, and asked what action was proper to be taken in the matter.

Speaker's Opinion

The Speaker thought there was a question of privilege, and suggested that Mr. Krige give notice if he so desired for the appointment of a Select Committee to examine the matter of the complaint of breach of privilege, and report.

The Leader of the Opposition quaintly suggested that, as a breach of privilege was alleged, the Prime Minister as the Leader of the House, should move for such a committee to be appointed; but General Hertzog, who is too old a politician to be caught in that way, neatly warded off the blow by saying that he had no notice on the matter, and that he had been unable to give it any consideration.

In the end Mr. Krige moved that a Select Committee be appointed to inquire into the incident.

General Hertzog warned the House that it must not be taken for granted that the Select Committee would have any jurisdiction in the case.

Mr. Speaker thought that perhaps a joint committee should be appointed.

After some more discussion Mr. Krige said he would give notice to move on Monday.

Senate's Probable Course

I suppose the South African Party know what they are doing in this matter, but raising the question of privilege about a brawl between two members hardly seems the way to deal with the matter. They will find it most difficult, as once they raise "privilege," they will see the Senate refusing to allow one of their members to appear before a Select Committee of another House. Senators, like members of the Lower House, jealously guard their privileges, and they are hardly likely to allow a Select Committee of the House of Assembly to try one of their members.

The incident, although it did not take place in the Debating Chamber, is hardly calculated to raise the dignity of Parliamentarians, and this question of "privilege" will only increase the trouble. We have had incidents before when very prominent men have resorted to satouffs, and where highly strung

and temperamental people are concerned we are likely to have them again.

General Regret

Everyone connected with Parliament naturally regrets that such a thing can happen, and hopes that before many hours are over Mr. Marwick will be his old and pleasant self again, for although the member for Illovo has a cutting and acid tongue in debates, he is one of the most courteous and gentle of men in the Lobbies, and is popular with all parties.

The Problem Of Mixed Blood

The Obligation Of The Catholic Church

(By the Rev. W. A. Hobson, in 'The Church Times')

The primary work of the Catholic Church is to develop the Kingdom of God on earth—that is, to strive to make operative in all human relationships the principle of love which has its source in the Holy Trinity, and which has fellowship with the Holy Trinity for its supreme objective. More simply stated, the business of the Church is to teach men to love God and to allow that love to flow towards our fellow-men in every way. This object cannot be achieved by human effort only, but by the addition of a supernatural life brought to earth at the Incarnation, made available to us by the Cross, imparted to us through the Sacraments of the Church, and perfected in us by the Holy Spirit with our co-operation. The point to be emphasized is that the Church is Catholic, and her work is among all men in every department of life and for all ages. Since all men have been created by God, all men have been created to share His fellowship and love. It is from this point of view I would ask the readers of this paper to approach the problem of mixed blood.

We people of mixed blood are the children of God, no more but, no less, than you are, and the Catholic Church is as much concerned in our welfare as she is concerned in the welfare of Englishmen or Italians or Greeks or Hottentots or Japanese. The problem is stated with special reference to the people of mixed blood, formerly known as Eurasians, but now called Anglo-Indians, of whom the writer is one.

If we are to understand the problem aright, we must first clear out of the way the prejudices of the European against what he calls the half-caste or half-breed. Apart from sentiment, a scientific study of the subject must be based on facts. Facts, as we know, are largely coloured by our prejudices, and we must endeavour first to divest ourselves of these prejudices.

It is a notorious fact that the Englishman is not only insular, but the most colour-prejudiced person in the world. He may not treat "natives" with physical cruelty, and political injustice, though lynchings are most frequent in that part of the United States where English blood is strongest. But in every part of the world, wherever the Englishman comes into contact with the coloured races, he keeps a sorely aloof from them, and adopts a definite attitude towards them which in innumerable ways affects these races adversely.

This is strengthened or buttressed by psychological rationalizations, like the Nordic race, rationalization of Dean Inge. It is easy to see from this the horror with which the Englishman regards the Anglo-Indian or any other person of mixed blood. If he dislikes the coloured man, and keeps him at a distance, he positively hates and despises the person in whose coloured blood mingles intimately

with his own. The Anglo-Indian is a constant reminder to him of his hypocritical assumption of superiority, for he shows the world that, while the Englishman pretends to keep aloof from the Indian, he is not averse to sexual intercourse with Indian women. Hence his hatred for the "half-caste." To acknowledge him as his offspring and to treat him decently would be to acknowledge that he has failed to maintain his prestige, and has admitted that the Indian is his equal, and can mix with him on equal and even intimate terms. So the Anglo-Indian is abused and ostracized and kept down in every way, and, in support of this pseudo-scientific statements are made to the effect that people of mixed blood only inherit the vices of both races and the virtues of neither.

There is no reason why they should. Apart from the fact that all existing human races have come from one stock, there are hardly any pure races even from the ordinary point of view. The English themselves are hopelessly mixed. Mediterranean man ultimately from Northern Africa, Alpine man from Asia, "Romans" of many Asiatic kinds, not to mention coloured people of various races to-day, have mingled with Angles and Saxons and Danes and Normans to produce the modern English. Yet nobody dreams of suggesting that the Englishman inherits only the vices of all these progenitors of his and the virtues of none of them. It cannot be retorted that the Anglo-Indian has coloured blood in his veins. So has the Englishman. The Nordic race may have evolved in Europe, but Mediterranean man and Alpine man come from Africa and Asia; and if, in the past, the mingling of these elements has produced such excellent results and made for the progress of the human species, there is no ground for thinking that anything else will be produced by intermixture of races to-day.

It is only racial pride and political fear that prevent this from being admitted. No real attempt has yet been made to disprove our contention. Plain facts support it in every way. Mixed races are not sterile, as hybrids in plants and animals generally are. This goes to show that the human races are little separated from one another fundamentally.

Investigation in India on anthropometric lines shows no physical inferiority on the part of the Anglo-Indian to the Englishman. Despite the fact that the Anglo-Indian has been reared in an unfavourable climate, and is not as well-nourished as the Englishman in India, he more than holds his own in every game and sport against the Englishman. Nine out of the thirteen men that composed the hockey team that toured Europe a couple of years ago were Anglo-Indians.

The average Anglo-Indian is not in a position to secure a University education, but the standard of natural intelligence in the community is high. There is no illiteracy in it. A hundred per cent. of our children are in school, and the majority of our boys and girls receive a full secondary education. In proportion to the size of our community, we have even more graduates among us than the other races of India. In the public services, we are largely employed in those departments which require both intelligence and endurance—the railways, the telegraph, the customs, the post, the secretariat, the Indian Medical Department; and there is not one of the higher services into which Anglo-Indians have not entered and left honoured names. Even in the Army, where colour prejudice is strong, some of the most distinguished leaders have been men of mixed blood. Two Indian regiments are named after Anglo-Indians, Warburton of the Khyber is known to every military man in India, the leader of the Indian Expeditionary Force to France during the Great War was an Anglo-Indian, the first airman to bring a Zeppelin down during the same War was an Anglo-Indian, and in the

same struggle the tenth of our entire community was mobilized. All this in face of the fact that men of mixed blood, as such, are not admitted into the British Army in India nor permitted to have a regiment of their own.

In spirituality, it is well known in India that the Anglo-Indian is intensely religious and devotedly attached to his Church. Not ten in a hundred Europeans in India attend church regularly, and the majority of the so-called European congregations are composed of Anglo-Indians and domiciled Europeans. In morality, we are far more conservative and purer than the European out here. Until recently, divorce was practically unknown among us. I am not trying to make the Anglo-Indian out to be a paragon of virtue, but the actual morality of our community is higher than the morality of the Europeans in India.

There is one other factor to be taken into consideration. As a man of mixed blood and the inheritor of two well-defined cultures, and cultures opposed to each other to a large extent, the Anglo-Indian suffers from an internal psychological conflict which to some degree or other must sap his energy and prevent him from developing freely and fully. If modern psychology is right, this must be true, but this is not generally recognized. With the best of inheritance the man of mixed blood suffers from repression. This conflict will continue all the coloured faces stand on equality with the white faces, but much can be done by education in the fleshwhite to mitigate it. The trouble is, in our case, that the whole aim and object of our schools, which are in the hands of Europeans, is to suppress the Indian side of our heritage and to bring our children up as Europeans. This is done with a political motive—not, in the least, to allow us to mix freely with the Europeans, but to keep us away from any political dealings with the Indians. Thus, by keeping down the Indian side of our nature, and by refusing to give our European side full expression in actual life, we are doubly repressed, and we cannot exhibit that vitality and that excellence which our dual inheritance should naturally enable us to do.

Our best Church of England schools in India maintain this policy of repression to the hilt. They advertise themselves as institutions which give their pupils a first-class British education on English Public School lines. They engage their whole staff of teachers from England, and in any case will not take coloured teachers, and they are very particular to tell the world that their whole atmosphere is thoroughly English. Seventy-five per cent. of their pupils are Anglo-Indians, and ninety per cent. of them will live and die in India, and they are trained and brought up to ignore and despise India.

The solution of the problem of mixed blood all the world over lies in the hands of the Christian Church. The education of coloured Christians in Asia or Africa or America is controlled by the Churches, and if these Churches, in the system of education they employ, and in their own relationship with coloured people, will scrupulously put into practice the principles of their religion, you in England will not hear so much of the hopelessness of those whom one of your priests with fine Christian sensibility called the "half-castes".

Dare we Catholics hope that, when the Catholics of England celebrate the centenary of the Catholic Revival, they will definitely initiate the final stage of that Revival by calling on English Catholics to face the special problems of the modern world in the light of the principles of the Catholic religion? Bring the Christ out of your tabernacles and show Him to a weary and oppressed world. Do not allow your Bishops to padlock Him in any side-chapel. We want Him exposed on the high altar of the world to be seen by us all.

City And Village

(By RABINDRANATH TAGORE)

The Poet, Rabindranath Tagore, writes in the *Allahabad Leader* :—

Villages are like women. In their keeping is the cradle of the race. They are nearer to Nature than towns; and are, therefore, in closer touch with the fountain of life. They have the atmosphere which possesses a natural power of healing. It is the function of the village, like that of woman, to provide people with their elemental needs, with food and joy, with the simple poetry of life, and with those ceremonies of beauty which the village spontaneously produces and in which she finds delight. But when constant strain is put upon her through the extortionate claim of ambition, when her resources are exploited through the excessive stimulus of temptation, then she becomes poor in life, her mind becomes dull and uncreative; and from her time-honoured position of the wedded partner of the city, she is degraded to that of maid-servant. While, in its turn, the city, in its intense egotism and pride, remains unconscious of the devastation it constantly works upon the very source of its life and health and joy.

Those who are familiar with the Hindu Pantheon know that in our mythology there is a demi-god named Kuvera, similar in character to Mammon. He represents the multiplication of money whose motive force is greed. His figure is ugly and gross with its protuberant belly, comic in its vulgarity of self-exaggeration. He is the genius of property that knows no moral responsibility. But the goddess Lakshmi, who is the deity of prosperity, is beautiful. For prosperity is for all. It dwells in that property which, though belonging to the individual, generously owns its obligation to the community. Lakshmi is seated on a lotus, the lotus which is the symbol of the universal heart. It signifies that she presides over that wealth which means happiness for all men, which is hospitable.

By some ill-luck, Lakshmi has been deprived of her lotus-throne in the present age, and Kuvera is worshipped in her place. Modern cities represent his protuberant stomach, and ugliness reigns unashamed. About one thing we have to be reminded, that there is no cause for rejoicing in the fact, that this ugliness has an enormous power of growth, and that it is prolific of its progeny. Its growth is not true progress; it is a disease which keeps the body swelling while it is being killed.

Fire Of Wealth

The sunshine that is diffuse maintains life in a whole forest of trees; and the sunshine of wealth is symbolised in Lakshmi. The sunshine, when it is focussed through a burning glass on a narrow spot, can reduce the same forest of trees to ashes; this hungry fire of concentrated wealth is symbolised in Kuvera, and he is the presiding deity of our modern cities.

Modern cities are continually growing bigger only because no central spirit of unity exercises vital control over their growth of dimension. There can be no end to their addition of hugeness, because their object is not to modulate human relationships into some beauty of truth, but to gain convenience.

When in the Sanskrit poem "Meghaduta," we follow the path of the cloud-messenger, and, in imagination, pass over the old-world towns mentioned in it, with their beautiful names, we feel that the poet in reciting them was giving voice to his

hungering delight of some remembrance; we instinctively know that these towns expressed more than anything else the love and hope of man, treasuring some of the splendour of his soul in their houses and temples with their auspicious decorations daily accomplished by women, and even in the picturesque bartering that went on in their market-places.

We can imagine what Delhi and Agra must have been in the time to which they belonged. They manifested in their development some creatively human aspect of a great empire. Whatever might have been its character, these cities, even in their decay, still retain in their magnificence the true product of the self-respect of man. But modern cities merely give opportunities, not ideals.

Cities there must be in man's civilisation, just as in higher organisms there must be organised centres of life, such as the brain, heart, or stomach. These never overwhelm the living wholeness of the body; on the contrary, by a perfect federation of their functions, they maintain its richness. But a tumour round which the body is congested, is the enemy of the whole body upon which it feeds as it swells. Our modern cities, in the same way, feed upon the whole social organism that runs through the villages; they continually drain away the life-stuff of the community, and slough off a good amount of dead matter, while assuming a lurid counterfeit of prosperity.

Poison-Centres

Thus unlike a living heart, these cities imprison and kill the blood and create poison-centres filled with the accumulation of death. When a very large body of men comes together for the sake of some material purpose, then it is as a congestion and not a congregation. When men are close together and yet develop no intimate bond of human relationship, there ensues moral putrefaction. Wherever in the world this modern civilisation is spreading its dominion, the life-principle of society, which is the principle of personal relationship, is injured at the root.

All this is the result of an almost complete substitution of true civilisation by what the West calls 'progress.' I am never against progress, but when, for its sake, civilisation is ready to sell its soul, then I choose to remain primitive in my material possessions, hoping to achieve my civilisation in the realm of the spirit.

People, as a whole, do and must live in the village, for it is their natural habitation. But the professions depend upon their special appliances and environment, and, therefore, barricade themselves with particular purposes, shutting out the greater part of universal nature, which is the cradle of life. The city, in all civilisations, represents this professionalism,—some concentrated purpose of the people. That is to say, people have their home in the village and their offices in the city.

We all know that the office is for serving and enriching the home, and not for banishing it into insignificance. But we also know that when, goaded by greed, the gambling spirit gets hold of a man, he is willing to rob his home of all its life and joy and to pour them into the hungry jaws of the office. For a time such a man may prosper, but his prosperity is gained at the cost of happiness. His wife may shine in a blaze of jewelry, rousing envy along the path of her economic triumph, but her spirit withers in secret, thirsting for love and the simple delights of life.

(To be Continued)

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