

Indian Opinion

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Indian Opinion

SATURDAY, MAY 23RD, 1908.

The Protector's Report

WE will confess that the appearance of the Report of the Protector of Indian Immigrants for 1907 at so early a date—as compared with last year—was a matter of pleasant surprise to us, and we trust that so good an example will not fail to be followed in succeeding years. Moreover, there is an air of greater human interest in this Report than we ever recollect detecting on any previous occasion. Whether it be continued criticism of a not very favourable nature from the Indian community and its representatives, or whatever may be the cause, there is no doubt that this is nearer to being a human document than the Protector has penned in years gone by. We can sympathise, in some degree, with that official, for it must be a sorry task indeed for him to have to show up in a pleasant light a system which were best masked in that darkness that so fitly covers all such works of evil.

Turning now to the Report itself, we are again struck with the manner in which the Protector insists upon the independence of the district medical officers who are in charge of the Estate hospitals, and it is more than a little significant that Mr. Polkinghorne has this year refrained from asking them for reports, by reason of the fact of their dependence upon those concerning whom it may be their unpleasant duty to report adversely. Obviously, where a man is afraid to tell the truth for fear of losing his billet, it is not unnatural to suspect the continued existence of Mr. Barnett's "piggeries."

The number of newly-imported immigrants decreased, during 1907, by nearly 50 per cent. The total increase of the immigrant population, free and indentured, for the year, was only 894, showing a total Indian immigrant population, for 1907, of 102,857. The death-rate has decreased from 25.61 per thousand to 23.25, chiefly due, we are told, to a decline in the mortality from malarial fever.

One very significant figure shows that, for 1907, the average declared savings of ex-indentured Indians leaving for India amounted only to £8/5/2, as against £16/7/6, in 1904, and we are warned that this low figure will be perpetuated in the future. What a lordly treasure to be possessed of after five, or, it may be, ten, of the best years of one's life have been taken from one! What generous compensation, upon returning to one's birth-place to find one's old position occupied by another, and faced with the need to start life afresh, with diminished strength and hope, in a place where every face is strange! No wonder the Deputy Protector remarked that "all the Return Indians I met were more satisfied with their life in Natal as compared with their means of livelihood in India"—a dubious compliment, indeed, to Natal, a thing of shame for the paternal Government of India to ponder over. One more item; for the moment, that we need note, is the increasing number of Indian re-indentures, chiefly owing to increasing difficulty found by the free Indian in retaining his freedom, with a mill-stone of £7 per annum around his neck by way of special taxation. The Protector makes the circumstances luridly clear in his report, under the sub-head "Social Status," wherein, however, we find but little of that human sympathy for which we have a right to look, but which we seek in vain, possibly on the principle that a sucked orange claims little attention.

Last year we dealt with four principal items arising out of the Report—deaths, accidents, suicides, and venereal disease. We have already seen how, chiefly owing to a fall in the mortality-rate, from malaria (greater in proportion amongst indentured Indians who have free medical attendance, than amongst the free men and women, who are allowed to luxuriate in the chills and fevers of ague by a negligent and penurious Government), the death-rate has perceptibly decreased. The accident-rate is still unreasonably high, and venereal disease is as frequent as ever. The latter is especially shown amongst the children of free Indians—probably a relic of their parent's indentured past, another

instance of the sins of the fathers being visited upon the children.

In regard to the suicide figures for the year, they show a slight decrease amongst indentured Indians, and a slight increase amongst free Indians. In 1906, the figures were 27 and 13 respectively; last year they were 26 and 15 respectively. But these figures tell nothing. They meant, in 1906, a suicide-rate per million of 661 and 213 respectively, and, in 1907, of 628 and 244 respectively. What this really signifies may best be shown by a comparison with figures showing the suicide-rate per million in India. This we find, from official statistics, to have been, in 1904, 33.5, in 1905, 40, and in 1906, 39, or, averaged for the three years, 37. If we tabulate the figures and compare with those for free Indian immigrants and indentured immigrants, we find something as follows:—

	T.I.	F.I.	I.I.	
1904	33.5	89	469	per million
1905	40	249	582	" "
1906	39	213	661	" "
1907	—	244	628	" "

The difference is startling. *We never find the suicide-rate amongst indentured Indians in this Colony to be less than fourteen times what it is for the whole of India, in any particular year, whilst, normally, it is at least twice, and sometimes even five times, the rate amongst free Indians in Natal!* Such figures as these are frightful. We can understand somewhat the increase in the suicide-rate amongst free Indians here. Year by year they find it increasingly difficult to earn a decent living. They start with a premium upon suicide of £7 per annum, on an average monthly wage of twenty shillings. Times are gradually getting worse, money is scarcer, and commodities are dearer. In addition, there is, for the reasons already given, the increased toll taken amongst free Indians by the malarial fiend, whilst the number affected by the venereal and pulmonary inheritances of their parents' indentured existences is increasingly large.

But what can be said to explain the suicide-rate amongst the indentured Indians? Their prospects do not fluctuate with the money-market as the incidence of taxation. Presumably, the life on the estates and mines is idyllic. *But what is the cause of the high suicide-figure?* Let us take another set of figures, to reassure us that the discrepancy is appallingly great. Most of the Indians brought to Natal under indenture

T.I.	Total suicide-rate for all India.
F.I.	Suicide-rate amongst free Indian immigrants in Natal.
I.I.	Suicide-rate amongst indentured Indian immigrants in Natal.

come from Madras; comparatively few come from Calcutta. The average suicide-rate for the three years 1904-6 in Madras, per million, is 45, and, in Bengal, 58. Compare this with 585 per million, the average for the last four years, amongst indentured Indians in Natal, and we find that it is *thirteen times the suicide-rate in Madras, and ten times that in Bengal!* What is the meaning of such an unnatural increase? Indians do not change their nature when they come to South Africa. They do not show their appreciation of an earthly paradise by seeking escape from it by the merciful services of rope and razor. That Indians are amongst the people least prone to take their own life may be shown from the fact that the suicide-rate for Paris was, recently, over 400 per million persons living; that of England and Wales, in 1905, 104; that of Europeans in Natal, in 1906, 168; and that amongst the white population of Johannesburg, in 1906, 370.

In the face of these shocking figures, we submit that a strong case is made out for urgent government inquiry. We do not hide from ourselves a great fear lest the Natal Government, in its anxiety to plunder the commercial section of the Indian community for reasons best known to itself, is capable of entirely ignoring the pressing need of inquiry into what has become a grave scandal. If Natal has any sense of shame left—we do not discuss the possibilities thereof in this place—a Commission of Inquiry will be forthwith appointed, with an entirely independent personnel, one of whose members should certainly be a prominent Indian gentleman capable of sifting evidence.

Mr. Essop Mia Assaulted

Mr. Essop Mia, the brave Chairman of the British Indian Association, has been severely assaulted by a Pathan. Our sympathy goes out to him. Mr. Essop Mia accepted the Chairmanship of the Association, when the acceptance of that office was no sinecure and was fraught with very great inconvenience and danger. No one, however, thought that the acceptance by him meant severe personal injury. From the account sent by our special correspondent, Mr. Essop Mia appears to have stood it all very bravely and calmly. General Smuts should now realise what passive resistance has meant to many British Indians and at what cost and suffering the Indian community has helped his Government. The inauguration of the compromise, as well as the fulfilment of the work, so far as it affected the Indian community, have been signalled by the spilling of innocent blood. A great deal of suspicion surrounds the compromise. Many Indians do not realise that the Asiatic Act is to be repealed, and they refuse

to believe anything about the compromise until the Act itself has been repealed. The Transvaal Parliament will be soon opened, and the least that General Smuts can do is to publish his repealing Bill, so that the suspicious among the Indian community may be reassured. So far as the Pathans are concerned, we do hope that there are many among them who are sensible enough to realise that assaults, such as the one we have referred to, do no credit to the Indian community or to them. To do violence to innocent, unarmed men, and that from behind, is nothing but sheer cowardice. We have good reason to believe that the assailant himself was merely a dupe. Mr. Essop Mia had not even seen him. He himself could have no quarrel with Mr. Essop Mia. It is perfectly evident that there are men behind the scene who are not prepared to come out, and face the consequences, and they are, therefore, using their dupes to do their dirty work. We hope that the brave among the Pathans will entirely repudiate the action of their more cowardly brethren.

THE TRANSVAAL GOVERNMENT HAVE published a Draft Bill regulating the Municipalities of the Transvaal. General Smuts has fulfilled the promise he made at a meeting recently held, and to which reference has been made in these columns, that Municipalities will be armed with powers to deal with Asiatic traders. There are sections in the Bill dealing with traders. One section gives authority to the Municipalities to refuse trading licences on the grounds of insanitation, unsuitability of premises, and for other similar reasons, the decision being subject to revision by a Resident Magistrate. Another section empowers Municipalities to refuse, among others, licences to hawkers, the refusal in these cases being in the absolute discretion of the Municipalities, no appeal being allowed. The first section is not open to much objection, and Asiatics must take the consequences of the prevailing prejudices, except in so far as they may be met by appeal to Magistrates. But the second section is absolutely unjust, and is aimed at the large number of Asiatic hawkers. Why there should be no appeal to the Magistrates with reference to the licences covered by this section it is difficult to understand. Lord Elgin, when he occupied the position of Colonial Secretary, said that he would not allow the present rights of Asiatics to be infringed. If, however, the Draft Bill goes through, and receives the royal sanction, Asiatic trade must be ruined. It is well to bear in mind that the livelihood of 5,000 Asiatic hawkers is at stake, as also of over 500 Asiatic storekeepers. Another section gives the Municipalities

power to lay out locations for Asiatics, which may be shifted from time to time, subject to compensation being paid to the residents for improvements made by them. A further section gives the Municipalities power to regulate movement on footpaths. Thus the Bill would give the Municipalities a threefold power. Asiatics should ultimately go to locations. They must not be allowed to walk on footpaths, and they must not continue their trade unhampered. We trust that the Imperial Government, having had enough experience now during the last 16 months, will not allow such arbitrary powers to rest in the hands of the Transvaal Municipalities.

Brutal Assault On Mr. Essop Mia

By A Pathan

[SPECIAL TO INDIAN OPINION]

Mr. Essop Mia, Chairman of the British Indian Association, was brutally assaulted on Sunday last at about 2 o'clock by a Pathan. Mr. Essop Mia was on his way to a dinner party. It is said that several Pathans at some distance from one another were awaiting him. As soon as Mr. Essop Mia and his companions passed by, one of the Pathans, with a short heavy stick, struck him on the back. He looked back and was hit on the face, the blow breaking the bridge of the nose. Mr. Essop Mia became insensible and fell down. Mr. Cachalia and Mr. Moosa Ebrahim Patel, who were with him, struggled with the Pathan. The struggle resulted in some injury to Mr. Moosa Ebrahim Patel. In the meanwhile, Mr. Camay, who was passing by, also approached, and whistled for the police. Before, however, the police had come, Mr. Essop Mia, although bleeding profusely, got up and caught hold of his assailant, until he was taken in custody by the police. Mr. Essop Mia then went to the police station, and thence to Dr. Gilchrist, who bandaged him. The injury received by Mr. Essop Mia is very serious, and, according to Dr. Gilchrist, it will keep him in bed for at least eight days. It is highly probable that, the nasal bone having been set, there will be no permanent injury done to the nose. In the meanwhile, Mr. Essop Mia can speak, though not without great difficulty. The upper part of his face is heavily bandaged. The injury on the back also is very severe; though there is no rupture of the bone or skin, there is a large swelling. The front teeth also have been badly shaken. The news spread like wildfire amongst the Indians, and scores visited the patient on Sunday. Mr. Essop Mia is, in spite of the injury, perfectly cheerful and quite calm. Several telegrams of sympathy have been received, among them being telegrams from the Natal Indian

Congress, Mr. Dawad Mahomed, and Mr. Parsee Rustomjee. The assailant is still in custody. The case is not likely to be brought before the Court for some time, as Mr. Essop Mia is not able to leave his bed. The event has cast a gloom over the Indian community, and all sensible people regret the assault exceedingly. Among numerous other callers were the Rev. Mr. Phillips, the Rev. Mr. J. J. Doke, Mr. Polak, Mr. Quinn, Miss Schlesin, Mr. Ma Intyre, Mr. Isaac and others. The cause for the assault is naturally to be sought in the Asiatic compromise, to make which successful it is well known Mr. Essop Mia worked most heartily. The assailant himself seems to be an unknown man put up to the thing by those who have remained studiously behind the scenes. The *Transvaal Leader* deals with the incident in the following terms:—

"Yesterday, about 4 p.m., Mr. Essop Mia (chairman of the British Indian Association) and three other Indians went to Vrededorp to attend a religious ceremony there. They had just passed the railway-crossing between Fordsburg and Vrededorp when Mr. Essop Mia was assaulted by a Pathan.

It is alleged that the assailant approached from behind and dealt Mr. Essop Mia a severe blow on the back of the shoulder, and as Mr. Mia turned he was struck again across the nose, breaking the bridge and felling him to the ground. He also received several heavy blows on the body. A policeman who then appeared on the scene arrested the alleged assailant. It is said that there were two Pathans waiting about, but one of them did not interfere, and disappeared soon after the assault took place.

The wound is a rather serious one, the bridge of the nose being broken and seriously lacerated. Mr. Mia's back and arms also were much bruised as a result of the blows. But for the opportune interference of the police the result might have been very serious. A doctor has already been in attendance several times. This assault is believed to have its origin in the same causes which led to that on Mr. Gandhi. Mr. Essop Mia also took a prominent part in arranging the recent compromise with the Government. The weapon said to have been used was a heavy stick similar to a pickaxe handle."

It is stated that Mir Allam and another who took part in the assault three months ago and who were discharged on Monday last were fettered by some of the Pathans and congratulated.

Lobito Bay Indians

Portuguese Commission of Inquiry

London, May 19.—The Lisbon newspapers state that the Government is sending out a Commission to Benguela to investigate the alleged systematic abuses of Hindu coolies on the railway works.

The Protector's Report

For the Year 1907

We select the following from the Report of the Protector of Indian Immigrants, Natal:—

ARRIVALS DURING THE YEAR.

As against twenty-five vessels with Immigrants last year, only sixteen arrived this year, one from Calcutta and fifteen from Madras.

The number landed, 6,486 souls—6,012 being from Madras and 474 from Calcutta—is less than last year by 5,155 souls.

BIRTHS.

The births reported during the year number 2,938—boys 1,457 girls 1,481—being an increase on last year's returns of 281.

Towards the end of the year I advised all employers of the requirements of the law as to reporting births of Indian children within 30 days after occurrence. This has no doubt caused the slight increase; but I am of opinion that many births are still not reported, and that it will probably be necessary to institute proceedings against certain employers and a number of Free Indians before the law is fully complied with.

DEATHS.

The comparison between the years 1906 and 1907 is as follows:—

	Men	Women	Boys	Girls	Total
1906 ...	941	575	559	536	2,611
1907 ...	924	513	496	459	2,392

the increase in population being only 894.

The deaths reported during the year number 2,392, against 2,611 the previous year, a decrease of 219. The death rate has also decreased from 25.61 to 23.25, or by 2.36.

The following table shows the death rate among the Indentured and Free Indians as compared with the previous year:—

	1906	1907	Decrease
Free Indians ...	26	24.10	1.90
Indentured Indians (first 5 years) ...	27.60	25.35	2.25
Re-indentured Indians (after five years) ...	8.30	7.90	.40

The reduction in the general death rate is due, chiefly, to the decline in deaths from Malarial Fever.

In 1906 there were 537 fatal cases. " 1907 " 419 " showing decrease of 118 cases, and a decreased death rate of 1.16.

Phthisis cases give 304 against 201, or a death rate of 1.99 against 1.98 last year.

There have been an unusual number of deaths during the year from "burns," especially among young children. As the Indians cook their food, for the most part, in open fire-places, clothing is liable to catch fire, and many deaths have been caused in this way. Naturally, mostly in the cold and windy months of the year these accidents occur. Of accidents to adults only six have occur-

red at the Coal Mines, and the same number in the Sugar Mills. The Mines Department makes a full investigation of every case; but, if death ensues, the Magistrate of the Division also holds an enquiry. The Deputy Protector likewise looks into each case on behalf of the Department. The interests of the Indians are fully safeguarded; but accidents will, in the best regulated concerns, occur, and cannot therefore be avoided altogether. It is the same with Indians employed in connection with machinery. The fact is, familiarity breeds contempt. Use causes the Indian to become careless, and this attitude of mind is chiefly responsible for such accidents as occur.

MARRIAGES AND DIVORCES.

The marriages registered for the year are 1,889, compared with 1,733 last year.

Of these, 824 were registered on arrival and before the Indians were allotted, and 1,065 in the Colony. This number shows an increase on last year of 561, but is probably accounted for by the operation of Act 2, 1907, requiring registration of marriage within 30 days of the performance of the ceremony.

A digest of the Act has been printed in Hindustani, Tamil, and Telegu, for the benefit of the Indian population, and, although these translations were only distributed late in the year, there has been a quick response, and many marriages contracted years ago have since been registered.

Only seven divorces were obtained by Indian Immigrants during the year under the provisions of the 76th Section of Law 25 of 1891. The expense attending the prosecution of divorce suits is evidently an insuperable difficulty with many wishing to have the marriage tie cancelled.

Before leaving the Colony the Indians declared their savings to be as follows:—

	£	s. d.	£	s. d.
Cash ...	15,340	10 0		
Jewellery... ..	7,257	0 0	22,597	10 0

Of the amount the Calcutta Indians owned:—

Cash ...	4,527	10 0
Jewellery... ..	2,551	0 0
	7,078	10 0

The Madras Indians owned:—

Cash ...	10,813	0 0
Jewellery... ..	4,706	0 0
	15,519	0 0
	£22,597	10 0

The average savings declared by the adult Indians for the following years was as under:—

	£	s.	d.
1904 ...	16	7	6
1905 ...	11	16	0
1906 ...	14	2	10
1907 ...	8	5	2

The decreased savings for the year are chiefly due to the fact that only 73 Indians under the Old Act returned during the year. These Old Act Indians, who on an average had resided in the Colony for 11 years, had much more scope for making money than Indians under indenture, and

hence occasionally took back considerable sums of money, with much benefit to the general average. As all these Indians have now returned, or otherwise forfeited their free passage rights, future shipments will deal only with Indians under Act 17, 1895.

INCREASE AND DECREASE OF POPULATION.

The following figures show approximately the number of Indians in the Colony on the 31st December, 1907, being those introduced under the provisions of the Law regulating such introductions, and the descendants of the same:—

Estimated number, 31st December, 1906	101,965
Arrived during the year	6,486
Births	2,938
Total	111,389

Died during the year... 2,392

Left the Colony:—

Licences	2,654
Returned Indians	3,484
Total	6,138

8,530

894

102,857

Of which number the following is the classification:—

	Men	Women	Children	Total
Free Indians	22,226	11,011	28,204	61,441
Indentured Indians	20,657	8,259	4,528	33,444
Re-indentured Indians	4,104	1,725	2,143	7,972
Total	46,987	20,995	34,875	102,857

Those who left the Colony under Licences include 2,274 souls who embarked for Lobito Bay April, 1907.

The following return shows approximately the number of Indians who have arrived in Natal under indenture, and the descendants of such Indians born in the Colony, since immigrants landed in November, 1860, to 31st December, 1907:—

Men	Women	Boys	Girls	Total
8,2693	33,447	10,311	8,957	135,408

Died in Colony	10,833	5,202	1,083	1,042
Returned to India	14,912	5,797	1,523	1,480
Left Colony otherwise	11,042	2,071	225	129
Total	36,787	13,070	2,830	55,339

80,069

Of those born in the Colony:—

Males	Females	Total
19,619	19,148	38,767

Died in the Colony	4,377	4,212
Returned to India with parents	2,308	2,267
Left otherwise with parents	1,701	1,114
Total	8,386	7,593

22,788

102,157

EMPLOYER AND EMPLOYEE.

Speaking generally, employers are well disposed to their Indentured servants; but it may be that some are not, more especially as regards over-work and medical attendance.

However, I shall be better able to deal with such matters during the coming year, the Government having recently appointed an Inspector to assist me to do certain work which time and opportunity have hitherto prevented me from doing.

Two serious assaults have been committed by employers on their Indentured Indians during the year, for which one was fined £20, the other £10. In both cases, all indentured Indians have been removed, and neither will again have Indians indentured to them.

Altogether, 35 convictions for assault have been recorded during the year, mostly of a trivial nature.

There has been a distinct decrease in the number of Indians convicted this year for absence from Roll Call, the number being 1,499 against 1,641.

Employers begin increasingly to realise, that charging their Indians before the Magistrate for every trivial offence is neither wise policy nor good either for Indian or employer. A good man is often spoilt thereby, while imprisonment is not regarded as a punishment by the bad man. A little more sympathy on some Estates, and better results would accrue.

REPORT OF THE DEPUTY PROTECTOR.

The phthisis and other health questions are being closely watched and dealt with.

There is nothing to record against employers in connection with rations, water and treatment generally, although in a few cases action has had to be taken against persons in authority for assaults committed.

I think it objectionable to a certain extent for employers to retain monies at the request of Indentured Indians in their employ, and who afterwards complain that their wages have not been paid them. It would be better to let the Indians deposit it at the nearest Savings Bank.

Some difficulty has been felt during the year to place the large number of Indians for transfer.

I would like to see the wages book form provided by law used and properly kept by employers, and have always tried to induce employers, to do so.

During my recent journeys in India, I found that all the Return Indians I met were more satisfied with their life in Natal as compared with their means of livelihood in India, and wish to return, many of them doing so. I also found that there were large numbers of labourers who were willing to recruit for Natal, but that our medical rejections in India and other contra influences, and demands for labour are heavy and materially lessen the supply.

LABOUR.

There has been a further increase in the number of men who have re-indentured during the year, by comparison with previous years, as under:—

1904	336
1905	969
1906	2,021
1907	2,221

This increase has enabled the Board, apart from financial reasons, to limit the introduction of men to 3,940 against 7,015 the previous year. The total number of Indians under re-indenture (men, women and children) at 31st December, 1907, was 7,972. As regards the indentured males at the end of the year the following figures show an increase on the year.

Allotted	3,940
Re-indentured	2,221
Total	6,161
Less completed indenture and died	3,229
Increase of	2,932

Of the applications for Indians to be introduced there remained, at 31st December, 1907, 8,290 men still to be supplied, but it is anticipated that quite half will not be required during the year 1908.

The labour market has been fully supplied and practically employers have had all the hands they wanted. In some cases, difficulty was experienced, when the mills commenced crushing, through failure of the native supply for cane cutting; which is, apart from such duties as policemen and overseers, the only work natives will undertake on Sugar Estates: indeed, so particular are natives in the choice of work they will perform that they even stipulate not to load the trucks with the cane they have cut.

For most of the year, the Coal Mines have been fully employed, owing to the increased demand for coal for bunker and export. To meet the increased demand, I have been able to allot 777 men who volunteered for this work.

I have not a little sympathy with those employers who are saddled with Indians who will not work. More than a fair proportion of this class have been introduced lately; some of the Coringees from Madras have turned out very badly. Such people are a test of good management on the part of an employer. On one Estate by humouring them and by judicious and sympathetic handling, the employer in time will perhaps make fair servants out of most of them; while on the adjoining Estate, directly trouble arises, they are handled severely and taken before the Magistrate or even imprisoned, a course which too often only aggravates the evil. It is this class of Indians who readily contract disease and when attacked show little or no inclination to recover, and who consequently are a source of continual trouble and expense to the employer.

(To be Continued)

INDIAN MAIL. For Bombay direct, per s.s. *Gouverneur*, on or about the 29th instant.

At the Heart of the Empire

A Monthly Survey

(Concluded)

"The Duke"

The recent death of the Duke of Devonshire deprives the State of a notable personality. He was born to a position of vast wealth, but was some distance beyond his fiftieth year before he inherited the ancestral acres—and married the woman of his choice. With every temptation to a life of ease or of occupation with his estates, he considered it his duty to devote himself to the service of his country, and filled many important positions, including that of Secretary of State for India. It is said that he had an inclination towards the Indian viceroyalty, but he was never sent to India to occupy the imperial *gadi*. Twice at least he refused the premiership. He broke away from Mr. Gladstone on the Home Rule Bill, but he remained true to many Liberal principles, including Free Trade. It is not easy to realise the reason of the immense influence he wielded in public affairs, but it was based on his honesty, good sense, and balanced judgment. He had no axe of his own to grind and the emoluments of office were no incentive to him. His attitude in the House of Commons (as Lord Hartington) and in the Upper Chamber was frequently caricatured; he seemed capable of sleeping through anything and even yawned over his own speeches. "He had an uncommon gift of taciturnity," says one of his critics. His heedlessness as to personal appearance was well known and on one of his birthdays he received from his friends every imaginable kind of headgear, from a cricketing cap to a "top" hat; in fact throughout the day a constant stream of hats arrived; it is said he appreciated the joke. He was a close personal friend of King Edward and frequently his host, either at his ideal Derbyshire home, Chatsworth, or in London. Whenever anyone spoke of "The Duke," it went without saying that the Duke of Devonshire was alluded to; and however highly he was appreciated in public life, it was in his own homes and among his own people that he was most truly loved. Queen Alexandra sent with her floral tribute a touching personal message in her own hand-writing when the great Duke was laid to rest in the quiet churchyard of Edensor a few days ago. A figure of influence has passed from the stage of life.

Cementing the Friendship with France

Preparations are going forward with remarkable vigour for the Franco-British Exhibition, and it is likely to be in a better state of readiness for the opening day than is usually the case with similar undertakings. King Edward and the French President are

to open the Exhibition in person, and all kinds of interests above and beyond the excellent exhibits are being arranged. There will be relays of school children from France throughout the summer, and English school children are to meet them; the Olympic games will be a special attraction; the "Marathon" race will start from Windsor Castle and the competitors will finish in the Exhibition grounds; the first duellists of the day will practice what might be deadly work but for the fact that the bullets are to be of wax. The Indian pavilion will be fairly representative; Kashmir is to send silk, Bikanir carpets, Mysore and Jaipur are to lend treasures; industries and manufactures are to be well represented, and raw materials will play an important part in the exhibit. The School of Tropical medicine will have its place at the Exhibition and sanitary appliances for combating disease in tropical countries—in which both France and England are interested—will be shown.

Lord Ampthill and Mr. Cox, M.P.

On the occasion of the celebration in London of the Parsi New Year Festival on March 21, the community entertained Lord Ampthill and Mr. Harold Cox as its distinguished guests on account of the excellent work they had done in both Houses of Parliament on behalf of British Indians in South Africa. Sir Mancherjee M. Bhownagree presided at the banquet and proved an excellent chairman, saying just the right thing at the right moment. Lord Ampthill expressed his pleasure that a certain measure of success had been attained, but there was more to be done; he praised also the courageous conduct of the Indians themselves in the Transvaal. Mr. Cox said he considered Mr. Gandhi had done right in the terms of agreement with the Transvaal Government, for when feeling is bitter concessions must be made in the hope of further gain afterwards. He also spoke on the subject of racial instincts, and observed that although an utterly ugly side in the form of violent race prejudice had been witnessed in the Transvaal against which the love of justice of an Englishman revolted, yet there was a good side, too. The Parsis themselves proved this by the fact that they had held together for centuries as a community bound by inherited traditions. One can be proud of one's race, said Mr. Cox, without being the enemy of every other; worthy race traditions should help us to work together for the well-being of the world.

Another Pronouncement on the South African Question

Mr. J. D. Rees' book, "The Real India" has just appeared; that of Mr. S. M. Mitra is to follow within a day or two. Mr. Rees goes to the trouble to explain in the course of discussing the question of Indian labour in British colonies, the reasons

why he seceded from the British Indian South Africa Committee; he considers that the Transvaal Government must have its own way and that it is foolish to blind oneself to the fact that there is "an ineradicable prejudice against the introduction of Orientals into our Colonies except upon such terms as the Colonies themselves lay down." Throughout the book the personality and opinions of the writer are dominant and he wears his official spectacles; the Congress and its works, with the Bengali Babu and the agitator added, are to him anathema. But he finds a good word to say of the Indian peasant, and of family life where the virus of self-government has not entered. (Methuen, 10/-)

Concerning Some Books and Articles

Mr. Fielding Hall has published another of his interesting books on Burma; it is called "The Inward Light" (Macmillan 10/-) and deals with the religion of the people.

I may here interpolate that the Buddhist Society of Great Britain and Ireland, with Professor and Mrs. Rhys Davids taking a lead, is making itself felt in London by means of meetings and a book depot.

Mr. S. S. Thorburn has made an excursion into the realms of India's fiction under the title of "Indian Saint and the Viceroy" (Methuen, 6/-)—the Saint being an English millionaire, who renounces wealth and works among the famine stricken; eventually he succumbs to the charms of the Vice roy's daughter,

Sir W. Lee-Warner has written the "Memoirs of Field-Marshal Sir Henry Norman (Smith, Elder, 15/-) who accepted the Indian Viceroyalty as successor to Lord Lansdowne, and then withdrew.

In the *Nineteenth Century* for April Mr. Ameer Ali writes on "Anomalies of Civilisation: a Peril to India," and deals with the position of Indians in South Africa; Mr. J. Nisbet returns to the Indian Forest Service needs in his article on the recruitment of officers. In the *National Review* for April, the article on "Greater Britain and India" is concerned with the Zakká Khels expedition, with famine, with the Congress, and with the Decentralisation Commission. Mr. H. W. Nevinson contributes to the *Albany Review* an interesting article on "The New Spirit in India." Mr. Stead's article in the *Contemporary* in defence of General Gordon against Lord Cromer's strictures is a noteworthy contribution. *The Near East* a new monthly (price 6d. Caxton House, Westminster) has just appeared, it is devoted to the interests of Muslims. The *Indian Age* is now issued from Winchester House, Broad Street, London, (6/6 post free, annual subscription) and deals largely with industrial matters.

The Natal Bills

A Camperdown Meeting

Members to Support or Resign

A public meeting was held here on Friday, in the Agricultural Hall, on the subject of the Bills on the Asiatic question, which are to be brought before Parliament, writes the Camperdown correspondent of the *Natal Mercury*.

Mr. John Moon, J.P., was elected to the chair, and explained that the meeting had been called in accordance with a resolution passed at a meeting of the Farmers' Association the week before. The Chairman referred to the poor hearing which the Indian question had received when the same was brought up at the recent Farmers' Conference in Maritzburg. Most of those who attended at that Conference, he said, were in favour of continuing the introduction of coolies, and many went so far as to state that, if the indenturing were stopped, the country would be ruined. They had, however, seen the Bills, which had been published, and that meeting had been called in order that the views of the Camperdown district might be clearly stated, with a view to further action.

Mr. Henry Hosking moved: "That, in view of the Bills which are to come before Parliament next session on the Indian question, the members of the Umgeni Division be asked to address a public meeting, to be held in Maritzburg, on a date to be arranged by the combined Farmers' Associations of the said division."—This was carried *nem. con.*

Discussion was then invited on the three Bills, which were read and dealt with one by one.

Mr. J. E. Dunton said the sooner they stopped the introduction of coolie labourers the better. They remembered the time when there were no Indians in the country, and now it was flooded with them. They saw them driving in their carriages, while white men were begging.

Mr. H. Baker said they did not want the coolies. Some said they could not do without them, but they had never tried. It was because they worked the coolie for 12 or 13 hours a day, and knew they could not work the native that way, that they said they could not do without the indentured Indian. They would not talk of the subject at the Farmers' Conference, because they did not want the truth to be known. It was no use pointing out the thousands of Kaffirs there were to be had. They did not want them. But it was a serious question. For the sake of this Colony in the future, he himself was prepared for some present inconvenience and loss. It came to this: they all required labour, and the native was the best labourer in Natal, and in the whole world—(Hear, hear)—if properly supervised. As a matter of fact,

there was hardly a farmer in Natal who had not two-thirds more native labour than he really required. That was because the native was plentiful and cheap. They would never know the value of their native labour until they had to pay a fair price for it. When they paid a fair wage they would learn to do with a lot less labour, and then they would supervise the native more, and get better work out of him. He was dead against the introduction of more coolies, and was in favour of all those three Bills. He was sorry to say they had landlords who put coolies on their land, and they were becoming a pest.

Mr. C. Galtrey supported. He had been in the Colony 40 years, and he had had no coolies yet, and he had more labour than he wanted.

Mr. W. B. Turner was not in favour of the first Bill as it stood. He was quite willing to stop the introduction of coolies, if their indentures could not be terminated in India. He was against the stoppage otherwise. He was aware that the Indian Government had been approached unsuccessfully on the subject, but the circumstances were different to-day, and, if it were put to the Indian Government that there would be no more employment of their surplus population except on those terms, they would agree.

Mr. Archbell remarked that it would be absolutely useless to approach the Indian Government. That had been tried, and failed. They must support that Bill as it was, or not at all.

Mr. C. Galtrey moved "That the members be requested to support the Bill for the stoppage of the introduction of indentured coolies"—Mr. H. Baker seconded.

Mr. W. L. Stead supported. It was said that the farmers were the most interested in Indian labour; but the farmers said they did not want the Indian. A lot was said about federation, but if they imported the scum of India, then the other Colonies would look twice before they joined Natal. It was said that to stop the coolie indenturing would be the ruin of industries, but he thought it would be better to ruin them than the whole Colony. Did the big indenturing people employ white labour where they might? Not they. Even their engineers were coolies. The Transvaal were getting more natives than they required, and he agreed that they themselves employed more natives on their farms than were necessary. Mr. Stead mentioned incidents of Indians who had finished their indentures competing with the whites. He knew of a case where ten miles of telegraph wire had been put up for an Indian, who paid rent for it. Some Indians had white men working for them, and in 20 years' time they would have Indians regularly employing white men, to the demoralising of the latter.

Mr. W. B. Turner moved as an amendment, "That the introduction of coolies be permitted only if the indentures were made terminable in India."—Mr. H. S. Broadbent seconded.

The amendment was lost, and the resolution carried.

The second Bill was then considered, i.e., the one with reference to the stopping of the granting of new licences. Little was said with reference thereto, it being pointed out that there was nowhere any opposition to that Bill, even among the influential Indians, and it was expected that it would become law.

The discussion of the Bill for the expropriation of all Indian trading licences after ten years was carried on with much warmth. Mr. Dunton referred to the condition of affairs in Newcastle, and near Dannhauser, where the Indians had recently bought up a township, and no white man had any standing there. He stated that last year 62 licences were granted to Indians in Newcastle alone.

Mr. Moon referred to his recent experience in Bulwer, where he found that the Indians seemed to have taken possession. There, he said, the butcher, the baker, and the laundrymen were all Indians. He was told the Indians came there and turned out the white men. He also referred to the column of Indian insolvency notices they frequently saw in the *Government Gazette*.

Mr. Galtry humorously remarked that he thought that was largely the fault of the Insolvency Law.

Mr. Buchanan knew of a boy being sent to an Indian store to see how the selling was done, and it was found that they were actually selling at 1½ per cent. less than cost price.

Mr. Archbell moved: "That the members be requested to support the third Bill."

Mr. H. S. Broadbent moved, as an amendment: "That the members be asked to oppose the third Bill," and the points of his reasoning were that it involved class legislation, and would have no chance of receiving the requisite Imperial sanction. Also, that the terms of the Bill, being arbitrary and compulsory, would create opposition, and bring to bear upon the whole Indian legislation the weight of very considerable influence. He advocated a Bill authorising the Government to buy up all Indian licences on the application of the licensee, on a specified basis. This, with the refusal of all new licences, would, he thought, have the effect of very quickly diminishing the number of traders. In this way they could do by invitation what they would never do by force. He further pointed out that it seemed to be the idea of many that these Bills were intended to have the effect of getting the Indians out of the Colony. So far from getting rid of them, that third Bill would simply have the effect of

turning Indian traders into Indian farmers, labourers, or beggars, and thereby quite defeat the object of the first two Bills. He opined there would be very few farmers, even amongst those who were most strongly anti-Asiatic, who would refuse to sell ex-Indian storekeepers land at twice its value, or take them on as labourers at half the fair wage. He was in favour of reducing Indian licences and Indian immigrants by all fair and reasonable means.

Mr. H. Baker thought class legislation existed elsewhere at the present time. He did not think it would be possible to gradually wipe out the Indian licences in the way suggested. As to the veto, well, federation was coming, and they might turn to the British Government and say, "Mind your own business." (Applause.) And, as to the influence of India, which the last speaker had referred to, if the British Empire lost Natal, she would lose a brighter gem than even India. (Hear, hear.) Let them federate, and they would have an Empire here. It would pay Natal to spend two millions and buy out every Indian.

Mr. Moon said he was not so much in favour of the last Bill as the first two. The first two seemed to cover all the ground. They could certainly go to a man and ask "Will you sell?" better than say, "You shall sell!" No one would like to see the existing Indian traders out of it more than he, but the question was: Could they get rid of them by force? They must do what was right and just. They had brought the Indian there, and could they now tell him to go? It could not be done. Better to have half a loaf than no bread. That third Bill was a bit too strong, but, under the circumstances, he supported it.

Mr. Stead said if their members would agree to support the first two Bills they would get all they wanted. He would like to see the third Bill through as it stood, but they must remember they were dealing with British subjects, and if they had made a mistake in letting them get the hold they had, they must rectify their mistake in a constitutional way. He thought it would be right and fair to allow the Indian trader to cater to their own class. He thought they should leave it to the option of their members to support that Bill or not.—This last suggestion was not acceptable to the meeting.

"What!" said Mr. Archbell, "Tell the members we are decided about the first two Bills, and undecided on the third." That idea was scouted.

Mr. Buchanan thought the last Bill would wreck the three.

Mr. Dunton expected there would be difficulty with that last Bill, but remarked that the O.R.C. had Asiatics at one time, but they had all been bought out.

Mr. Archbell told the meeting not to allow Mr. Broadbent to throw dust

in their eyes. He had an Indian tenant. If the Indians were bought out, they would go back to India. They would not stay in Natal, and they would certainly not work for the farmers; they were too sensible, and had too much money.

The resolution was carried by a big majority.

Mr. Henry Hosking then moved: "That at the public meeting to be held in Maritzburg, the members for the Umgeni Division be asked to promise their support of the three Bills, or resign."

It was remarked that perhaps they would refuse to resign, but it was answered: "They won't refuse, if they are gentlemen!"

Contributions were then called for to meet the expenses of advertising the proposed meeting, and in a few minutes the full amount was placed on the table.

A vote of thanks to the chairman was duly recorded, and the meeting dispersed.

An Imperial Problem

Asiatic Immigration

At a meeting of the Colonial Section of the Royal Society of Arts, held at the rooms of the society, John-street, Adelphi, a paper, giving an historical digest of the Asiatic immigration problem and suggesting lines of definite Imperial policy in its solution, was read by Mr. Richard Jebb. The chair was occupied by Mr. ALFRED LYTTELTON, M.P.; and among those present were Lord Ampthill, Mr. Rees, M.P., Sir West Ridgeway, M. H. Hikokichi Mutsu and Count Hirokichi Mutsu (of the Japanese Embassy), Captain Muirhead Collins, R.N. (representative of the Commonwealth Government), Mr. J. G. Jenkins (Agent-General for South Australia), Mr. Alfred Dobson (Agent-General for Tasmania), M. C. H. Rason (Agent-General for Western Australia), Sir Curzon Wylie, Sir Raymond West, Sir John C. Lamb, Mr. H. W. Just, C.B., C.M.G. (Assistant Under-Secretary for the Colonies), Sir W. H. Treacher, Mr. Mackenzie King (Deputy-Minister of Labour for Canada), Sir James La Touche, Mr. G. Bernard Shaw, and Sir T. Holderness.

Mr. JEBB said that the divergence of opinion and of policy which had divided the British Empire on the question of Asiatic immigration was traceable to the presence, in different combinations, of two main factors, which had operated everywhere in either a positive or a negative form. These were a conscious intention, or at least an instinctive endeavour, in territories concerned to build up an indigenous nation of the European and democratic type, and direct experience of Asiatic immigration, or, at least, of coloured labour, upon a considerable scale. For the purposes of his survey he divided the Empire into three

maritime zones—the Pacific zone, where the factors named were strongest; the Indian zone, embracing countries bordering the Indian Ocean, where experience of this immigration was not combined at first with strongly developed indigenous nationalism; and the Atlantic zone, which embraced the United Kingdom and Eastern Canada. Here indigenous nationalism, not being conditioned by direct experience of Asiatic immigration, resulted in hostility to the idea of restriction, and a desire to restrain that tendency elsewhere. The lecturer justified this maritime rather than territorial division by pointing out that up to the early nineties there was no complete consensus of opinion and policy even in Australia, while as regards South Africa and Canada it would be risky to affirm that there was an absolute consensus even now, though there was a steadily growing tendency towards agreement in opinion and policy. Outside the United Kingdom the two other zones were more and more accepting the conclusion of the Pacific zone that coloured immigration was incompatible with the intention of building up an indigenous democracy of the British type. It was held that the white and coloured races were unable to fuse, or, if there was fusion, it produced a racial and social type inferior to the Anglo-Saxon. In the absence of fusion, the ultimate result of coloured immigration, consisting as it usually did of low-grade labourers, could only be to create a "helot" class, for which no place could be found in a pure democracy. This latter objection did not, of course, obtain in South Africa, where resistance to Asiatic immigration only became vehement as the economic and social differences between the primitive native and the highly civilized Asiatic began to be realized through direct experience. Without direct experience—that frequent enemy of cherished theory—sentiment in this country instinctively opposed the principle of restriction, which seemed to conflict alike with the religious conception of brotherhood, the democratic conception of equality, and the Imperial conception of uniform citizenship. There was a tendency to impute ignoble motives to the Pacific policy, and the larger issues were lost sight of in a haze of prejudice against the extreme protectionism of the labour unions. Basing the theory on the principle that the Empire has for its purpose the promotion and protection of nation States, Mr. Jebb urged that Imperial citizenship could not confer any right inconsistent with that protection, such as the right of any citizen to settle in any State where his presence would be injurious to its national civilization. The mere fact of a common allegiance to the British flag did not alter the social or economic consequences of Asiatic immigration, and, therefore, the claim of resident British Asiatics to equal treatment could only be admitted

when their numbers were so small that their influence was negligible. In Natal, for example, extensive repatriation of the free Indians must precede the removal of disabilities. If this could be effected without compulsion or other hardship, only by offering a lavish pecuniary inducement, might not the Imperial object be worth the sacrifice on the part of the United Kingdom, which was originally responsible for the mistaken policy of non-repatriation after indenture? As to the suggestion that by way of compensation for exclusion from South Africa Indians should have East Africa reserved for them, there might be no objection to this in Imperial theory; but he doubted whether the Indians would really value the opportunity to colonize a country for themselves. The Asiatics were not pioneers; they sought to reap where the white man had sown. To his mind a more practical recognition of the Imperial rights of the Indians would be to satisfy their desire for a fiscal system like that of the self-governing dominions, devised to develop their own industries, and to make India a self-conscious economic unit. As to the Japanese aspect of the immigration question, he argued that States not under the same flag were under no obligation to make sacrifices for each other's national ideals. On the other hand, the nation-States allied under the British flag were morally, if not constitutionally, bound to support any one of their own number whose national interests were threatened by a foreign Power, without reference to the interests of that Power. He held that the "Natal Act," imposing an educational test, should be generally applied in the self-governing Colonies. The principle of the Act was commended by Mr. Chamberlain at the 1897 Colonial Conference. It had the merit of elasticity, working so as to restrict either prohibitively or in moderation. For the sake of Imperial uniformity legislation of the Natal type should be applied to the United Kingdom, where the principle of regulating alien immigration was already admitted to the statute-book. It was easy to exaggerate the probable antagonism of the Asiatic Powers. Friendly commercial relations would not be lightly sacrificed to a sentimental, or even a material, grievance arising from the adoption by them of a principle of restriction which both China and Japan applied in their own domestic policy. (Hear, hear.)

The CHAIRMAN said he wished to speak not in a controversial spirit, but in a scientific and historical sense. There could be no question that the conclusion Mr. Jebb had arrived at on the main question of fact was substantially true; and that was that the self-governing Colonies were irrevocably determined not to admit effective competition from the Asiatic races. He thought that determination had been arrived at from two or three

causes, the foremost being the industrial and trade union reason—the determination that the white races, having won these lands for themselves, should not suffer competition from coloured men, who by their great skill, ingenuity, and industry could compete effectively, and by reason of their lesser needs and lower standard of comfort could compete fatally, with many of those engaged in the country. The second reason was that there could not be fusion between the white and coloured races. There had been occasions, however, in which in South Africa, British Columbia, and Western Australia the white population had desired to import Asiatic labour for a limited period and under very stringent and definite restrictions. Those restrictions were objected to partly from ignorance and partly from prejudice by those who, confusing free competition of Asiatic immigrants with Asiatic immigration under restrictions, regarded the whole with one confused condemnation, though obviously there was an immense difference between the two things. But as most men were prejudiced and a good many were ignorant, this objection would always obtain among many who had not carefully studied the subject. There was a much more formidable objection—that of high-minded idealists who condemned planting any labour in any country under restrictions which would deny it the right of permanent residence. The objection was entertained even in cases where the immigrants themselves cordially and joyously accepted the restriction, and where their lot as indentured labourers was infinitely better than in their own land. Those facts were inexorable, and he believed that none of those present, at any rate none as old as himself, would see among the self-governing Colonies the slightest disposition to accept Asiatic immigration except under restrictions, and restrictions objected to on different, but formidable grounds. There had recently been a very curious development of the trade union attitude in South Africa. He spoke of it with reserve, because it was contained in a report of a Labour Commission on the Transvaal which he had not yet seen. But if the telegrams were correct, not only was objection raised to Asiatic competition with white labour, but also to the competition of the indigenous black labour. From the point of view of the high-minded idealist the position was one which they would hesitate to accept. It was a strange system of world ethics which on the acquisition of a country by invasion and the dispossession of the aboriginal inhabitants would dispute the right of the latter to work therein. (Cheers.) According to the telegrams Mr. Creswell was one of the most pronounced supporters of this peculiar doctrine, but it was to be hoped that the telegrams misrepresented the report. Whether this country could continue indefinitely to support the self-governing Colonies in the

policy of Asiatic exclusion was a question which gave one serious reason for pause. In effect the pretension of the Western nations was that they should freely compete throughout the whole East upon terms of absolute equality with the inhabitants of those lands, while the Easterns were to have no access whatever to the West, or to those portions of it where their competition was likely to be formidable. That pretension brought them into a strange and rather serious region of thought. (Loud cheers.) "Free competition in your land; monopoly in ours"—that was the doctrine, and he quite agreed with Mr. Jebb that such a principle could only be maintained and asserted by force. And when they considered what India meant to the British Empire, and what a tremendous thing it would be if all the races in India were to unite against pretensions so paradoxical as that of monopoly on the one side and free competition on the other, he felt that, though the Colonies might be able to maintain that position for 20 or 25 years, it was doubtful whether we should be able to support them indefinitely. (Cheers.) Mr. Jebb had adumbrated the possibility of our giving something by way of compensation, such as the reservation of lands, say, in East Africa or the Egyptian Sudan, for Asiatic immigration. Still more pregnant was the suggestion—though here he entered controversial regions—that compensation might come in the form of fiscal freedom for India.

LORD AMPHILL urged that the Imperial Government was responsible for the hegemony of the Empire, and should not be afraid to tell the Colonies its views as to the steps necessary for the solution of this grave problem, and as to the treatment to be accorded Indian subjects of the Crown who had already settled in lands where immigration of Asiatics was now prohibited or restricted. He urged that an Imperial Conference for full and frank discussion of the subject should be summoned.

SIR WEST RIDGEWAY said that it was impossible to uphold the ideal of British citizenship giving Asiatics the right to settle wherever they thought well within the limits of the Empire. Coercion of the self-governing Colonies to further that ideal would be both unjust and impossible.

Mr. J. D. REES, M.P., supported these arguments, and Mr. ARTHUR H. REID, of South Africa, also took part in the discussion.—*The Times*.

ROOM FOR ALL. There is room for us all in South Africa—irrespective of colour, and there is no reason why we should not all be able to make an honest living and dwell happily together, provided we each do our part according to our opportunity.—*Heidelberg News*.

Transvaal Municipal Consolidation Bill

Bazaars for Asiatics

Power to refuse Licences

The Transvaal *Government Gazette* of the 13th instant contains a Bill "To consolidate and amend the law relating to Municipal Government" in that Colony, from which we make the following extracts:—

"Asiatic" includes any person belonging to the native races of Asia, not being a Malay born and resident in any British Colony or possession in South Africa, and not being an officer in the consular service of any Asiatic State or Dominion.

Native Locations

67. (1) The Council may, with the approval of the Governor, lay out on lands under its control such locations for natives as may be deemed desirable, erect suitable buildings thereon for the occupation of natives, and make charges therefor to be fixed by regulation under this section, and may compel all natives residing in the Municipality (except such as hold letters of exemption issued under The Native Passes Proclamation 1901 or any amendment thereof, or certificates of registration issued under the Native Relief Ordinance 1902 or any amendment thereof, or are employed in service and lodged on the premises of their employers) to reside within such locations.

(2) The Governor may from time to time make, alter, and rescind regulations for the proper carrying out of this section and the effectual supervision of such locations.

(3) The provisions of this section shall extend to every location for natives which is in fact under the control of the Council, whether or not it was established or laid out by the Council, provided that the Council shall have obtained the approval of the Governor to the assumption of control over such location, and shall have passed a resolution assuming such control.

(4) The Council may, with the approval of the Governor, close any location for natives established or laid out by it or under its control: provided that the Governor may, before giving his approval to the closing of such location, require the Council to lay out other land, suitable for a location and in manner approved by him, to which the inhabitants of the location to be closed may be transported (together with any movable erections thereon) at the expense of the Council, and subject to payment of compensation as prescribed by sub-section (7) of this section.

(5) All regulations in force in relation to a location closed under this section shall cease to apply to such location, but shall apply to any location substituted under this section until

rescinded or altered in manner provided by law.

(6) A location shall be deemed to be closed under this section from a date mentioned in a notice affixed in conspicuous places in such location and published once during three consecutive weeks in a newspaper circulating in the Municipality.

(7) On the closing of any location under this section, every lawful holder of a lot therein shall be entitled to compensation for any improvements, or for erections made or acquired by him on such lot which shall not have been removed by the Council and re-erected for the benefit of such holder in any new location laid out under this section, and also to compensation for the value (if any) of any unexpired portion of a long lease granted by the Council in terms of section *sixty-nine* of this Act.

Such compensation shall be fixed by agreement between the holder and the Council, or, failing such agreement, shall be assessed by the Magistrate and two arbitrators one of whom shall be appointed by the Council and one by the Minister.

Asiatic Bazaars

68. (1) The Council may, with the approval of the Governor, set apart, maintain, and carry on bazaars or other areas exclusively for occupation by Asiatics, and control and supervise the same in accordance with regulations to be made from time to time by the Governor, and may lease the land and any buildings or other erections thereon to Asiatics upon such terms and at such rents as may be prescribed from time to time by such regulations.

(2) The sites of any bazaars or other places pointed out under the provisions of Law No. 3 of 1885 or any amendment thereof may be transferred by the Governor to the Council of any Municipality, subject to existing leases thereover, and every such transfer shall be free of transfer duty, stamp duty, and registration or other charges, and any such bazaar or site so transferred shall be deemed to be a bazaar or area set apart under sub-section (1) of this section.

(3) The provisions of sub-sections (4) to (7) inclusive of the last preceding section shall *mutatis mutandis* apply for the purpose of enabling a council to close such bazaars and areas and lay out other land suitable for the same.

69. (1) The Council may grant leases of plots in any native location or Asiatic bazaar or township established by the Council or under its control, for any term not exceeding thirty-three years, in such form and subject to such conditions as the Governor may approve.

(2) Any such lease shall be valid though not executed before a notary public, and any such lease or a cession thereof shall be valid if registered in a register to be kept by the Council in accordance with regulations to be made by the Governor.

Any transfer duty or stamp duty payable on any such lease or cession thereof under any law relating to transfer duty, or stamp duty, shall be paid in manner prescribed by such regulations and the Council shall account to the Colonial Treasurer for all such duty as is so payable.

90. The Council may from time to time make alter and revoke bye-laws for all or any of the following purposes, namely—

(6) for regulating and licensing Asiatic tea-rooms or eating-houses.

Traffic and Streets

(21) for regulating and controlling traffic, processions, and gatherings at public places;

(22) for preventing any person or vehicle from carrying or conveying any article, burden, or load so as to obstruct or incommodate passengers or vehicles in any street, sidewalk, or foot-pavement, and for preventing the wheeling of wheelbarrows, cycles, or other vehicles on any sidewalk or foot-pavement, except for the purpose of crossing the same to or from any house or building;

Power to Refuse Licences

92. The Council may refuse to grant any licence to carry on a trade or business, which it has power to license in accordance with its bye-laws, on any of the following grounds, namely—

(a) that the applicant has been convicted three times within the three years immediately preceding his application, of contravening a law, bye-law, or regulation in force in any Municipality as regards the conduct of the trade for which the licence is applied for, and in such a manner as to cause danger to the public health;

(b) that the premises in or on which the applicant intends to trade do not conform to the requirements of the Council's bye-laws;

provided that any applicant for a licence whose application has been refused may appeal against the Council's decision to the court of resident magistrate, and in the event of the Council failing to satisfy such court on the appeal that the licence was refused on good and sufficient grounds, such court may order the Council to grant such licence, and such licence shall be granted accordingly.

93. The Council may refuse a licence in respect of any premises as a theatre, music hall, public hall, concert room, or other place of amusement, or any premises where articles of food or drink are sold or used for human consumption, or any boarding or lodging-houses or any premises for washing or laundry work, or to license hawkers or pedlars on any of the grounds mentioned in the last preceding section, and also on any one or more of the following grounds—

(a) that the applicant has failed to produce satisfactory evidence of good character;

(b) that the premises in respect of which a licence is sought or any adjacent premises owned or occupied by the applicant are frequented by persons of bad character;

(c) that the granting of such a licence is, in respect of the premises for which it is sought, calculated to cause nuisance or annoyance to persons residing in the neighbourhood;

(d) that the granting of such a licence would be contrary to the public interest;

and no appeal shall lie against the refusal of the Council to grant any such licence.

94. The Council may in respect of a licence which it may grant under its bye-laws and which entitles the holder thereof to carry on any trade or business for manufacturing, preparing, selling, or using articles of food and drink for human consumption,

(a) impose conditions prohibiting or restricting the employment of native, Asiatic, or coloured labour in the preparation of such articles of food and drink;

(b) impose conditions prohibiting or restricting the employment on premises, where articles of food and drink may be sold, of females under the age of sixteen years, or the employment on such premises of females after eight o'clock at night;

provided that the conditions imposed by the Council under this section shall be clearly endorsed upon the licence and the licensee shall sign a duplicate of the form of licence containing such conditions. The Council shall retain the duplicate so endorsed and signed and the same shall, when produced before any court of law, be *prima facie* evidence of the conditions imposed.

96. On the conviction of any person holding a trade licence granted by the Council for contravening the law or the Council's bye-laws as regards the conduct of such trade, or for breach of the lawful conditions upon which such licence was granted, the court of resident magistrate before which such person was convicted may upon the application of the Council cancel or suspend his licence and order that no new licence to carry on such trade within the same Municipality be granted to such person for a period not exceeding two years from the date of the cancellation, and thereupon such person shall become disqualified to hold a licence during the period of cancellation or suspension; provided that if a trade licence granted to any company or partnership or to any person on behalf of a company or partnership is cancelled or suspended, any disqualification to hold a licence which may

be imposed hereunder may be attached either to such company or partnership or to the person who under section one hundred and twelve was responsible for the offence in respect of which the order of cancellation or suspension is made, or both to the company or partnership, and such person as the court of resident magistrate making the order may determine.

172. The Council may, from time to time, make, alter, and revoke bye-laws for all or any of the following purposes:—

(b) for regulating the use of the Council's tramcars by natives and Asiatics and prohibiting or restricting the use of such tramcars by natives, Asiatics, and all persons who are not respectably dressed or well conducted.

Natal Debate in the Lords

Lord Amphill Speaks for the Indian

Reply by Lord Crewe

London, May 20.—In the House of Lords, yesterday afternoon.

Lord Amphill called attention to the reply made by Lord Crewe, the Colonial Secretary, recently, when he (Lord Amphill) brought forward a question relative to the Natal Municipalities and Dealers' Licences Acts. Lord Amphill contended that Natal would have been bankrupt but for the assistance of the British Indians. Natal's present anti-Indian policy, he said, would be maintained in order to reduce the coolie to a state of slavery. He hoped that Lord Crewe would initiate a policy at the Colonial Office different from that of the last two years. He did not doubt that Natal intended to drive out the Indian trader. He complained of the inactivity of the Imperial Government, which have encouraged the Transvaal to imitate Natal, with the new Gold Law and other measures, thus attempting to restore a tyranny worse than under the Kruger regime. The Earl of Crewe, in reply, pointed out that the Corporations Act had been held in reserve and had not received his Majesty's sanction. Consequently, the Indian still had a vote at municipal elections, while the Dealers and Licences Act dated from Mr. Chamberlain's administration. The Colonial Office, Lord Crewe added, had no objection to laying on the table papers relating to the matter.

In the course of further discussion, Viscount St. Aldwyn emphasised the delicacy of the problem, owing to the bitter feeling of the white people in Natal against Indian trade competition.—Reuter.

The *Natal Mercury* correspondent adds:—

London, May 20.—The Earl of Crewe, in the course of his speech in the House of Lords last night, strong-

ly repudiated the suggestion that the Colonies were unfriendly towards the Imperial Government. He asked Lord Amphill, in his devotion to the cause of the Indians, not to forget the interests of other races.

Viscount St. Aldwyn said he did not consider that, because Indians were fellow-subjects, they should be placed in the same position as British and Dutch, though they should receive justice. He believed that the immigration of indentured Indians should be brought to an end at the earliest possible moment. He concluded by observing that the less the Imperial Government interfered with the self-governing Colonies, the better for the Empire.

Are Asiatics and the Coloured Races a Menace to the Empire?

On the above subject, Mr. M. K. Gandhi, on Monday last, addressed a crowded meeting of the Y.M.C.A. Debating Society, Johannesburg. The lecturer spoke for 45 minutes taking the negative. Captain St. John Cooke seconded Mr. Gandhi. An interesting discussion followed. On a vote being taken subsequently, it was unanimously agreed that the Asiatics and coloured races were *not* a menace to the Empire. The full text of Mr. Gandhi's address will appear next week. The Mayor of Johannesburg was in the chair.

Late News from Joh'burg

(By Telegraph)

Shahji Arrested

Johannesburg, Thursday.

Mahomed Shah, otherwise known as Shahji Saheb, was arrested to-day on a charge of "inciting to harm." He was admitted to bail of £50 and will appear before Mr. Jordan in "B" Court to-morrow (Friday).

Mr. Essop Mia thanks the numerous visitors and friends, and senders of telegrams of sympathy and enquiry. The patient is progressing satisfactorily.

To Legalise Voluntary Registration

Friday.

The *Transvaal Leader* publishes an authorisation of the statement saying that the Government is preparing a Bill legalising Voluntary Registration and excepting such registrants from the Asiatic Act.

Shahji is remanded, with Mr. Essop Mia's assailant, until the 29th instant.