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MR. GOKHALE'S CONGRESS SPEECH

THE following is the full text of the Hon. Mr. Gokhale's speech at the last Congress on the South African question :—

Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen,—I beg to move the following resolution for your adoption :—

"(a) That this Congress, anticipating the forthcoming legislation based on the provisional settlement recently arrived at, cordially congratulates Mr. Gandhi and the Transvaal Indian community upon the promised repeal of the anti-Asiatic legislation of the province regarding registration and immigration, and expresses its high admiration of the intense patriotism, courage and self-sacrifice with which they—Mahomedan and Hindu, Zoroastrian and Christian—have suffered persecution in the interests of their countrymen during their peaceful and selfless struggle for elementary civil rights against overwhelming odds.

"(b) Whilst appreciating the endeavours that have been made from time to time to secure the redress of the grievances of the Indians of South Africa and other British Colonies, this Congress urges that, in view of the avowed inability of his Majesty's Government to adopt a firm and decisive attitude in this matter, the Government of India should take such retaliatory measures as may be calculated to protect Indian self-respect and the interests of Indian residents in those parts of the Empire, and thus remove a great source of discontent among the people of this country.

"(c) This Congress further protests against the declarations of responsible statesmen in favour of allowing the self-governing colonies in the British Empire to monopolise vast undeveloped territories for exclusively white settlement and deems it its duty to point out that the policy of shutting the door in these territories against, and denying the rights of full British citizenship to all Asiatic subjects of the British Crown, whilst preaching and enforcing the opposite policy of the open door in Asia, is fraught with grave mischief to the Empire and is as unwise as it is unrighteous.

"(d) Whilst thanking the Government of India for the prohibition of the recruitment of indentured Indian labour for South Africa, this Congress is strongly of opinion that, in the highest national interests, the system of indentured labour is undesirable and should be abolished and respectfully urges the Government to prohibit the further recruitment of Indian labour under contract of indenture, whether for service at home or abroad."

This resolution is the same as the one that this Congress adopted last year, and though it covers the case of all Colonies and in addition makes a recommendation about the abolition of the system of indentured labour in general, I propose in my remarks to confine myself to South Africa and I hope that the speakers who follow me will deal with the other aspects of the question. I ask you this year to repeat last

year's resolution, because the position in South Africa continues to be what it was last year. This resolution was drafted by Mr. Polak and myself, Mr. Polak supplying the standpoint of the Indian community in South Africa. You are aware that I have just returned from South Africa and while there my work was done entirely on the lines of this resolution. I therefore submit the resolution for your acceptance with the utmost confidence. Ladies and gentlemen, before I describe to you the situation in South Africa, as it is to-day, I should like to correct one or two misapprehensions under which a few friends and co-workers of mine appear to labour in connection with my work in South Africa. It is said that I have given assurances to the Union Government and to the European community of South Africa in the name of India which I had no business to give, and it is further said that Mr. Gandhi and myself have practically surrendered the Indian rights in the matter of immigration to South Africa. If there were even a particle of truth in either of these statements, I should not cease to regret my visit to South Africa till my dying day. As a matter of fact, I state categorically, I state with all the emphasis at my command, that there is not a word of truth in them. First, as regards the question of assurances: neither I, nor Mr. Gandhi, nor anybody else has given any assurances to anybody in South Africa, either to the Government of South Africa, or to the European community of South Africa, and much less has anybody given any assurances in the name of India. For myself, I took care on every possible occasion to point out the capacity in which I was working there, and the very first thing I said to General Botha and the other ministers when I met them at Pretoria, was that I was there without any official credentials from India, and that I was not even deputed by my countrymen in India. I said I was there as a private individual invited by my countrymen in South Africa, and my only authority at that time was derived from them, to represent their views and grievances to the Government of South Africa. There were no negotiations between myself and the Government and there could be no negotiations between the Government of a great country and a private individual. I had no status to enter into any negotiations. Then it is said that Mr. Gandhi and I have surrendered India's rights in the matter of immigration. Not a particle, nor a tittle, nor an iota of any right enjoyed by the people of India has been surrendered by Mr. Gandhi or myself. I shall proceed to explain the position more clearly to you when I describe the passive resistance struggle conducted by Mr. Gandhi, and the object for which it was conducted. Because the South African Government tried to take away, not from the Indians in South Africa but from the people of India here, a right which they had all along enjoyed in theory, Mr. Gandhi and his band of

workers underwent all manner of suffering and made all manner of sacrifices in order that that right should not be lost. Ultimately, they succeeded in preventing its being taken away.

(To be continued)

"The Times" on the Indian Question in S. Africa

The following leading article appeared in *The Times* of the 8th January last—

Mr. Gokhale's visit to South Africa seems likely to be of permanent value to all the peoples and Governments concerned in the difficult problem of Indian emigration to the Union. He sailed from England at the invitation of his fellow-countrymen in the new Dominion, just three months ago, and he is now once more in India, where important work awaits him as a member of the Commission on the Indian Public Services. It would be idle to deny that those who knew South Africa best were anxious to the last about the effect of Mr. Gokhale's tour. He might easily, and with the best intentions, have only added to the difficulty of the problem on both the Indian and the South African sides. That he has not done so, but has, on the contrary, contributed in no small degree to its solution, is due, we think, in equal measure to the friendly and courteous spirit in which the South African Government received him and to the breadth and statesmanship with which he himself approached his task. Our Correspondents in South Africa and India have already given us by cable some short account of the main features of his tour. In South Africa he was the object of several distinguished public gatherings, and he took pains to study the position of Indian residents both in the Cape Colony, the Transvaal, and Natal. He sailed finally from Durban about the middle of November, and has since explained his views at length to a great meeting, representing all varieties of the Indian and Anglo-Indian community, in the Town Hall at Bombay. We publish a very interesting and encouraging account of this gathering from our Bombay Correspondent to-day.

A Two-fold Problem

It must always be remembered that the British Indian problem in South Africa is two-fold. There is, on the one hand, the question whether Indian immigration is to be permitted in future or not; and in the latter event of how it is to be prevented. There is, on the other hand, the question of the status and treatment of the Indian immigrants already there. The former question is in principle capable of only one solution. For South Africans to permit a further flow of Indian immigrants to their shores would be to prejudice their own future to an extent which no civilized community—surrounded as the South African white community already is by an indigenous population of greatly superior strength—could ever be so blind as to allow. Immigration from India is a thing of the past. The Indian Government itself has stopped the supply of indentured labour to Natal, and the provincial legislation already in force in South Africa has brought ordinary immigration to an equally decisive end. Mr. Gokhale, we are most glad to see, entirely accepts the principle thus laid down, and though he has failed to win the support of all sections of his countrymen, he seems to have carried the general opinion with him in a very remarkable and highly satisfactory degree. On the other hand, Mr. Gokhale seems to have pressed with great force the claim of Indians already domiciled in South Africa to fairer treatment than they at present receive. There are something like a hundred and twenty thousand Indians now settled in South Africa—Mr. Gokhale himself puts the figures a little higher—

and of these one hundred thousand are in Natal, 30 per cent. of them indentured immigrants with their wives and families, 60 per cent. actually born and reared on South African soil. These Indians have contributed greatly to the development of the province, which could not have thriven without them, and they have a claim to generous treatment which Imperial statesmanship is bound to press by every means at its command. The remaining twenty thousand are divided between the other three provinces, ten thousand in Cape Colony, between seven and eight thousand in the Transvaal, and a small number in the Free State Province. In Natal, the special Indian grievance is against the poll-tax of three pounds per annum falling on males above sixteen and females above thirteen. In the Transvaal, there is the almost historic difficulty of the Registration Law, which subjects Indians to a system of identification by finger-prints. If this is abandoned, it will certainly be necessary to devise some other means of preventing an influx of Indians over the border from Natal. And finally, in the Transvaal, Cape Colony, and Natal alike, there is a growing protest against the system by which licences are issued to the many Indians who live by small trade.

The Policy of Exclusion

The general problem of exclusion has already been faced by the Union Government with courage and breadth. An Immigrants Restriction Bill, based, after consultation with both the British and the Indian Governments, upon the Australian device of a dictation test, has been introduced and debated in two successive Sessions, but has fallen a victim to obstructions from one small section or another. The Government cannot in fairness be charged with indifference to the fate of its measure, which was framed after elaborate Imperial consultation with anxious pains and has since been amended in an important particular to meet Imperial views. Further amendments may be required to meet the opposition displayed last year, but we have no doubt that General Botha's Cabinet will do its best to make the measure law when Parliament meets this year. The dictation test, arbitrary as it may seem, is unquestionably the best practical method of exclusion, for it serves its purpose without offence to any colour or race. The Bill, moreover, while repealing practically all existing provincial legislation and thereby removing a long-standing grievance, particularly in the Transvaal, provides very stringently against the emigration of Indians from one province to another, and should thus meet provincial sensibilities, so far as they are reasonable, in a practical and durable way. Its passage therefore seems likely to settle the general question with honour and credit to both sides, provided Mr. Gokhale's wise advice as taken in India and the demand for general admission is no longer pressed. There is less ground for optimism, we fear, in regard to the position of the Indian hawkers and traders already domiciled in South Africa. The question of hawkers' licences is, for instance, in municipal hands, and subject, therefore, to those local commercial influences which Indians have most to dread. There is probably no final solution for difficulties such as this except removal and compensation upon a large and general scale. Provincial authorities have neither the power nor the vision for action of that kind. It can only be brought about by the Union Government, when the settlement of the general question has had time to broaden the public mind. Mr. Gokhale and his friends may have long, we fear, to wait before that day comes; but they can count upon the steady support of all informed opinion in England and elsewhere, and they may reflect with reason that nothing will contribute more to growth of such opinion in South Africa itself than relief from those agitations for unrestricted rights of entrance and residence which Mr. Gokhale has so wisely put aside.

From the Editor's Chair

THE JOHANNESBURG INDIAN SCHOOL

TROUBLE appears to have already commenced regarding the newly-opened Indian School at Johannesburg. We understand that the Government do not allow Tamil to be taught during school hours. This will be a breach of the spirit of the understanding. We know that Mr. Gokhale received the assurance of a prominent member of the School Board to the effect that all the leading Indian languages that were necessary would be taught at this school. There are already over thirty Tamil children attending the school. Surely they cannot be neglected. Their education is quite as important as that of the other children. One of the teachers engaged is for the special purpose of teaching Tamil. Indeed, we think that the school will not be complete unless education, which is primary at this school, is given through the medium of the vernaculars. Teaching imparted otherwise will be purely parrot-like. We remember having examined a boy whose mother-tongue was Gujarati but who was being educated through English. He was asked to explain the meaning of "parrot." He promptly replied "a kind of bird." He could speak Gujarati which he had imbibed with his mother's milk. He knew the equivalent for "parrot" in Gujarati, but did not know that the word meant that bird at all. He had seen the bird as he understood it in Gujarati. But the English word was entirely foreign to him. The teacher, not knowing the boy's mother-tongue, could not explain the meaning of the word by means of conversation and appealing to the boys' knowledge of birds. Nor could the helpless teacher make himself sufficiently understood so as to draw the boys' attention to the picture of the parrot before him in his book.

We do not think that the Government want our children to receive education after the style of this typical Indian lad. And yet we know that, at most Indian schools, the teaching is no better. We expect, however, that the Johannesburg School will be an exception.

ARMS AND AMMUNITION BILL.

THE HON. GOKHALE Committee has acted with commendable promptitude in entering a protest against General Smuts's statement that the racial bar contained in section fifteen of the Bill, prohibiting the sale to or purchase by any coloured person, being a licensed arms-holder, of ammunition except upon the production of a Magistrate's certificate, was necessary for the effective working of the measure. We do not admit that the colour bar is at any time necessary in Union legislation, especially as statutes may always be so framed, in difficult matters, as to permit of the exercise of executive discretion, and it is to be hoped that the Committee's representation will be given effect to by the Government. It is, however, just possible that the acceptance by the House of Assembly of Mr. Merriman's much disputed amendment, deleting subsection (2) of clause fourteen and requiring purchasers of ammunition to produce a permit, may render clause fifteen redundant, as it appears to provide for all classes. In that event, the Indian community may congratulate themselves and Mr. Merriman upon the removal of yet another bone of contention.

FACTS AND FIGURES

THERE are men in every country who have a passion for facts and figures. They borrow, they dig, they gather, they select, they absorb, they digest, and they give forth to the world the sum and substance of it all in masses of statistics and learned essays of enormous value, but often difficult to grasp and retain by reason of their very complexity and concentration. They

devour blue-books and statistical abstracts and live in an atmosphere of mathematical calculation that offers little attraction to the average superficial person. And if they seem to be sometimes lacking in breadth of vision and loftiness of ideal, they more than make up for this by intensity of purpose, self-discipline, and accuracy. And after all, it is the acquisition of these virtues that is the preliminary of every inquiry into the main purposes of life. Of such men as these, the late Rao Dabdur Ganesh Vyankatesh Joshi was an admirable exemplar. He lived a full and a simple life, anxious to serve his fellow-countrymen to the utmost measure of his energies and capacity. One has but to glance through the bulky volume of his "Speeches and Writings,"* recently issued, as an act of filial piety, by his son, to realise the immense application, wide range of observation, and sterling qualities of a truly remarkable and patriotic man. One sees a single-minded, pure-hearted soul doing his daily duty as it comes to hand, seeking no glory, but only the contentment of a satisfied conscience. It is impossible, in a brief survey of his work, such as this must necessarily be, to give anything more than the barest idea of the extent and importance of his life's work, but it is clear that scarcely any subject in the wide realm of Indian economics escaped his notice, and his criticism throughout is characterised by sturdy independence and sound common-sense.

We observe but one important matter of which a discussion seems to be missing and that is the subject of the emigration of Indian labour to countries outside India, its causes, and its influences upon the economic condition of the country. Doubtless the reason is that there is practically no such emigration from Western India, of which the late Mr. Joshi mainly writes. We can, however, cordially recommend the book, not as one upon which a casual half hour may be pleasantly spent, but as a work of absorbing interest, and of enormous suggestiveness, even where we may not always be able to accept the thinker's facts, or conclusions.

*"Writings and Speeches of Hon. G. V. Joshi," Arya Bhushan Press, Poona.

The Immigration Scandals

Mr. Polak writes as follows to the *Natal Mercury*—
 "The explanation of the restriction and subsequent deportation of the boy Kotwal appears to be based upon an erroneous interpretation of the language used in the section of the Immigration Law quoted, which seems undoubtedly to apply, not to the children of persons (Europeans as well as Indians) whose usual residence is in the Province and who are temporarily absent, but of those who have given up their usual residence here and have retired from the country. However that may be, the interpretation of the law is a matter for the Supreme Court, whose decision the Chief Immigration Officer has prevented the boy's friends from obtaining by deporting him from Natal. As to the boy's domicile certificate, it is not denied that the document was issued to him, and the only conclusion to be drawn is that it was so issued because he had acquired his father's domicile. In the case of the boy Sadak, stress is laid upon the fact that he was unprovided with papers. It is hardly likely that a child of tender years would be entrusted with important documents. But though the production of papers is in no way obligatory, and the fact that they were produced did not protect young Kotwal from deportation, it appears to have been forgotten by your apologist that documentary evidence on behalf of the boy Sadak was actually tendered by myself, and that it was studiously ignored. These excuses are, however, beside the point, for I contend the Natal officer had no authority to prevent the boy's proceeding to the Cape Province to maintain his rights there."

Union Parliament

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY
21st February.

Arms and Ammunition Bill

The House proceeded to the consideration of the Arms and Ammunition Bill, as amended in Committee of the whole House.

Mr. KEYTER (Ficksburg), who made a vigorous speech, moved to re-insert the original sub-Section (4) of Clause (7) which read: "No licence to possess a rifle may be issued to any coloured person without the sanction of the Minister." The member desired only one alteration in this: "rifle" to be made "arm." The sub-Section, which had been inserted in Committee, and which the hon. member now wishes to be deleted, was as follows: The Minister may instruct magistrates and licence officers to refer to him for consideration any or all applications for licences to possess arms, and may instruct magistrates or licence officers to refuse any or all applications so referred." Mr. Keyter, in speaking to his amendment, urged the Minister to maintain the strong principles of the north, and warned him against retaining the new sub-section, which would be tantamount to playing with fire, and was driving in the thin end of the wedge towards the equalisation of black and white. Apparently, the Minister was buying the friendship of the hon. member for Tembuland (Mr. Schreiner), but the price was the feelings and rights of the white people of this country. Proceeding, Mr. Keyter referred to the law of the Free State, passed in 1892. Subsequently that law had been repealed, and even the nominated Crown Colony Government had recognised the danger of disrespecting the feelings of the country. In the law subsequently passed in the Orange River Colony it was laid down that no natives or other coloured persons should possess firearms. Only the Governor-General could give a licence for a native to possess any other arm than a rifle.

Messrs. THERON (Hoopstad), P. GROBLER (Rustenburg), and WILCOCKS (Fauresmith), supported Mr. Keyter.

Mr. SCHREINER (Tembuland) said that a greater misapprehension of the effect of his amendment could not possibly be inferred. His (Mr. Schreiner's) amendment was put forward with the object of preventing the infliction of needless pain on a large section of the population, and it was undesirable that the terms of the Bill should mention coloured or natives. It might be possible for the Minister to have all the power, but not to needlessly tread on the toes of a section of the population who were not only loyal to the British Government, but to this Union. Mr. Schreiner proceeded to show that the amendment which he secured in Committee, and which Mr. Keyter now desired to be deleted, had been thoroughly appreciated by the coloured section, and by the Indians of Natal, from whom he had received a letter. Concluding his remarks, Mr. Schreiner appealed to members to confirm his amendment as "a bit of a compromise."

The MINISTER of DEFENCE (Mr. Smuts) stated that the least Mr. Keyter could have done would have been to explain where "holy principles" were being trampled on, and where they were selling the interests of the people. Instead of doing so, however, the hon. member had indulged in a number of irrelevant and personal attacks. He did not think it was necessary for him to reply to these attacks. However, he would repeat what he had said before, when Mr. Schreiner proposed his amendment. He had then said that there was not the least difference between the two proposals. The original clause drafted by him (the Minister) said that no licence for a rifle could be granted to a coloured person without the consent of the Minister. Everything depended on the Minister. If Mr. Schreiner happened to be the Minister, then everything would be lost. (Laughter.) Now this new amendment said that the Minister could give instructions to have all applica-

tions refused or granted. As a matter of fact, the Minister had now got more power. If there was an undesirable white person, his application could be referred to the Minister, and in those parts where there was any smuggling going on the Minister would be able to deal effectively with everything. The amendment which had been accepted from Mr. Schreiner got over many difficulties. They were not in favour of equality, but where it was unnecessary to make distinction he did not see the reason of doing so. In Clause 15 it had been necessary to draw a distinction but here it was not.

Mr. HERTZOG (Smithfield) who rose amid cheer from the Free State benches, said it was only right that they should all know exactly where they stood. He must say he was not in accord with the hon. member for Ficksburg (Mr. Keyter) when he said they were dealing here with "the holy rights of the people." In his mind it had always been a great question as to what was actually required for the maintenance of relations between black and white. Their legislation always aimed at meeting these requirements; and if it were clear to him that rifles could be supplied to natives without danger to the white man, then he would say he quite agreed with the member for Tembuland (Mr. Schreiner). He differed, however, when the hon. member said, "Give it him, otherwise you will tread on his toes." It was a question here what was required by the circumstances of the natives. One of these days unrest might be created, and they would not know how many rifles these natives were possessed of. They only knew that the licence officials could grant them. The Minister no longer had the matter in his hands, and the Minister was the person who was responsible to the public. The hon. member knew as well as he did that the fact that natives had always been prevented from buying arms and ammunition had been responsible for there being so very few risings; and now they were going to give the rights of buying arms to a few officials, and these officials would be able to exercise that right, and they would be able to do so without any restriction on the part of the Government. The time to alter present conditions had not come. He hoped the day might come when there would no longer be any danger in granting licences to natives—when there would be as little danger of a native rising as there was of an outbreak of white against whites in this country. (Hear, hear.) But that day had not come; and therefore he could not support Mr. Schreiner's amendment.

Mr. MERRIMAN (Victoria West) thought Mr. Schreiner's amendment was very sound. Without being irritating it gave all they wanted. The true defence against the natives lay in education and good and just treatment.

Mr. Keyter's amendment was further supported by Mr. Van Niekerk (Boshof), Mr. Serfontein (Kroonstad) and Mr. Van der Walt (Pretoria South).

The PRIME MINISTER said he had not thought it necessary originally to say anything on this subject because it was quite clear to him that there was no difference between the two amendments. He had hoped that they would have gone into the merits of the case, and thought they would not have dealt with sentiment. (Hear, hear.) He contented that the House accepted responsibility for the public of South Africa. (Hear, hear.) Well, they were responsible not only for the white population of this country, but they also had to look after the coloured races. These people could not look to the British Government but only to this House, for justice and fair treatment. Why all this talk about the principles of the people? Was it possible that any Minister would ever give instructions that rifles should be allowed to everyone? The new clause seemed quite good, because it laid the responsibility upon the Minister, and if the Minister abused his authority they would be able to come to this House and ask him to lay on the table a statement as to whom he had granted authority.

to give rifles; and if he had abused his rights, well, they would not be worth the name of a Parliament if a motion of no confidence was not at once proposed.

Upon the question being put, Mr. SPEAKER declared Mr. Keyter's amendment negatived, whereupon the member for Ficksburg demanded a division. This was taken, and resulted in Mr. Keyter's amendment being lost.

Mr. Hertzog and his Free State supporters voted in the minority, and the Natal members voted in the majority with the Government.

The new sub-section was then confirmed.—Condensed from Reuter's report.

Gokhale Committee Moves

In view of the urgency of the matter, the Honourable Gokhale Committee, on Saturday last, sent the following telegram to the Minister of the Interior and to Messrs. Merriman and Theo. Schreiner:—

"Committee whilst expressing gratitude to Government and members who assisted remove racial bar from Arms and Ammunition Bill in clause seven respectfully submits retention bar section 15 neutralises good done. Committee feels strongly Minister's statements retention necessary section fifteen unwarranted prohibiting sale or purchase any person without Magistrates permit except those classes or persons who might be exempted by Governor-General under notice Government Gazette. Hope therefore Committee's respectful suggestion will be accepted and clause amended. Racial clause Bill escaped Committee's attention earlier as inclusion in general consolidation Bill entirely unexpected."

A Result of Mr. Gokhale's Work

A full meeting of the Rewa branch of the Planters' Association of Fiji was held at Nausori on 26th October last. An important discussion, says the *Western Pacific Herald*, took place on the labour position. Extracts from Council papers were read by the Chairman, and after lengthy consideration it was finally agreed that, as the position was very acute, immediate action should be taken to endorse the feeling expressed at last general meeting, that members are in favour of asking repeal of penal alternatives in Labour Ordinances as a means of meeting the position created in India, by the determination of the Government to cause an undue emphasis to be placed upon penal clauses, which would, in the opinion of those best able to judge, mean a stoppage of emigration.

The action of the last meeting, in writing to the member of the Legislative Council for the district, suggesting voluntarily asking for repeal of obnoxious alternatives as a means of meeting the adverse feeling in India, was fully endorsed, and Mr. C. Hutchings was deputed to further impress upon the member the advisability of immediate action. It was also resolved to directly communicate with the other branches asking for endorsement for this action and suggesting co-operative effort in taking similar means to meet the situation.

"Conciliating the Asiatics"

At the conclusion of the ordinary meeting of the Germiston Town Council on Thursday (says the *East Rand Express*) the Council went into committee to consider the question of Asiatic residents in the old Location. All the natives have now been removed from the old to the new Location, and Council is under notice to vacate the old site at the end of February. According to law, the natives were compensated for removing their huts, the total including cost of removal of municipal buildings, being about £1,500. As to Asiatics, continues the *Express*, the legal position of the Council was ascertained some months ago in the Supreme Court, the decision being that the Asiatics were ordinary monthly

tenants and that the Council had the right, if it so desired, at the expiration of a month's notice, to pull down the premises of any tenant. Under this ruling several buildings were then pulled down and no compensation paid the owners. What transpired in committee on Thursday has, of course, not been made public. Further enquiries elicited the information that in all the Council was willing to grant the Indians something like £700 if they would be good enough to vacate their present stands and go to the new Location.

We understand it is admitted (says the paper) that the Council cannot be legally compelled to pay this money but it is thought as a matter of national policy the Council should show a desire to treat the Asiatics generously. Bearing in mind the trouble the Asiatics have given the Council in the past, we are by no means convinced that the Council is justified in spending so much money to conciliate them. If the idea is that generous treatment should be meted out to the Asiatics as part of an Imperial policy, then the cost of this generosity should be borne by the country as a whole, and be paid by the Government. There is no reason why Germiston should alone pay £700 to uphold Imperial policy.

News in Brief

The Railways and Harbours Bill empowers the Administration to make regulations with respect to, amongst other matters, the reservation of railway premises (including conveniences), or of any railway coach, or of any portion thereof, for the exclusive use of males and females, white or coloured persons, persons of particular races, or natives, and the restriction of any such person to the use of the premises, coach or portion thereof so reserved.

To the list of conferences held at Bankipore in connexion with the Indian National Congress, there must be added the All-India Ladies' Conference, at which an admirable address was given by Mrs. R. N. Mudholkar, and suggestions made for carrying on a crusade against child marriage and in favour of female education, by means of small committees of Hindu ladies in every district and province. The idea is an excellent one and we hope that it will bear fruit, says *India*.

Mr. T. O. R. Sloden, Assistant Magistrate of Krugersdorp, sentenced a native, recently, to six months' hard labour and eight lashes for the crime of stealing four shillings, the property of another native. Would a European have received such a sentence?

The Town Council of Bloemfontein has agreed to its Finance Committee's suggestion that provision should be made in their new tram-cars for coloured passengers, in a special enclosure partitioned off from the Europeans. We hope the coloured residents of Bloemfontein will not avail themselves of this doubtful privilege.

A number of Mahomedans in the United Provinces, says *India*, are organising a "Tilak Release Campaign." A memorial has been presented to the Viceroy.

Mr. Mazhar-ul Haque, chairman of the Reception Committee of the 27th Indian National Congress, held at Bankipore, suggests a great Hindu-Mahomedan Conference, to be presided over by one who is neither a Hindu nor a Mahomedan.

Sir Percy Fitzpatrick, speaking in the House of Assembly on the question of employing white labour, said:—To-day their forces were dissipated, and they were going from bad to worse. Among the remedies that had been proposed were colour legislation. That obtained in the northern Provinces. Every man who had got the interests of the civilisation of the whites at heart had better recognise that that was a broken reed.

(Cheers). They might put it on the Statute-book, but it could not be made effective. The only way white people could prevail was by being so fit economically that they should show their superiority and maintain it.

The Committee of the Durban Town Council has recommended that the Borough Engineer be instructed to proceed with the work of preparing one of the grounds on the new Indian Recreation Grounds and equipping it for playing at an early date.

The following item appears in the report presented to the Durban Chamber of Commerce on the 11th ultimo:—

The Committee have made an endeavour to ascertain the number of trading licences issued to Asiatics in the four provinces. The number issued in the Transvaal was 3,935 in 1912, compared with 3,915 in 1911. The number of Indian and other Asiatic licence-holders in Natal was returned at 987 as at June 30, 1910; that number has, it is believed, been reduced since, but no later official return has been made. In the O.F.S. Indians may not obtain licences. In the Cape no central register of licences issued to Indians is kept.

At a largely-attended meeting of Natives held at the Native Eating-House, Durban, on Saturday week, a resolution was passed and forwarded to the Minister of Railways, complaining that third-class passengers on the North Coast Line are now being travelled in open trucks and horse-boxes. In some cases there is an entire absence of seats, necessitating either sitting on the floor of the truck, or standing exposed to the full heat of the sun, or to the drenching rains. In addition to the foregoing inconveniences cruel indignities are constantly imposed upon passengers by officials, who, not content with pushing men, women, and children, kick them and swear at them.

Writing about the new Capital of India, in *Reynolds's*, Mr. J. King, M.P., says: "Then there is the serious question whether Indian architects and craftsmen are to have an opportunity at all. From artistic and political points of view this is of immense importance. The Indian carver and stone mason carries on the tradition of centuries, and is capable of magnificent original work. Is he to be waived aside, and are the details and styles to be made in Italy and designed in a London office? If so, where will the Indian who pays the taxes come in, save as the unskilled labourer for a new Western city in our Eastern Empire? Let the Indians have a chance, for they have to pay."

The Ven. Archdeacon Potter, the Hon. Secretary of the League of Honour, has recently issued, through Messrs. Robert Banks and Sons, an Open Letter to the League on the subject of "The Christian Powers and Weaker Races." He deals with contract labour in G. T. Thomé, the Putumayo District, and the French Congo, and with indentured labour from India, quoting from the Hon. Mr. Gokhale's speech in the Viceroy's Council. He then deals with the so-called "Black Peril." Writing on political matters, the Archdeacon draws pointed attention to the destruction of the three Moslem States of Morocco, Tripoli, and Persia, by their Christian neighbours in one year. He appears to be somewhat unsympathetic towards Turkey, forgetting that the Christian States of the Balkans in the matter of inhuman atrocities, have nothing to recommend themselves. Finally, he makes an impassioned appeal for an awakening of the public conscience in the exploitation of tropical countries in the interests of international finance. The pamphlet, which costs 6d. in London, is well worth reading and gives ample food for reflection.

A Special meeting of the Tamil Benefit Society was held at the Palace Theatre, Commissioner Street, Johannesburg, on the 21st ultimo, for the purpose of forwarding a congratulatory message to Shri V. O.

Chidambaram Pillay, upon the occasion of his release from incarceration. The Chairman (Mr. C. K. Naidoo) presided over a goodly attendance of members. The proceedings throughout were marked by considerable enthusiasm. After a few appropriate remarks from the Chair, Mr. Joseph Royeppen B.A. (Cantab.) amidst loud cheers, proposed the following resolution:—"This meeting of the Tamil Benefit Society, Johannesburg, has the pleasure to place upon record its profound sense of relief and thankfulness to the Almighty for the happy return to the bosom of his near and dear ones, of our distinguished and patriotic brother Shri V. O. Chidambaram Pillay, and prays that Providence may endow him with all health and strength to see the realization of his highest hopes and ideals for the peace, happiness and progress of our beloved Motherland." The following gentlemen spoke and supported the same:—Messrs. V. M. Padiachy, A. C. Moodaly, V. Govindaswami Naidoo, C. Rungasamy Pillay, S. Cooposamy Padiachy, Coomarasamy Pillay, and P. K. Naidoo. The resolution was cabled to Mr. Pillay.

A curious situation has arisen in the village of Indemini, Canton of Tessin, where a Municipality is needed to conduct local affairs, but there are no voters and no candidates for the posts, the former refusing to vote and the latter refusing to accept office. For several years the inhabitants of the village have been asking the Federal authorities to construct a road to the nearest Swiss town, without any result, and in winter Indemini is completely isolated from Swiss towns by deep snow, the inhabitants being obliged, with great difficulty and risk, to descend, across the frontier, into Italy for provisions. As a general protest and in order to call the attention of the Federal authorities a "passive strike" has taken place of all the population. At present there are no regulations, no laws, no persons at the head of a department. The Federal Government will be forced to interfere soon and arrange this Alpine village chaos, which in a way is amusing, but is taken very seriously by the villagers.

With reference to the Indian school recently opened in Johannesburg, Mr. Habib Motan has sent the following to the Secretary of the Central School Board:—"I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 31st ult., and thank you for the welcome information that the establishment of the Indian School has been sanctioned. As you remark, it is presumed that the conditions will be the same as those already arranged, save that the salaries of teachers will be paid by the Government, and that such teachers will be Government servants. The building in which the School is to be conducted, is, I believe, in order, and a temporary staff of teachers is available. A meeting of the Indian Community was held yesterday, a Chairman, Secretary and Committee of 7 members elected, Mr. Nye provisionally elected as principal, and Messrs. P. K. Naidoo and Praji Desai, as assistant teachers. It is proposed to start the school going sometime this week, to which, I take it, there would be no objection. If you desire, the names of the members of the committee will be forwarded to you, and I may add that Mr. L. W. Ritch has consented to act as advisory member." The Committee consists of Messrs. Cachalia, Thambi Naidoo, Joseph Royeppen, Manibhai, Khandubhai Desai, and Nadirsha Kama. Mr. Gatu is the Chairman, and Mr. Habib Motan Hon. Secretary. We understand that the attendance at this school is now nearly 150.

The Free State party in the Union Parliament have decided to give general support to the Government, reserving freedom of action on questions of principle, like the Asiatic, Native, and the University questions.

There is nothing I like so much as medicine—that is, of course, when I am prescribing it!—says Sir Thomas Crosby, ex-Lord Mayor of London.