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WILL THE GOVERNMENT BE HONEST?

MR. POLAK has addressed the following letter, dated the 27th ultimo, to the Minister of the Interior:—

"I have the honour to revert to my letter of the 4th ultimo, and to bring to the notice of the Honourable the Minister the following additional facts in connection with its subject-matter.

"2. Subsequently to the despatch to the Registrar of Asiatics of the applications for registration, under Act 36 of 1908, of Messrs. Bhawani and Devi Dayal, referred to in paragraph 27 of my letter, and having also forwarded supporting affidavits and other documentary evidence and relevant information, I was asked by him to send the Applicants to the Chief Immigration Officer, Natal, who, however, informed me, on the 4th ultimo, that he had received no instructions. It thus appears that Mr. Cousins, his acting predecessor, had failed to notify the Registrar of the Applicant's desire to comply with the provisions of the Act, and of which I had acquainted him on the 27th December, and had placed the whole onus of action upon them without informing them of the fact.

"3. On the 6th, I was informed by the Chief Immigration Officer that he had been instructed to take the application, which were made *de novo*, on the official forms.

"4. On the same day, in the course of an interview, I reminded the Immigration Officer that the Order of the Supreme Court, requiring the Applicants to take action in a competent Court within 14 days of the date of the Order, the 25th December, ran as from the 3rd ultimo, in accordance with the Rules of the Court, the intervening days being Court holidays. To this he made no reply. I also asked him to hasten the despatch of the applications to the Registrar, so that the Applicants would have ample time to take legal action, should this become necessary.

"5. When, however, I applied next day, the 7th ultimo, for a further extension of the visiting passes, which had been issued to the Applicants on the 26th December, and extended to that date, I was astonished to learn that the Immigration Officer refused to extend them, on the ground that the Order of the Court, which was expressed to run until further order, expired that day.

"6. I protested energetically against this arbitrary refusal, pointing out that the applications, which had only been despatched the day before, owing to the dilatory action of Mr. Cousins, could not have yet been received by the Registrar, by whom they still had to be considered, that the Order of the Court still ran, and that the Applicants were under no immediate obligation to take legal action to enforce their claims. My protests, however, went unheeded.

"7. The Order required that, upon the lodging with the Immigration Officer of the security demanded, the

Applicants were to be unconditionally released. Notwithstanding this, he had obliged them to take the above-mentioned visiting passes, and had allocated the sum of £40, out of the £100 security, as deposits thereon, of which £10 was, on the 6th ultimo, refunded to Mr. Bhawani Dayal, when he was allowed by the Honourable the Minister to remain in Natal, on the strength of his education test.

"8. Section 31 of the Immigrants Restriction Act of 1903, as amended by Section 5 of the Act of 1906, provides that a person who has entered Natal upon a visiting pass, and who is found in the Province after the time allowed by such pass, as extended, shall suffer forfeiture of his deposit thereon. The Applicants were, therefore, faced with the alternatives of having their visiting pass deposits forfeited and of being obliged to institute costly legal proceedings for the recovery thereof, or of leaving the Province immediately if they wished to save the deposits.

"9. Having in consideration the fact that they could not take legal action, as contemplated by the Order of the Court, in any Natal Court, upon their claims to enter the Transvaal, and that they could not approach the Transvaal Courts, until their claims had been rejected by the Registrar, and their appeal against his decision dismissed, the Applicants felt that it would be preferable for them to proceed at once to the Transvaal, where they could procure unimpeachable evidence in support of their claims, even at the risk of being arrested at Volksrust as prohibited immigrants. They accordingly left for the Transvaal on the night of the 7th ultimo, and I accompanied them, in order to facilitate their journey and appear on their behalf in the Transvaal, should necessity arise.

"10. Upon arrival at Volksrust, the whole party were detained, and I asked that they should be brought before the Magistrate, but it was explained that the instructions of the Registrar must first be sought. A telegram was despatched to that official, stating the circumstances and that I was prepared to proceed to Pretoria with the Applicants, so as to submit further evidence to him. On the evening of the 8th, a reply came, instructing the police to prosecute the Applicants and their wives at once as prohibited immigrants, unless they immediately returned to Natal, where they were wanted for contravention of the immigration laws of that Province. The latter statement was wholly incorrect, for Mr. Bhawani Dayal was not regarded as a prohibited immigrant in Natal, and the others had a right to be there during the pendency of the Order of the Court.

"11. Upon my request, and after I had narrated the circumstances of the case, the Magistrate granted a remand to Pretoria until the 16th. Later, I submitted further evidence to the Registrar, who agreed to a further remand until the 30th, but, before that date,

I was notified that the claims had been admitted and that the charge was being withdrawn. Registration certificates have since been issued to the Applicants, bearing the names of their wives. I would here remark that whilst the Transvaal authorities have accepted the evidence produced by Mr. Bhawani Dayal that his wife is in fact his wife, the same evidence was not accepted previously by the Natal Immigration Officer, and the ludicrous position arises that Mrs. Bhawan Dayal, so long as she remains in the Transvaal, is safe from molestation at the hands of the immigration officials, but that she is liable to arrest and summary deportation should she accompany her husband to Natal.

"12. I have the honour to refer the Honourable the Minister to the enclosed copies of correspondence with the Natal Immigration Officer, on the subject of the refund of the balance of the security ordered by the Court to be lodged with him, from which it will be seen that that officer has, upon a series of frivolous pretexts, done his utmost to delay the refund, and thereby injure the Applicants.

"13. The Applicants arrived at Durban on the 22nd December, in a perfectly open and innocent manner. They claimed to be allowed to apply for registration under the Transvaal law, upon the fact that they were actually resident in Johannesburg on the 31st day of May, 1902. Assuming that the Government do not intend that the provisions of the law shall be made a dead-letter and the rights conferred by it nullified by administrative action, the Applicants should have been allowed to land on visiting passes immediately, and as a matter of routine, to enable them to comply with the law. These were, however, refused, and the refusal, together with the careless reading of my telegram to the Registrar of the 24th December, which seems to have led him to suppose that the Applicants' claims were other than they really were, compelled them to seek the protection of the Court, whose order both senior Immigration Officers of this Province attempted, in one way or another to evade. Eventually, the Applicants were forced to proceed to the Transvaal, because of the Chief Immigration Officer's wilful distortion of the Order, and to suffer there very great inconvenience, owing to the criminal proceedings wantonly launched against them by the Registrar, whilst their claims were yet under consideration; and even after these were recognised, they had the utmost difficulty in obtaining the return of their security.

"14. Almost the entire expense to which they have been put, in order to make good their claims—a very simple process, as overwhelming evidence was procurable and submitted—has clearly arisen, not owing to any fault of their own; but solely because of the indifference, carelessness, and aggressive policy of the departmental officials. The Applicants, who are highly respectable persons, and known personally to the Honourable Mr. Syed Ali Imam, the Law Member of the Government of India (who has been apprised of what has transpired), feel much aggrieved at the wholly undeserved persecution that they and their wives have suffered, and on their behalf I ask that the Government may be pleased to re-imburse them in the following amounts, viz.:—Legal expenses, £51 8s. 4d; travelling expenses and other disbursements which, but for these proceedings, would not otherwise have arisen, £22; and interest on the sum of £60 (being the amount of the security lodged, less £40, deposited on the visiting passes), from the 26th December to the 17th instant, when the balance of the security was refunded.

"15. I am aware that the injured parties have probably no legal claim against the Government, but, if the facts set forth above are true—and as all of them have happened within my own experience, I am in a position to vouch for their substantial accuracy—it is respectfully submitted that their claim is even stronger than a purely legal claim, by reason of the further fact that the totally unwarranted and provocative manner

in which the officials dealing with the matter treated it, is in violent conflict with the emphatic declarations made and repeated by the Ministers, that it is not the intention or the desire of the Government to place any impediment in the way of those British Indians who have residential rights in any part of the Union."

The Question of Visiting Passes

In connection with the matter referred to under the above heading in our last issue, the Chairman of the British Indian Association replied, to the Secretary for the Interior on the 4th instant, as follows—

"I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 24th ultimo regarding the procedure adopted at the Ports in respect of those British Indians who come from India and who have residential rights in the Transvaal.

"In the humble opinion of my Association, the reply is highly unsatisfactory, for it ignores the real state of things obtaining at the Ports.

"Your letters seem to suggest that Indian passengers arrive from India with unsupported claims for the Transvaal and that such persons are detained on board pending investigation by the Registrar. If persons having unsupported claims were in the habit of coming in any numbers, and if they were allowed to remain within the borders of the Union, though under detention, my Association would have no cause for complaint. But it is the experience of my Association that Indians with unsupported claims do not, as a rule, come, and that those who do come are not detained, but sent away by the vessels that bring them.

"In the case of the brothers Dayal, their claims were, as the Honourable the Minister is aware, fully supported, yet the boys would have been sent away, had not the Supreme Court intervened. What my Association submits is that the relief which the Supreme Court grants should be accorded to such applicants without their having to call in its intervention.

"To explain its position better, it is perhaps necessary for my Association to set forth the classes of persons who have Transvaal claims.

"Those Indians who are registered under the Asiatic Act and hold registration certificates form one class. These are able to produce documents to prove their right of residence in the Transvaal.

"Those Indians who are not yet registered but who have a right to be registered form the other class. These cannot always have documentary proof, and never such as could be effectively checked by the Port Immigration Officers; for a majority of them can support their claims only by producing evidence of witnesses in the Transvaal. Such was the case with the brothers Dayal. Their title to registration was based on the fact that they were in the Transvaal on the 31st May, 1902. My Association suggests that it was not possible for them to prove their claim, unless they were enabled to bring forward evidence that was available only in South Africa. It is for such persons that my Association seeks protection, which has been cruelly and vexatiously denied hitherto by the Immigration Officers at the Port; and my Association trusts that the relief requested will be granted."

We regret to learn (says the *Cape Times*, that the Right Hon. Abraham Fischer is somewhat seriously indisposed and, under medical advice, is not likely to be able to attend to his Ministerial or Parliamentary duties for some weeks. Meanwhile Sir David de Villiers Graaff will take the work of the Minister of the Interior, and Sir Thomas Watt will look after the portfolio of Lands. Should Mr. Fischer's health not permit him to return to Parliament in time, General Smuts will take charge of the Immigration Bill.

From the Editor's Chair

STILL THE DAVAL CASE

THIS case involves such principles that it is still engaging the attention of the British Indian Association as also Mr. Polak's. We gave further correspondence between the Association and the Government in our last issue. We reproduce this week the reply of the British Indian Association to the last letter from the Government, and Mr. Polak's letter requesting that the expenses incurred by the brothers Dayal, through the high-handed and thoughtlessly irritating action of the Immigration Officer might be refunded by the Government.

The letter of the Association naturally deals with the general question arising from the case. It is clear that either the Department of the Interior has been misinformed, and therefore ill-served, by the officers under it, or that the Minister has himself chosen deliberately to mis-state the position. Without unimpeachable evidence to the contrary, we can but reject the second proposition. And we have known officers, before now, misrepresenting facts, either wilfully or unconsciously, to their superiors. The officers are far more interested in doing so than the Minister in mis-stating a position. The request of the Association is precise, and stated in the clearest terms. They want that those who have Transvaal rights and come to Natal or the Cape from India may be permitted to land under security in order to prove their claims and make their application for registration, which they can by law only do from a place in South Africa. The Minister has fogged the issue by stating that the officers have instructions "to detain on board, under a restriction order, all those passengers having unsupported claims to go to the Transvaal, until such claims are admitted by the Registrar. In this connection, every facility is afforded claimants to submit their cases." The facts, however, are, as Mr. Polak has proved conclusively, that (1) claimants are not detained on board, but they are sent away by the steamer they are in; (2) these steamers, as a rule, do not stop in the harbour longer than forty-eight hours; (3) the Immigration Officer places every imaginable hindrance in the way of their proving or prosecuting their claims; (4) applications have to be sent to Pretoria by post; (5) these applications take some days before they are considered; (6) they take longer still before they are finally decided, meaning a delay of probably a month, as happened in the case of the brothers Dayal; (7) they must be made before an officer appointed by the Registrar; (8) this officer is the Immigration Officer, who flatly refuses to take applications unless authorised thereto by the Registrar in each case, though the law does not require this; (9) even if a claimant succeeds in making his application, the Immigration Officer does not allow him to remain in the Province, even under detention, pending result of his application; (10) finally, the Registrar does not authorise the Immigration Officer to land such claimants whether they have applied or not.

We shall be interested to know what the Minister has to say to the letter of the Association. The case for landing Transvaal claimants under visiting passes is, in our opinion, complete, if it be assumed that they should have the facility for doing what the law requires them to do. If relief is not granted, the conclusion will be irresistible that the Government intend to rob Indians of even those rights which the law has given them.

Mr. Polak's claim for a refund is no less strong. The brothers Dayal underwent all the trials we have above described. They had the additional difficulty in that they were accompanied by their wives, one of them having a baby in arms, and that the latter, too,

had to be full sharers in the troubles of their husbands. If the Government recognise the claim, it will be a graceful act and an earnest of their desire to treat fairly those who have residential rights in South Africa.

A PUBLIC EXAMPLE

A QUESTION was raised that the election of Mr. Gokhale to represent the non-official members of the Bombay Legislative Council in the Viceregal Council was invalid, as he was an "official" drawing remuneration from the public treasury as a member of the Public Services Commission. Mr. Gokhale has, we understand, set the matter at rest, in characteristic fashion, by declining to accept the remuneration to which he would have been entitled. Such things are expected from such a man, whose whole life has been one of self-abnegation in the service of the public. We do not congratulate him upon what he would himself regard as a perfectly natural act, but we sincerely congratulate the Motherland upon the possession of so rare-minded a son. Whilst it is true that an incident of this particular character could not occur in South Africa, where members of commissions are statutorily exempted from the disabilities otherwise attaching to the receipt of remuneration for their services in that capacity, M. Gokhale's example is one that might well be followed even in this self-governing Dominion, where, on the contrary, such instances of public morality have been, at least of late years, practically non-existent.

A Narrow Escape

Our Editor, Mr. Polak, whilst returning from the Settlement on Thursday of last week, narrowly escaped drowning, in the same place where Mr. Kotwal, two days previous, had such a fortunate escape from death. In the course of a letter to Mr. Gandhi, Mr. Polak describes his experience as follows:—

"The road was very bad going, right from the first, and it was pouring with rain. At the bottom of our hill, the water was thigh-deep, and it was raining hard all the time, whilst it was so gusty that it was easier to go on without unfurling the umbrella. I did not feel very anxious about the station spruit, as it never occurred to me that the torrent would have swollen very much from the morning, when it was only knee-deep. I thought that, at the worst, it would not be more than waist-high, and as I was already wet almost as far, this thought did not trouble me very much. You may picture my amazement when I arrived at the spruit and found that the hollow was filled with water as far as the eye could reach. It was just like a big lake. Even then I thought that it would be possible to go through it without getting a bad ducking, and, loaded though I was with the portfolio and with a sopping waterproof and umbrella, I started to wade in up to the waist, but I found that the water was getting deeper, and that, in the middle, the stream was rushing along at a startling rate. I accordingly went back with the idea of reconnoitering and finding some possible means of getting across at another spot. I was most anxious to get to the station so as not to miss the train, as, if I lost it, I thought it would have been impossible for me to send any message to Mrs. Polak, who, I knew, would be worrying if I did not turn up. Urged on by this thought, I made another attempt to cross in the same place, and waded in still further, but found that, as I got nearer the torrent, the water got deeper and deeper, and my portfolio was in danger of getting swamped, so, when I had gone in up to my armpits, I started to go back, and then noticed a couple of natives on the further bank, who had come along from the direction of the station. One of them tested the water with a long stick, and it came to within a foot of the top. He thereupon took off his clothes, except a shirt, and started to wade in. When he got to the stream, he commenced to swim, but

I thought at the time that he did this from sheer enjoyment of the thing, and when he arrived at my side of the lagoon I told him that I was very anxious to get to the station, and asked him if it were possible to wade to the other side. He replied that it could be done, but that the water would reach up to the neck. This confirmed my impression that he had swum for the amusement of the thing, and, as I was already so wet, I thought that it did not much matter if I got a bit wetter. I therefore decided to accept his help to get to the other side, thinking that even neck-deep it would be possible to cross safely. I, accordingly, gave him my portfolio to carry, and he took hold of my arm and we commenced our journey. But we had not gone far when I found myself swept off my feet by the force of the current, and, in clutching the native, I made him drop the portfolio, which was swiftly washed away. The current was twisting me round, and I was much impeded, first by my glasses, which, smeared over with water, blinded me, and by the sodden waterproof, into a rent in which I kept getting one of my feet, and my water-logged shoes and gaiters. And I had instinctively kept hold of my umbrella, which became filled with water and dragged me down. Finally I was swept right back and practically under water, when the native gripped hold of a palm tree as we were being carried rapidly along, and I grasped it too. The current was so strong that I was twisted right round the tree, as I had only one hand free; and it took all my strength to twist myself back again and hold on tight. I then asked the native to try to find the portfolio, which, fortunately, had caught in some rushes, and he brought it back to me with its contents sodden. Then, with a few vigorous plunges he managed to get me to the bank. Even then, I was not at the end of my troubles, for twice I nearly fell back into the water, as the bank was so slippery and my things were hanging very heavy on me, there being pounds of water in the pockets of the waterproof. However, I managed at last to scramble up, and was able to express my gratitude in a more or less coherent manner. The native's remarks had undoubtedly induced me to make the foolhardy attempt, but, having once got into the mess, I am sure that it would have been extremely difficult to get out of it but for the help that he gave me. He did not seem to be aware of the part that he had taken in the matter, and I felt it very difficult to make him understand, so I emptied my pocket into his hand—it was only a matter of five shillings—as a slight expression of my feelings and he seemed very grateful, but not so much so as I was. But I felt horribly mean at the idea of remunerating him in this mercenary fashion."

"Keeping up a Position"

"There is no getting away from the fact that the main and the intolerable burden on the English middle-class is that which is necessitated by 'keeping up a position,'" says the *Oxford and Cambridge Review*. "This expenditure is imperatively demanded by our existing social system; but that social system is so unexampled in the world's history, so monstrous in itself, and so flagrantly opposed to economic possibilities that—though we recognise it as a pre-eminently solid fact—we cannot regard it with patience, and are quite certain that it has not 'come to stay.'

"The medical man, the solicitor, the man in a moderate way in the City, the young architect, the writer of books or articles, the ordinary civil engineer, the average decent tradesman—all these, and a host of others, are compelled, for purely social reasons, to live in a style and at a rate which their means simply do not justify, and in which style and at which rate they would not so much as dream of living, were they inhabitants of any other European country."

Mr. Gokhale's Congress Speech

(Continued)

There is no question that the European mind is dominated by the fear that the people of India may gradually swamp South Africa and turn that country into another India. The position of the European there is already difficult. He is surrounded by a large proportion of the indigenous population and somehow there is a feeling, a vague feeling, on both sides that things are drifting towards a conflict although they may not end in a conflict. But the average European naturally does not want to have the position complicated by the introduction of another race. At present the number of Indians is 150,000 against 1½ millions of Europeans. The European feels that there are three hundred millions of people in India and that if only a few millions go there, it would become difficult for the European to maintain his position in that colony. The fear is unjustified because there is no desire on the part of Indians to emigrate there. There is no career for educated men and they are subjected to the utmost indignity possible. People have mostly been taken forcibly from here and the population has gone on increasing. Now that the indenture system has stopped, the number of people is bound to dwindle till at last it disappears. There is no desire on our part to flood that country. The community there, however, is suspected by the European community of harbouring a design to import from India Indians in large numbers so as to swamp that country and occupy everything that is worth occupying for Indians themselves. Our compatriots there have, of course, no such design, but Mr. Gandhi and those associated with him say that as long as this fear dominates the European mind, so long there is no chance of other grievances being redressed, and those grievances are far more intolerable than even these grievances of restriction on immigration. What matters to the Europeans is not what we do here. They do not care what you do in this country. They do not ask you for any guarantee. They care only for any agitation that may be started there. If there is agitation in that country by the Indian community on the subject of immigration, then, of course, their fear becomes intensified. If there is no such agitation there by the Indian community, that fear is allayed. When Mr. Gandhi and I speak of recognising that the European mind in South Africa will have to be assured that the country will not be swamped by Indians before relief in the most pressing directions can come, we only state a fact that is obvious to everyone in South Africa. Mr. Gandhi and others think that, having effected so much in regard to immigration, it may be left aside, and that, later on, when India supports our countrymen there better, and if Indians come to govern their own country, the question may be re-opened, but for the moment, Mr. Gandhi is content to leave it at that.

What course we, in India, may follow does not enter into the calculation at all, but the Indians in South Africa are surely entitled to choose the order in which they will agitate for the redress of their grievances, and the main consideration which must influence them is naturally which grievances are most pressing and in regard to which of them early relief is practicable. We, in Congress, take up some pressing questions and put them forward prominently, leaving the less acute ones in the background without sacrificing or surrendering any one of the rights. From that point of view, Mr. Gandhi and his colleagues want now to keep the question of immigration in the background, just as they do, at present, those of admission to public service, or participation in public life, or even the franchise. I myself, however, informed the Government of South Africa that those questions are bound to be raised in future by the Indian community as education spreads

among them. But there are many more pressing grievances urgently demanding redress. If you will consider what they are, you will yourselves see that it is not possible for a small harrassed community to fight for free immigration where they are suffering such intolerable wrongs.

(To be continued)

The Rev. Koilpillai

The Rev. Dravium Koilpillai, B. A., of the Sydenham Training College, left last week for a brief holiday in India. There was a reception, held on the eve of his departure, to wish him bon voyage. Many of our readers will be glad to know more about Mr. Koilpillai. We, therefore, take the following from a sketch kindly supplied to us by Mr. Beethasee Malabaraj:—

Having known the subject of this sketch personally since his arrival in this Province, and having been intimately connected with him for the same period, I can truly say that to study his life is a sure method of becoming good. If he has not been able to dazzle his countrymen, it is because by nature he is quiet, and the bustle of life is positively distasteful to him.

Dravium Koilpillai was born of Christian parents, on the 23rd September 1880, at Raminad, a city famous for its close proximity to Rameswaram a place of Hindu pilgrimage in Southern India. His father was a teacher in the S. P. G. Mission High School, Raminad, for a considerable time, and afterwards promoted to the Headmastership of the S. P. G. Seminary at Saverpuram within ten miles of Tutycorin, the nearest Indian port to Colombo. This Seminary was founded by the late Dr. G. W. Pope as a training ground for teachers and catechists. On attaining the age of 13 years, he was confirmed and sent to Palamcottah, the Headquarters of the C. M. S. in Southern India, where he received his High School education. After 3 years study he passed his Matriculation examination, being then 17 years old. During the vacation, which he spent at home, his father became suddenly ill, and the doctor gave up all hope of his recovery. The boy was called to receive the parting message from his dying father. He stood trembling beside his bedstead earnestly awaiting those last words which came at last in faltering tones, "Promise me, my son, that you will in your life enter the ministry and serve God whom I have served these last 36 years. Promise me, so that I may die in peace." He had already observed his son's inclination and taste for the work, but these were his first and last words to him on the subject. Dravium could not refuse that request, made at so solemn a moment, a request, moreover, concerning the work to which he felt drawn. He assented. He turned and charged his eldest brother and brother-in-law that they should pave the way for it, as he was then too young. A smile passed over the dying man's face and he breathed his last. Eighteen months later witnessed the passing away of the lad's dearly-loved mother, and he was now left to the care of his brother, who sent him to the C. M. S. College at Tinnevely to receive his second-grade College education. He remained there two years, during which time it was his delight as Sunday came round to organise a party of scholars to go out to the neighbouring villages preaching to non-Christians, and an extended evangelistic tour was arranged during the holiday.

He successfully passed his First-in Arts exam. After which his brother was unable to support him. It seemed he could not further prosecute his studies, when he sat for the S. P. C. K. competitive examination, gaining, to his joy, a scholarship, which provided him with the cost of education and boarding for two years of the B. A. course. He took natural science as his special subject. In 1903 he took his B.A. degree with honours. Whilst contemplating steps that would eventual-

ly prepare him for the great work he was pledged to undertake, a call came from beyond the Indian Ocean for teachers at S. Aidan's Indian College, to which he responded, young as he was. He arrived on the 27th June, 1904, and was welcomed by many prominent Indians. The Rev. Canon Smith, the then Superintendent of Indian Missions, allotted Mr. Koilpillai the post of assistant master under the Principal Mr. (now Rev.) Thomas Hammond Strong, of the S. Aidan's Diocesan (now Provincial) Training College, which was opened on 11th April, 1904. He was also appointed Reader in the Church; six months later he became a Catholic. In his secular work he devoted all his time and energy to the uplifting of the younger generation. He trained the S. Aidan's Mission School teachers for the Government Teaching Certificate and his labour was not in vain. Many successes can be ascribed to the good teaching of Mr. Koilpillai.

In 1905, he was awarded First Prize in an Essay Competition on "Missionary Work at Home and Abroad," which was open to all European, Indian and Native Sunday school teachers.

During an illness of the Principal he acted for about a year as Principal of the College, performing his duties in a capable manner.

The S. Aidan's Literary and Debating Society, of which he is an honorary life member now, was established by him, and this body has had a great deal to do in the way of improving the teachers. Mr. Koilpillai also started classes in Tamil for such as love to learn their own tongue, and good results are abundantly evident in this connection.

In July, 1905, his marriage to Mary Elizabeth, the only daughter of Mr. George Thomas, of Estcourt, took place. After seven years' happiness, the deeply loved wife was taken hence, on 31st March, 1912, after a brief illness, leaving two daughters and one son to mourn her loss.

September 25th, 1910, witnessed his ordination as deacon, and his appointment as Assistant Curate of Christ Church, Sydenham. He also conducts the Tamil services at S. Aidan's. He is very broad-minded and honours a man who holds to his convictions and follows what he believes to be right. He respects all religions, but firmly believes that Christianity will eventually be the Light of the World.

Literary and Debating Society

A well-attended meeting of Indians was held at the West End Bioscope Hall, Fox Street, Johannesburg, on Sunday last, for the purpose of forming an Indian Literary and Debating Society. Mr. J. Royeppen presided and shortly explained the benefits to be derived from such an institution. After other expressions of opinion, all laudatory of the project, the Society was duly formed under the name of "The Johannesburg Indian Literary and Debating Society." The following were elected officials:— Patron: Mr. M. K. Gandhi; President: Mr. J. Royeppen; Vice-Presidents: Messrs. C. K. T. Naidoo, J. E. Tavaria, D. Ernest, Habib Motan and J. P. Patel; Hon. Secretary: Mr. P. K. Desai; Treasurer: Mr. Bhikabhai Patel; Committee: Messrs. K. J. Tavaria, R. M. Sodha, T. S. Vassen, D. Kalanjee, Sharfoodeen, P. K. Naidoo, John S. Andrews, D. S. Morgan, M. A. Andrews, Dalpath Bhai, J. F. Marrian, S. B. Medh, N. Ramjee, D. N. Naidoo, P. D. Joseph, R. S. C. Pillay, N. Goolabhai, A. D. Williams.

The objects of the Society were declared to be:— (a) to initiate debates on subjects approved by the Committee; (b) to invite lectures, speeches, addresses on subjects of interest to the Society; (c) to advance the cause of education in the community; (d) to engender and develop the spirit of devotion and duty to the Motherland; (e) to promote the spirit of fraternity in the members of the community.

News in Brief

Reuter's correspondent in Constantinople telegraphs that Mr. Hoosen Dawood, son of Mr. Hajee Dawad Mahomed, of Durban, who went to Turkey in connection with the Red Crescent movement, has been visiting the wounded in Constantinople. He has interviewed the Grand Vizier and other members of the Cabinet, and leaves to-day (March 6th) on his return to South Africa.

Mr. Hajee Dawad Mahomed returned on Saturday last by the s.s. *Salamis* from his extended tour through East Africa, Egypt, Arabia, Turkey, and India. The steamer anchored in the stream at 6 p.m., when a deputation of leading Indian merchants proceeded to the boat in a steam launch to receive him, within half-an-hour he landed at the jetty, and was enthusiastically cheered by a crowd of hundreds of Indians. After shaking hands with those present, a procession of carriages and special trams took the party to his residence at Congella, where a tea party was held in his gardens. On Sunday he was given a public reception at Mahomed Abed's Hall, Grey Street, at 2.30 p.m., when hundreds of Indians of all classes and professions crowded the spacious hall to greet the honoured guest. Mr. E. M. Paruk presided over the meeting. Complimentary speeches were made by Messrs. Abdul Karim, Abdul Cadir, Parsee Rustomjee, Omar H. A. Jhaveri, M. C. Anglia, Tipnis, Peeran Mahomed, and others, welcoming back Mr. Hajee Dawad among them, and hoping that he would serve the community with the same vigour as in the past. Messrs. Polak and Paul also addressed the gathering in English. Mr. Hajee Dawad, in thanking the community for the honour done him, related his experience in the countries included in his tour.

Before resuming his seat, Mr. Hajee Dawad assured his countrymen that he would throw in his lot again with them, and would do all he could to assist the removal of the several grievances under which the community was labouring. He heard with intense regret the harshness of the administration of the Immigration Act at the Point, and the difficulties—nay, the injustice—of the authorities in keeping the minor sons away from their parents, wives from their husbands, and the domiciled pass-holders from their adopted land. Feeling in India was getting stronger on the recent developments in these matters, especially when these people returned there to tell their tale. He was much pained to hear that not one of the 80 passengers, except himself, was yet allowed to land, though the *Salamis* had been in the harbour nearly 24 hours. He assured the meeting that he would soon move in the matter.

The Maritzburg correspondent of the *Natal Mercury*, writing on Monday week, said: Two representatives of the local branch of the African Political Organisation, the secretary (Mr. Adolphe) and Mr. Walthew, addressed a meeting at the Socialists' Hall last night, when they explained the origin and aims of their organisation and the grievances of the coloured and black population of South Africa. In the A. P. O. there was no colour bar, and the Society was called into existence by the unjust treatment of the coloured people by the whites. This was the gist of Mr. Adolphe's address, and he pointed out that the Government had barred coloured men from working on Government contracts, while the Trades Union associated with the Labour Party had organised a boycott of the coloured men in the Transvaal. The organisation had 20,000 members, and the number was rapidly increasing in consequence of coloured prejudice on the part of the whites denying to the coloured man the right to live and the right to work. He said that in a land of plenty they were reduced to extreme poverty. The coloured people were a mild people and the fact that they had borne much injustice without a murmur proved it; but they did not intend to

be mild any longer. They were resolved to demand their rights as free men. During the depression many of their people were driven to contemplate suicide through hardship they suffered through unemployment and inability to obtain food for their dependents. Mr. Walthew gave instances of unjust treatment suffered by his people in the matter of travelling facilities on the railway. It was his father's race who were oppressing him.

The Committee on Emigration from India to the Crown Colonies and Protectorates, in their report issued some time ago, recommended that an officer of the Government of India, acquainted with the business of emigration, should be periodically deputed to visit the several colonies which receive Indian emigrants. In pursuance of this recommendation it has now been announced that two such officers will shortly be visiting the West Indies and British Guiana. At the instance of the Secretary of State for the Colonies an officer of the Immigration Department in Georgetown, British Guiana, will also proceed to the Emigration Office at Calcutta for two years, during which time he will be afforded the opportunity of acquainting himself with the details of recruiting there.

The writer of "Echoes of the Week" in the *Natal Advertiser* again alludes to the treatment of indentured Indians in the following paragraph:—I am glad to see that the question of the treatment of Indians in Natal has elicited an expression of opinion from a correspondent of this paper, who, in a recent issue, referred to the incident of the man who stated that he would rather "do five years' imprisonment than return to his employment." I can assure the writer of that letter that this case is by no means an uncommon one. I have myself heard Indians express the opinion that they would rather die than go back. Such records are so common that the police court reporters now seldom make notes of them, because, of course they are not matters of public interest from the reporter's point of view. I understand that a great many of the Indians who find their way to the police court have previously made their formal complaint to the Protector of Indians, who invariably reports their complaints as "trivial," and orders them back to work. The Indians have come to realise that their case is hopeless, and that they have no friends, and so they prefer prison. If any Indian organisation is sincere in its desire to secure some reform of the present state of affairs I would suggest that a trustworthy man be appointed to attend the Court and watch the cases, which could then be inquired into. I can only repeat what I have so often said in these columns, that while many Indians are unquestionably lazy, idle and worthless, there may be some among them who are suffering bitter injustice, and these are the cases which should be singled out. It would be wrong to contend that the policy of the authorities dealing with Indians is framed with a view to drive them away from the country, because the victims of the prevailing system are all indentured Indians, who, if they are imprisoned for a term of years have still to complete their indentures when they come out.

In a letter to the *Daily Despatch* (Manchester), protesting against the use of the term "foreigner" as applied to Indians, Mr. A. N. Cumming, Secretary of the Indian Cotton Bursau, says: "Similar examples of this improper attitude are to be found in the legislation of the Dominions excluding Indians from their respective countries, and, to quote a special example, in the drastic regulations about Indians entering the Union of South Africa. Do the men who assume this attitude desire to drive the Indian peoples into rebellion, or, at all events, disaffection with British rule? Surely we can only expect them to be loyal if they enjoy the privileges which are the birthright of every citizen of the British Empire?"