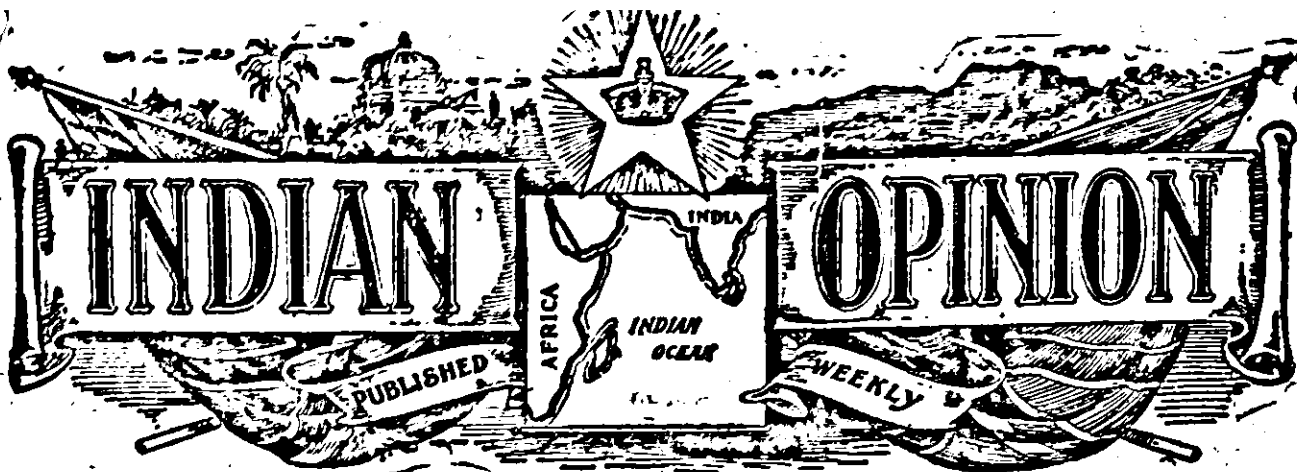




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IMMIGRATION BILL PASSED

THE adjourned debate in the Senate on the second reading of the Immigrants' Regulation Bill was resumed on the 5th instant by Senator LANCE, who associated himself with Senator Schreiner. The Bill, at its best was a most drastic one, not only in regard to Indians, but Europeans also. It was also drastic in regard to the question of appeals. He hoped the Minister would widen the scope of the Courts of the land in that respect. In connection with the matter of persons born in this country, he contended that the words in the clause referring to the domicile of the person might well be deleted. He knew of the domicile of the child following that of the parents; but what would it matter if now and again they had to admit a person who had been "accidentally" born in South Africa. He hoped the Minister would exempt anyone born in South Africa from the provisions of this law. Then there was the case of a wife. What one was told in connection with the Indians was that their marriages, although perfectly legal and right in India, were not registered there. He certainly thought that the word "recognised" could with advantage be substituted for "registered." There was also the difficulty of the "community of property." It seemed to him that the Senate had come up against the question of "community of property" fairly often in their legislation. The Minister should consider the points raised by Senator Schreiner.

Senator Col. BYRON said he noticed that certain recommendations had been made on the matter of Indian immigration by the Imperial Government to the South African Government. It seemed to him that the Imperial Government had laid stress on the fact that the difficulty of the language test could be settled satisfactorily to all parties if the Australian language test was adopted. He understood that the Imperial Government also laid stress on the undesirability of specifying any European or Asiatic language, because of the undesirability of implying any inferiority in regard to Asiatic languages. On that he thought that they should have some explanation. As the Asiatic nations were advancing they asked that their susceptibilities should be recognised, and quite rightly too. He did not hold that the Asiatic was necessarily inferior to the European, but he was different, and they did not desire that the European standard should be altered. He thought it was a pity in any way to indicate that Asiatic standards were inferior to their own. He thought that they should not give offence, as they might do under that clause. He must say that he held the Free State view of Asiatic immigration, and held that such immigration would be undesirable for South Africa. Just as a large stream of European immigration might be undesirable into India, so Asiatic immigration into South Africa was not desirable.

Senator GRAAFF said that provision had been made

in the Transvaal and the Orange Free State for the exclusion of Asiatics, and when the Bill came into Committee he would move an amendment to exclude Asiatics from the Cape Province, because such provision had not been made there. Natal had allowed these people to come in, and had to deal with them. He was sorry that the Government had altered the Act as originally introduced into "another place," in regard to the entry of Indians. He hoped that an efficient Board would be appointed and that the officials would strictly enforce the law, so as to exclude all undesirables. As to immigrants suffering from disease, he thought that the Government should intimate at the ports of embarkation that they were not allowed to land, because it was inhuman to allow large numbers of invalids to come out, and then refuse to allow them to land.

Senator POWELL said that an Indian friend had told him that the lower caste Indians generally picked up the English language with marvellous ease, while the highest caste Indians perhaps knew their own language, but no English.

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR, in reply, agreed with what Senator Colonel Byron had said, and said that in that spirit the Bill had been drawn up—that without looking down disparagingly on the Indians or their civilisation and without desiring to hurt their susceptibilities—they took up the attitude that they had to manage their own affairs in South Africa in their own way and on their own standards. Replying to Senator Wolmarans, he said that there would be no additional expense, as the hon. Senator had feared. He did not think, as Senator Schreiner had said, that that Bill would be striking a blow at the heart of the Empire, even the Bill without the amendments which had since been made. Having dealt with other points which had been raised, the Minister said that he did not want to apply our laws to India, but he did not want the whole fabric and basis on which their Society here rested, set aside. The Indians knew what their laws were in South Africa and should conform to them. As to Senator Byron's point in regard to the language clause, he thought that the matter was best as it was in the Bill. They in that country should be the judges as to whom they should admit into their land. The language test was not to be applied to those who came from the Eastern side, but the test applied there would be the "economic" test. As to what Senator Graaff had said, he agreed with him as to the desirability of excluding Asiatics, and if South Africa stood alone, he would be in favour of even a more stringent law than that of the Orange Free State, but they must take things as they were. They could exclude Asiatics from the Orange Free State, because of their far-sightedness in the past. If an Asiatic were once admitted into Natal (the Minister was understood to say) they

could not prevent him entering the Cape Province, but that was because of the law in force there which was not so stringent as the one in the Orange Free State.

The motion was agreed to, and the Bill was read a second time.—*Cape Times*.

Committee Stage

On the 9th instant, the House went into Committee on the Bill.

The first two clauses were agreed to without amendment.

Clause 3 dealing with the restriction of the jurisdiction of the courts of law in respect of the detention or removal of alleged prohibited immigrants, the Committee agreed to an amendment by Senator Schreiner to the effect that the Court could call for further information to be supplied by the Board, if the Court deemed such information necessary.

Clause 4 was agreed to with a minor amendment.

Considerable discussion took place on Clause 5, "Persons who are not to be deemed prohibited immigrants."

To this clause, Senator SCHREINER moved the deletion of Sub-section (e), and in its place the substitution of the following new sub-section: "Any persons born before the commencement of this Act in any part of South Africa included in the Union or born therein after the commencement of this Act if the parents of such persons were there domiciled at the time of his birth."

To the same clause, the MINISTER of the INTERIOR also moved the deletion of Sub-section (e), and the substitution therefor of the following new sub-section: "Any person born before the commencement of this Act in any part of South Africa included in the Union whose parents were lawfully resident therein, and were not at that time restricted to temporary or conditional residence by any law then in force, and any person born in any place after the commencement of this Act whose parents were at the time of his birth domiciled in any part of South Africa in the Union."

Senator SCHREINER contended that the Minister's amendment, if it became law, would take away existing rights and would reach hardly on the children of indentured Indians born in Natal. Also that it would effect the existing right of Indians in the Cape Province, and their children born in the Cape Province, pointing out that, under the Act of 1906 a child of any Indian born at the time of its parents domicile in South Africa was exempted from the prohibitory clauses.

The MINISTER of the INTERIOR contended that when the Cape Act was passed the Cape Legislature did not intend the term South Africa to include the whole of the country, but merely wished to protect the rights of the Indians domiciled in the Cape Province, for the matter of that he contended that his proposal did not affect the Cape Indians who come under the provision of the Cape Act, or for that matter certain Indians in Natal and the Transvaal who had been admitted free of restriction. Senator Schreiner's amendment would be conferring rights on Natal Indians which they did not possess.

On Tuesday, the House resumed in Committee on the Immigrants' Regulation Bill, and the consideration of Clause 5—"persons who are not to be deemed prohibited immigrants"—was continued.

Senator SCHREINER said he had thought over the amendments moved by the Minister of the Interior and himself yesterday, and he would withdraw his amendment, and would suggest that they should accept the Minister's proposal, with the addition of the following new sub-section: "(f) In respect of the Cape Province any person born before the commencement of this Act, in any part of South Africa included in the Union, who has acquired rights under the provisions of Act No. 30 of 1906, Section 4, South Africa."

The MINISTER of the INTERIOR said he could not accept the amendment.

Several speakers opposed the amendment on the ground that Senator Schreiner's new amendment was simply in effect the same as the amendment he had withdrawn.

After further discussion the Minister's amendment was carried.

Senator Schreiner's amendment was negatived by 19 votes to 11.

On Sub-section (g) of the same clause, Senator SCHREINER dealing with the question of the recognition of the marriages of immigrants, spoke strongly against anything which might insult the feelings of Mahomedans and Hindus in regard to their marriage customs. From the sub-section, which read as follows:—"Any person who is proved to the satisfaction of the Immigration Officer, or, in the case of an appeal, to the satisfaction of any person exempted by Paragraph (F) of this section, including the wife or child of a lawful and monogamous marriage duly celebrated according to the rights of any religious faith outside the Union, and duly registered at the place of celebration, and having all the legal consequences of a lawful marriage duly celebrated within the Union," etc., he (Senator Schreiner) moved the deletion of the words, "and duly registered," and to insert the words "lawfully recognised" instead. He also moved the deletion of the words "duly celebrated within the Union." He contended it was quite sufficient for a lawful monogamous wife to prove that she was a lawful wife.

The MINISTER of the INTERIOR said that they had made all the concessions they could. The sub-section in question had been inserted to meet the wishes of the people watching the Indian interests. He was prepared to accept the deletion of the words "duly celebrated within the Union." In self-defence they had to refuse to recognise polygamous marriages, and to insist on the registration of monogamous marriages.

A number of Senators thought that as it was evident the registration of marriages was not generally carried out in India, it was a fetish to insist on registration.

Senator BRENNER moved as a further amendment to delete the words: "Including wife or child of a lawful and monogamous marriage duly celebrated according to the rites of any religious faith outside the Union, and duly registered at the place of celebration, and having all the legal consequences of a lawful marriage duly celebrated within the Union." Senator Brebner said that this was a Bill to regulate immigration, and not to legalise Indian marriages.

The CHAIRMAN said that, in order to test Senator Schreiner's amendment, and to do away with overlapping, he would first put the first part of Senator Brebner's amendment, namely, from the word "including" down to the words "outside Union."

The voting was a tie, 14 votes for and 14 against the amendment.

The Chairman, in order to keep the question open, gave his casting vote against the amendment.

The remainder of Senator Brebner's amendment was therefore dropped.

The CHAIRMAN then put Senator Schreiner's amendment, to delete the words "and duly registered."

The voting was a tie again, 14 voting for, and 14 against.

The Chairman again gave his casting vote against the amendment, in order to keep the question open.

Senator Schreiner's amendment, to delete the words "duly celebrated within the Union," was agreed to.

Clause 5, as amended, was then agreed to.

Rapid progress was now made, the remaining clauses being agreed to with a number of consequential amendments.

An amendment was also agreed to, to change the date of the commencement of the Act from July 1 to Aug. 1, 1913.

The Bill was eventually reported, with amendments.

Third Reading Passed

On Wednesday, the House considered amendments made in Committee to the Immigrants Regulation Bill.

The only discussion which occurred was on amendments to Section 5, "Persons who are not to be deemed prohibited immigrants." To Sub-Section (g) of this clause, Senator SCHREINER and Senator BRENNER moved similar amendments to those they did in Committee yesterday.

The MINISTER of the INTERIOR said he was unable to meet Senator Schreiner's grievances fully, but in order to meet him partly he was prepared to move the deletion of the following words: "and duly registered at the place of celebration and having all the legal consequences of a lawful marriage," so that the sub-section would read as follows: "Any person who is proved to the satisfaction of an immigration Officer or, in case of an appeal, to the satisfaction of the Board, to be the wife or child under the age of 16 years of any person exempted by Paragraph (f) of this section, including the wife or child of a lawful monogamous marriage duly celebrated according to the rites of any religious faith outside the Union, provided that the wife or child (as the case may be) is not such a person as described in Sub-Section (i), (d), (e), (f), (g), or (h), of the last preceding section."

Senator SCHREINER said he was prepared to accept the amendment as being the next best possible to be got. He, therefore, withdrew his amendment.

Senator BRENNER likewise withdrew his. As the President was on the point of putting the Minister's amendment, Senator MUNNIK rose and said he wished to air a popular view on the Indian question. Concessions were being made daily to the Indians while the feeling of the people protested against them. If a plebiscite were taken it would be found that two-thirds were in favour of paying a tax to compensate all the Indians in the country, and clear them out of it.

The President called Senator MUNNIK to order, as he was deviating from the matter before the House.

The Minister's amendment was then agreed to, as also were the amendments to other clauses, and the Bill was then read a third time.—Reuter.

From the Editor's Chair

THE BILL

THE Bill may now become the law of the land any moment and Indians may find themselves deprived on the 1st August and thereafter of several rights which they have hitherto enjoyed. It is not possible to speak with certainty of the amendments so far carried or of the full effect of the Bill. Mr. W. P. Schreiner, who put up a strenuous fight on our behalf, was able to secure a modification of the marriage amendment and, in spite of Mr. Fischer's threat that he would not only not withdraw the registration clause but that if we did not accept the Bill in full, he might take out the whole amendment and restore the original draft, the registration clause seems to have been omitted. What the new clause in its latest form is one cannot judge without having the full text.

But even if the marriage difficulty is over, there is no doubt that the Bill leaves much that is offensive enough to compel passive resisters to resist it. It appears to leave the question of jurisdiction of the Supreme Court in a very unsatisfactory state. It deprives Indians resident in Natal of the usual facility with which they have hitherto been able to re-enter it. They may not now, as of yore, be able to do so on the strength of three years' previous residence in Natal. Nor may indentured Indians who may have paid the £3 tax be allowed to claim the right of residence therein. South Africa-born Indians may not now enter

the Cape under the Cape Act. The Free State difficulty remains as it was before. It therefore appears that this is a Bill, resistance to which is a duty and compliance a crime.

It is remarkable, however, that the Bill, though avowedly an anti-Indian Bill, had a stormy passage through both the Houses and that concessions, such as they are, were wrung from an unwilling and hard-hearted Minister. In the Senate, on two occasions the voting on certain clauses resulted in a tie. This is a good augury for the future and speaks well for the effect of passive resistance. It has quickened the spirit of inquiry into Indian matters on the part of a large number of members.

But, if some members of the Union Parliament have spoken zealously in our behalf, the Imperial Government seem to have neglected us entirely and wholly accepted the Union Government's view. Indeed; so far as they are concerned, they appear, incredible as it may seem, to have accepted the Bill as it was originally published, thus going back upon their own despatches. If Mr. Harcourt is correctly reported, he appears to believe that the Union Government are desirous of doing us full justice. This opinion certainly could not be based upon the original Draft Bill nor upon what happened in Parliament. The original draft could not well be more drastic; it was so considered by the South African Press; the attitude of the Minister in charge of the Bill could not well be more hostile.

But we need not feel sore if the Imperial Government, have betrayed us and neglected their trust. They are more concerned with pleasing the Union Government who represent an infinitesimal but a boisterous European portion of the Empire, than with pleasing India which, though supposed to be the brightest diadem in the British crown, represents a people who are long-suffering and who do not require to be pleased, much less pampered. Our final court of appeal must be ourselves. If we are true to ourselves, no doubt others will be true to us, as soon as they discover the fact, but no sooner.

THE BLOOD MONEY

THE information that the Government are introducing a Bill to relieve only ex-indentured Indian women of the burden of the annual exaction, not only does not excite in us any feeling of gratitude towards Government but it provokes resentment in that the proposal is evidence of the Government's intention not to free ex-indentured men from this intolerable and cruel burden. Their action amounts to a wilful and wanton breach of trust. Mr. Gokhale's cablegram to Mr. Polak confirms what we have said all along. The assurance as to the removal of the tax was definite and was not confined to women only. We hope that the protests that are being addressed to the Government and the wires that have gone to the Natal members of Parliament will produce the desired effect; if not, the tension between the Government and the Indian community will be increased a hundred fold. Though this impending flagrant breach of trust may not be considered a cause for the revival of Passive Resistance, it cannot but strengthen the resolve of the Passive Resisters to fight over the Immigration Regulation Bill. Indeed, it is such a scandal that, in itself, it is sufficient to warrant the taking up of Passive Resistance.

Mr. G. H. Hulett, M.P.C., addressing a meeting of his constituents in the Masonic Hall, Stanger, on Friday evening, said, with regard to trading licences, he still maintained that the trading licences should be reserved to the white people. He admitted that in this respect they had made serious mistakes in the past. The Indian had been brought into the country as a labourer; he had good wages as a labourer, and there was ample room for him to follow agricultural pursuits. He thought that they ought to take steps to see that no new licences whatever were granted to Indians.

The £3 Tax

Reuter's correspondent wires that a Bill, introduced in the Assembly on the 5th instant which amended the Indian Immigration Laws (Natal), consists of one clause, which remits licence money in respect of female indentured Indians in Natal, but does not exempt them from the necessity of obtaining a pass, or the licence prescribed in Act 17, 1895 (Natal). They continue, moreover, to be subject to the provisions of that Act, and of every other law of Natal relating to Indian immigration.

Mr. Gandhi, last week, sent the following telegram to the Minister of the Interior and several members of Parliament:—"I observe that the £3 tax is to be removed only from Indian women, showing, I presume, that there is no present intention to remove it from men. This will cause the greatest shock to thousands of Indians who, during Mr. Gokhale's visit, were made to believe that the tax would be removed from all male and female. The most responsible men in Natal met Mr. Gokhale. I am not aware that any of them defended the tax or objected to its removal. I hope that even at this late hour Government and Parliament will see the wisdom of removing the whole tax and render justice which is already overdue."

Statement by Mr. Gandhi

Mr. M. K. Gandhi writes to the *Natal Mercury* as follows:—"I observe that the Government propose to ask Parliament to remove the tax only on women. This, it is to be presumed, shows that they have no intention at present of removing it from men. Mr. Gokhale met most of the public men of Natal at Newcastle, Dundee, Maritzburg, Durban, Isipingo, and elsewhere. I had the honour of being present at all these meetings. And I do not remember a single public man having defended the tax or objected to its removal. Mr. Smuts stated the other day that he was to consult the Natal members of Parliament. If, therefore, now the tax is not removed from both males and females, the presumption will be that the Natal members do not desire to see men released from the burden. In my humble opinion the honour of Natal is involved in this matter. I can recall many a Town Hall meeting held for less important purposes. I am sure that Natal holds its honour dearer than the navigability of its beautiful harbour. Will not the public men of Durban, at a Town Hall meeting, demand from Parliament removal of this iniquitous impost? All, be they never so hostile to Indian aspirations or to my countymen's presence in this Province may join hands in overdue justice being done, and the fame of Natal being preserved.

I well remember the great meetings of Indians which Mr. Gokhale addressed at Lord's Ground, Isipingo, and, as the Hon. Mr. Marshall Campbell's guest, at Mount Edgecombe. Fully 10,000 indentured and ex-indentured Indians were present at Mr. Campbell's estate. Over 5,000 were present at Lord's. They were assured that, as Mr. Gokhale had met with no opposition from the Europeans to the removal of the tax, it would very probably be removed at an early date. Subsequently, after his interview with the Ministers, he declared that he had received assurances that the tax would be removed. This information was passed on to these thousands of helpless men and women. One man in Verulam had the "effrontery" to believe that the tax had already been repealed, and for that crime was sentenced to be imprisoned with hard labour by the Verulam Magistrate. What will these men think when they hear that, though their women will at last be free, they themselves will have to continue to pay?

Home Representations

Mr. H. S. L. Polak has received a telegram from the Hon. G. K. Gokhale, who is now in London, stating

that, in his interview with the Ministers in Pretoria, last November, when the introduction of legislation to repeal the £3 tax was discussed, and he was led to suppose that such legislation would be forthcoming this session, nothing was said then about limiting relief to women. Mr. Polak has reason to believe that representations on the subject are being made by Mr. Gokhale to the Imperial Government.

Colonial-born's Protest

Mr. A. Christopher, hon. secretary of the Colonial-born Indian Association, has written the following letter to the Hon. the Minister of the Interior, Capetown:—

Sir,—I have the honour to communicate to you that my Committee grieves to hear that you are personally undecided as to whether you would move for the repeal of the £3 tax without consulting Natal members.

The iniquity, the unjust incidence, and the hardship of the tax on those subject to it have so often been reiterated, and have been so generally admitted, that my Committee hesitates to go into the subject in any detail—for the present, in any case—feeling, as it does, that you must be acquainted with the subject. From the negotiations between yourself and the Hon. Mr. Gokhale we have been under the impression that the Ministry were not averse to the repeal of the tax. And we still do venture to hope that you will give effect to public feeling and the sentiments of the Indian community, and thus assist to relieve the poor Indians of their unjust burden, and consequent suffering and shame.

On the 9th instant the following wire was despatched from the Committee of the Colonial-born Indian Association to the Minister of the Interior, Capetown:

"Indians deeply grieved Bill just introduced exempts women only from unjust £3 tax. Respectfully submit action Government does not accord undertaking total repeal believed to be made with Hon. Gokhale. Opinion majority responsible Colonists unanimous sentiment. Indian community earnestly appeal Minister abolish tax entirely remove grievance of community, dishonouring good name Union."

Hindi Society's Letter

The following letter has also been forwarded to the Private Secretary to the Hon. the Minister of Finance, Capetown, by the Shri Hindi Jigyasa Sabha:—

Sir,—Our Sabhas of Sydenham and Mayville have read with great regret and disappointment the report of the recent discussion in the House of Assembly on the subject of the repeal of the £3 tax upon ex-indentured men, women, and children in Natal. They were in hopes that, as a result of the representations made to the Government thereon by the Hon. Mr. G. K. Gokhale last year it would be possible for the Government this session to introduce legislation repealing the tax, and the announcement that no such legislation is to be brought forward this year will undoubtedly be a cause of grave distress to an already overburdened section of the Indian community. Our Sabhas desire us respectfully to point out that those who are mainly interested in the removal of this inequitable impost are the classes that have to bear it and not merely members of Parliament, who cannot realise the heaviness of its incidence, and who in some cases are themselves responsible for having brought these people to Natal. It is, in our Sabhas' opinion, the duty of the Government specially to protect those who are otherwise unrepresented in Parliament, and we are directed to ask that the Hon. the Minister will be pleased to introduce the necessary legislation at the earliest possible date, and meanwhile to give instructions for the suspension of payment of the tax and its arrears.—(Sgd.) N. Garma and M. Rambroas, hon. secretaries.

On behalf of the Zoroastrian Anjuman, Mr. Rustomjee has sent the following telegram to the Minister of the Interior and several other members at Capetown:—
 "My Society strongly protests against Bill exempting women only payment £3 tax. Deplores with rest of Indian community fact that Bill fails to fulfil understanding that tax would be repealed entirely earliest possible moment. Society feels that effect in India news will be disastrous as impression created bad faith on part of Union Government."

Meeting of Tax-Payers

A meeting of Indian £3 tax-payers and others was held, under the auspices of the Colonial-born Indian Association, near the Indian Market, Victoria Street, Durban, early on Thursday morning, to protest against the Bill now before Parliament which exempts women from payment of the tax but retains it for men. The position was explained in Tamil and Hindi to those present by Messrs. V. R. R. Moodaly, K. R. Nayanah, Goolabsingh, and others, and the following resolution was unanimously passed for transmission to the Government:—

"This meeting vehemently protests against the Bill now before Parliament to exempt Indian women only from payment of the unjust £3 tax; the meeting regards the Bill as a violation of the understanding communicated to the public by the Honourable Mr. Gokhale, both in South Africa and in India, and uncontradicted by the Ministers, that the tax was to be wholly repealed at an early date; the meeting denounces the tax as inhuman and its maintenance a disgrace to the good name of South Africa, and earnestly calls upon the Government and Parliament to amend the Bill so as to exempt all Indians, men and women alike, from payment of the tax and its arrears."

The feeling of the meeting was unanimous that, if the Bill passed unamended as above, the tax-payers should be advised to refuse to pay the tax and go to gaol for non-payment.

Dealers' Licences.

In the Natal Provincial Council on the 4th instant His Honour the ADMINISTRATOR moved the second reading of the Retail Dealers' Licences Amendment Draft Ordinance. He said it was hardly fair that dealers in South African produce only should be exempt from the ordinary licence, and the Bill would make them subject to it. The question of hawkers in the matter of licensing had been raised by the Durban and City Chambers of Commerce, and this would be dealt with when the Bill reached the Committee stage.

Mr. GRAVES said the Chambers of Commerce up-country had passed resolutions in favour of the Bill. Persons who professed to sell nothing but Colonial produce also sold other things in some instances, and yet were not at present compelled to take out a licence.

Mr. HUNTER said complaints were frequently made against Indian traders in this respect.

Mr. DYSON said small holders, who retailed what they produce, should be protected.

Mr. SCHOFIELD suggested that if the words "with the exception of the produce of his own land and labour" were inserted it would meet the objection of the previous speaker.

The Bill was read a second time.

On the 11th instant the Committee stage of the Ordinance was taken.

Mr. BYRON pointed out that the ordinance as it stood would not include those dealers who would turn round after the passage of the Bill and say they were not dealers, but agents.

The clause was allowed to stand down and progress was reported.—*Natal Mercury*.

A Protest

The Colonia-born Indian Association addressed the following letter under date the 9th instant:—
 To the Honourable the Administrator of the Province of Natal.

Sir,—The Committee of the Colonial-born Indian Association has read with alarm the Bill seeking to repeal the exemption contained in item No. 26 under the heading, retail dealer in the second Schedule of the Licence and Stamp Act No. 43, 1898.

The repeal while creating a new licence will, in effect, place the power of issuing licence in the hands of the Licensing Officer for the Province, whose decisions, as you are aware, are unappealable except on questions of procedure.

My Committee would respectfully point out that by the withdrawal of the exemption, one of the very few avenues open to Indians to earn a bare livelihood, will be closed. In this, Colonial-born Indians will suffer with their compatriots, and we, therefore, venture to suggest that the repeal will inflict a hardship upon the Indians.

May we hope that you will be pleased to submit our objections to the members of the Council, who, we pray, will take them into consideration.

Another Scandalous Case.

An urgent application was brought before the Full Bench in the Natal Province Division of the Supreme Court on Tuesday morning, by Mr. E. W. Pitcher in which an order was prayed restricting and restraining the deportation of an Indian woman Hajara, at present on board the S.S. *Palamcott* now in the Durban harbour.

The plaintiff was an Indian named Jamal Goma, a storekeeper, residing at 549, Loop street, and the holder of a certificate of domicile. This man stated that he was the husband of the woman on board the *Palamcott*, whom the Chief Immigration Officer at Durban had refused permission to land because he alleged that she had not come here armed with a marriage certificate.

Hajara, declared the plaintiff in his affidavit, was his only wife, and he said that there was no law in India which required the registration of Indian marriages. He did not know for certain, therefore, whether he could produce his marriage certificate. He could produce evidence, however, that the woman was his wife. He could produce evidence locally that Hajara was his wife. As the *Palamcott* was expected to leave Durban in a day or two he prayed the Court to grant the order prayed.

The order as prayed was granted, and the effect of the order of the Court telegraphed to the Chief Immigration Officer at Durban.—*Natal Mercury*.

Indian Women's Bazaar

The following further contributions have been received for the Bazaar:—Messrs. Gopal Bhagvan and Co., 5 pillows; Mr. Mahomed Ally, 3 handkerchiefs; Mr. M. P. Fancy, 1 tin of biscuits and 10 lbs. of sweets; Mr. Ameeruddin, 1 doz. mercerised silk handkerchiefs; Mr. Fakir Ebrahim, two scarves; Mr. M. E. Bulbulia, 1 fascinator; Messrs. M. Hoosen Mia and Co., 6 silk handkerchiefs, and beads; Mr. Hassan Rajah, child's silk bonnet; Moosa Acoojee, three chiffon scarves; Porbandar Trading Co., 25 lbs. Sugar; Mr. Bhula Makan, 1 blouse; Mr. Vithal Lala, 1 waistcoat; Mr. Sukha Laxmidas, 1 pair of trousers; Mr. Chita Koooverjee, 1 waistcoat; Mr. Ranchhod Ichharam, 1 waistcoat; Mr. N. Vithal, 1 waistcoat; Messrs. A. M. Suliman Mia and Co., 3 blouse lengths; Mr. Abdul Ganie, 11 handkerchiefs. The fruit merchants of Johannesburg have also promised contributions. Their names will be given later.

Natal Indian Schools.

The following are the remarks of the School Inspectors for the Coast of Natal—

"The Indian Schools continue to improve year by year and the best of them are now very efficient institutions indeed. All the head teachers are certificated and in the case of the schools conducted by St. Aidan's Missions many of the assistants also possess certificates. In the formal subjects the Indians excel, but they are still weak, though not so weak as in former years, in the content studies. It appears to be difficult to arouse any interest in history and geography. The knowledge of these subjects shown by the Indian teachers themselves in their examinations is very limited. Manual work has been commenced in most of the Indian schools, but progress has been hindered by want of suitable material. Adequate provision for vocational instruction at the Indian schools is becoming a matter of necessity. At present the instruction given is almost entirely literary, and the children are inclined to despise the manual occupations by which alone the majority of them can hope to earn a living. The interest in education shown by the pupils and the zeal for further instruction exhibited by the teachers are worthy of the highest commendation."

The Immigration Officer

In the House of Assembly, on Monday, during the debate on the estimates, Mr. ALEXANDER (Capetown, Castle) called for tact and consideration from the Chief Immigration Officer.

Mr. MADELEY (Springs) referred to the salaries drawn by the Natal Indian Immigration Department, which compared more than favourably with the salaries paid to other immigration officials. He specially cited £650 per annum paid to the Protector of Indian Immigrants, as against only £650 to the Chief Immigration Officer.

The MINISTER, replying said that the Immigration Officer had gone up from Capetown to Durban, and while he was there had tightened up where there had been a little slackness.

Mr. HENDERSON (Durban, Berea) admitted the new man's zeal, but he must admit that his zeal was not tempered by discretion. So far as he (Mr. Henderson) knew, the previous officer carried out his work just as well, and with less friction.

Mr. ORR (Maritzburg North) corroborated the remarks of the previous speaker.

News in Brief

At question-time in the House of Commons on the 11th instant, Mr. Lewis Harcourt (Secretary of State for the Colonies) informed Mr. O'Grady (Labour member for East Leeds) that he was aware that protests had been made in South Africa, and doubtless also in India, against the new Union Immigrants' Restriction Bill as introduced, but the measure had since been somewhat modified. The Imperial Government had had prolonged correspondence with the Union Government, and the latter Ministers had shown every desire to meet the anxiety of the Imperial Government that racial inequality of Indians before the law should be removed. The Imperial Government felt that, although it could not be hoped that the Bill would give complete satisfaction, the abolition of this differentiation in regard to immigration was a valuable concession to Indian feeling.—*Reuter*.

The proprietor of the Dainty Tea Rooms, Mr. H. Johnson, was charged in the Police Court, Maritzburg, on the 9th instant, with assaulting an Indian. It was

stated in the course of evidence for the defence given by Constable Davidson, that the defendant had made several complaints to the police regarding Indians congregating about his place. The Magistrate, in finding the accused guilty, said that he was in sympathy with him to a certain extent, but the Indians had just as much right to the footpath as he had. He would, therefore, only fine him 10s.—*Times of Natal*.

Mr. A. Christopher, hon. secretary, Durban United Indian Sports Association wrote to the Durban Town Council, asking that the laying out of the proposed Indian recreation ground be proceeded with at an early date. The Committee recommended reply that owing to the pressure of work in the Public Works Department, it was not feasible to make a commencement with this work at the present date.

The Free State members (says the *Natal Mercury's* Parliamentary Correspondent) are compelling Mr. Sauer to restore to the Free State the much-loved laws of the Republic on the subject of colour. Mr. Jagger showed the House a sample of them—it was a clause enacting that a coloured person might attend divine service if provided with an employer's pass. "And," added Mr. Jagger, sarcastically, "I suppose get to heaven too on the same terms."

Reuter's correspondent at Wellington telegraphs that eight passive resisters against the New Zealand Defence Act have been fined £4 each and sentenced to loss of civil rights for five years.—*Reuter*.

Commenting on the fact that Ministers, when travelling by train, with their families, are taken free of charge, the *Natal Advertiser* remarks:—

Ministers, therefore, are actually allowed to cart their families about with them over the State railways free of expense, and Government is seriously considering the question of extending the privilege to ordinary members of Parliament. If a Minister in receipt of £3,000 a year is not ashamed to sponge on the public to this extent, a mere member at £400 cannot be expected to. One would really like to know the Ministerial definition of a family. Presumably it covers anything from a great-grandfather to a great-grand child, with side-shoots of "his cousins and his uncle and aunts." It will be noticed that although one or two noble Senators found the matter "amusing" the Minister of the Interior was quite serious when he stated that he would see what could be done to oblige members. Amusing! Here we are back again in the whole wretched system of Krugerian perquisites, and Ministers think it all quite proper, and senators laugh, when both should be heartily ashamed of themselves.

"But do you not crave for the delights of civilization?" asked the special commissioner of the *Christian Commonwealth*, of Mr. Dan Crawford, a missionary who has spent twenty-two years without a break in the "long grass" of Central Africa and who has written a remarkable book of his experiences entitled "Thinking Black." To the question, Mr. Crawford replied:—

"Oh, dear," he said, with a sort of humorous despair, "what has civilization to offer that we haven't got? You are not living at all. You are only existing. Away out in the wilds you get down to the bedrock of the human race. There it is that you hear the voices of Nature stealing into your soul. There you must be a poet. Every man in Africa is his own Wordsworth. Poor old London! Many a poet dies young under a man's waistcoat in London. The blight and curse of London now is this delirium of speed. 'They that believe shall not make haste.' If a man bolts his food (as you all do) he is sure to have dyspepsia, and here you have gone in for bolting everything, with the result that you have disarranged the gastric functions in all departments. There is a going forward that is really a going back, and if you go far east you will find that you are going west."