

Indian Opinion

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"THE IMPERIAL ASPECT"

AFTER dealing with the Immigrants Regulation B.II, the Capetown correspondent of the *Morning Post*, in a letter dated the 14th May last, thus states what he calls the Imperial aspect:—

It is impossible to discuss with adequacy the detailed reasons which have led the Unionists to offer very drastic criticisms of the new Bill. So strong are the objections which they entertain to many of its features that Sir Thomas Smartt, in his speech on the second reading, declared explicitly that if the Imperial Government had not given its consent to the Bill as drafted, the Unionists would have carried their resistance to the second reading to extreme lengths. As it was, the Unionists allowed the second reading to pass without division, but Sir Thomas gave notice to the Government that unless the objectionable provisions of the measure were modified in the Committee stage the party which he leads would do their utmost to prevent the Bill passing into law during the present session. To have voted against the second reading would have been to have recorded what would have amounted to a vote of censure upon the Imperial Government, and this the Unionists were not prepared to do. The difficulty of the whole matter is that the Indian community, both in South Africa and in India itself, has the strongest objection to the mention of Indians in the Bill as being subject to exclusion from the Union. The Imperial Government has evidently contented itself with a concentration upon this point, and appears to be willing to consent to almost any other provision so long as there is no specific mention in the Bill of the exclusion of Indians. No one can fail to appreciate the difficulties of the Imperial Government in the matter. His Majesty's Ministers find themselves between the upper millstone of the demand of the self-governing people of South Africa to be allowed to exercise the free rights of excluding Indians from their country, and the nether millstone of the objection of the Indians to legislation which excludes Indians by name. Yet the Indian community of South Africa, and the Indian Government, as representing the people of British India, have both repeatedly declared that they do not object to exclusion by administrative action. In the circumstances it is but natural that the Imperial Government should waive any objection to the placing of extraordinarily drastic administrative powers in the hands of the South African Government. On the other hand, the leaders of the Indian community have declared that they have the strongest objections to the present Bill, and that, if it becomes law, they will advise their people to resort to the extreme course of passive resistance. "It," says the Unionists, "this Bill is not going to satisfy the Indian community, why should we allow the Govern-

ment to take these drastic powers, which may be used not only against the Indians, but also against other immigrants whom we consider desirable, but who may not find favour in the eyes of the present Government or its successors?" Such is the Unionist case; and it is certain that unless the Ministry is prepared to recognise and meet the points of this case (it may be added that in doing this they will also go far to meet the legitimate objections of the Indian community in South Africa) it will be difficult to secure the passage of the Bill through Parliament during the present session.

Transvaal Indian Women's Bazaar

The Johannesburg Indian Bazaar, which was due entirely to the indefatigable energy of Mrs. Vogl, was held on Wednesday and Thursday last, the 2nd and 3rd instant, at the Ebenezer Church Hall. The Bazaar was successful in so far as the support received in the shape of donations and gifts was concerned, as also for the European support that was given to it. It was in these two respects better than the last one. But, unfortunately, the visitors to the Bazaar were not so numerous as on the occasion, nor were the sales as extensive. It was also unfortunate in that the most beautiful and most expensive goods sent from India were stolen on the way.

The ornamental woodwork, for which the plans were prepared in Mr. Kallanbach's office, was executed by Mr. Narandas Maistri. It required work for days, but Mr. Narandas never flinched.

The stalls were in charge of Mrs. Ritch and daughters, Mrs. Pratt, Mrs. Harvey, Mrs. Goldstone, Mrs. Kelsey, Mrs. Van Weenen, Mrs. and Miss Bush, Mrs. McKissock and Miss Schlesin.

On the first day, the Bazaar was presided over by the Rev. Chas. Phillips, in the absence of Mr. Hosken through indisposition, and the opening ceremony was performed by the Mayoress (Mrs. Boustred) who was presented with a bouquet by Miss Achie Morgan. Amongst the European guests who attended were Mrs. and Miss Doke, Mrs. Henderson, Mr. and Mrs. Rodgers, Miss Judd, Mr. Nelson, Miss Knudsen, Mr. Gott, Mr. Vogl, Mr. Kallanbach, Mr. Cole, Mr. Forrest. On the second day also Mr. Phillips presided, and the opening ceremony was performed by Mrs. Drummond Chaplin, to whom a bouquet was presented by Miss Violet Ernest. Mr. Gandhi thanked the European supporters and donors for their valuable assistance. All the work in connection with the Bazaar was done by volunteers;

and the thanks of the Committee are due to Mr. Naran-das Maistri and his assistants, Mr. David Ernest, Mr. Morgan Sr., Mr. Thambi Naidoo, Mr. Medh, Mr. P. K. Desai, Mr. David Morgan, Mr. Willy Morgan, as also to Mr. Morris who presided at the piano.

The thanks of the Committee are also due to Mrs. Doke, Mrs. Ritch, Mrs. and Miss West, Mrs. and Miss Bush, and other European ladies who so kindly assisted with needlework for the Bazaar.

The funds realised will be devoted partly to the continuation of the work commenced by Mrs. Vogl and partly to some suitable memorial to the late Passive Resisters, Nagappan and Naryansamy. Probably, the amount will be set apart for scholarships for South African-born Tamil youths to complete their studies in India.

Manufacturers' Licences

An important test case was decided at the City Police Court yesterday, (says the *Natal Witness* of the 14th ultimo) before Mr. C. F. W. Hime, when Parsotom Vallabh, an Indian, was charged on summons with carrying on the business of a manufacturer, and making a suit of clothes, to the order of E. Soobiah, for £3 15s., and also one for M. M. Padayachee for £3 15s., without having previously obtained the requisite licence.

Mr. Tomlinson, who appeared for the defence, admitted that his client had no licence.

able Barron prosecuted. Mr. O. Kufal
itch the case on behalf of the Corpora-

ce of Wm. H. Walters (Inspector of
t to show that accused was carrying on
ness at 425 Church Street. Clothing material and
ths were displayed in the window and on the counter.

February-accused was warned because he had go
anufacturer's licence. Later on, as the practice was
discontinued, action was taken, and it was
ained that goods had been manufactured for Indians.
eed had no licence of any description to trade within
orough.

nder cross-examination witness said to his knowledge
sed made clothes to order and effected repairs and
ations. He gave evidence in a case previously
ought against accused, in which the Court held he
an artificer.

his Worship (smiling): I am not bound by any
er Court.

the Bench to witness: Was it a similar charge?—
es, your Worship.

Replying to queries by the Court, witness said that
butchers did not take out manufacturers' licences, but
some manufactured brawn. There were bakers in town
who only made bread, and did not take out a retail
licence. Millers took out both.

Mr. Tomlinson, on behalf of the accused at this stage
admitted his client did make two suits to order as
set forth in the summons.

The case for the prosecution closed.
Counsel were heard in argument.

In delivering judgment his worship said that by
the Act, power was given to the Corporation to define
the nature of a licence, which they were authorised to
issue, and in their wisdom they had seen fit to adopt
a very wide interpretation of the meaning of a manu-
facturers' licence.

Although he was perfectly certain that what had
been done by accused was the business of an artificer,
what he had to consider was whether an artificer did
not do something which had been included by the
Court in the definition of manufacturer, as was adopted
in the case of Barking, and undoubtedly if that defini-
tion was adopted by the Court as taken in its wide
sense, it would include not only accused, but every

butcher who made brawn, every miller who ground
corn, every shoemaker who used leather, in fact it
would include the ordinary youngster who, for pocket
money, made bird-cages and sold them to his friends.
Seeing that the City Council had taken over the Provin-
cial Council Ordinance, almost in its entirety, it was very
difficult for him to say the former body had exceeded
its powers.

An Elastic Word

The Corporation had adopted the word "manu-
facturer" in its widest sense. If it was to be carried
to its logical conclusion, every person in Maritzburg
could be called upon to take out a manufacturer's
licence. At the same time the Council had shown dis-
crimination, and had not unreasonably exercised its
privileges within the power given to it.

In view of the wide definition of the by-law, he
must hold accused was carrying on the business of
a manufacturer under the by-laws. But when he had
regard to the wide nature of the definition and to the
fact that this man was chosen out where others more
wealthy might have been chosen, he was against im-
posing any penalty at all.

He looked to the City Council—where artificer as
distinct from trader was to be called upon for a manu-
facturer's licence—to take action against some person
of authority, who would be in the position, if he so
desired, to bring the matter before a higher court.

Accused was reprimanded and discharged.

A Hindu Citizen of the U. S. A.

[BY OUR LONDON CORRESPONDENT]

In connection with the account I have given
at length because of its importance, of the case of
the Indians in-Canada, the following account of
how a Hindu has been made a citizen of the
United States will be read with interest. It will be
remembered that President Wilson, who has only
just assumed the reins of Government in the United
States, is at this moment earnestly striving to
prevent the passing by California of a law excluding
the Japanese from owning land in that State; Cali-
fornia seems obdurate, but is within its rights in
making its own legislation, and is likely to have
its way. Meanwhile in Japan the matter is being
regarded with serious misapprehension, and menacing
statements are being made in the Japanese Press.
The story is taken from the *Standard*, and is sent
by that paper's New York Correspondent. It is
briefly as follows:—

After two years of litigation, Judge Frank H.
Rudkin, of Washington, held that Akhay Kumar
Mozumdar was "a free white person" and entitled
to American citizenship. He is a native of Calcutta
and a Yogi philosopher. The same Judge had
previously denied his application for citizenship,
but counsel had been appointed to investigate and
it was eventually concluded that those who drew
up the American Constitution had no conception
of the vast immigration problems with which their
successors have been faced, and that they did not
intend to exclude the members of the Caucasian
race. Mozumdar had argued that he was a high
caste Hindu of the Aryan race. The Judge agreed
that "certain of the natives of India belonged to
the Caucasian race though the line of demarcation
between different castes and classes may be dim and
difficult of ascertainment." In the end, however,
he agreed that until stricter rules for the guidance of
those who administer the law are laid down by the
Congress, Mozumdar came within the Naturalisation
Act, and would be admitted to citizenship upon taking
the oath prescribed by law.

From the Editor's Chair

THE GREAT STRIKE

THE story of the great strike in the gold area near and in Johannesburg is a sad and heart-rending one. It is not within our scope to distribute the blame for the death-roll and the injuries that should have been avoidable. Nor need we express an opinion on the terms of the settlement. But, as an organ of the passive resistance movement, it may be permitted to us to examine how brute-force, matched against brute-force, has availed either party. The mining magnates had and could command any force and inexhaustible capital. This was well known to the strike leaders and the strikers themselves. The strikers had possibly a just cause and numbers on their side. They felt a grievance and they struck work. So far they were passive resisters. Against them the magnates could use no force; their money could not buy them. Simple justice alone could have induced the strikers to return to work. Had the strikers stopped at cessation of work, it is evident that the spilling of innocent blood would have been avoided; there would have been no wild scenes with which the newspapers have made us familiar; there would have been no merciless firing. But the leaders and men could not exercise patience; they believed in physical force. They were angry against the magnates; they wanted to wreak vengeance; they intimidated the men, who were still working, into leaving the mines; they destroyed property; they dethroned reason and enthroned violence. They were met by a superior force. The result is a patched-up peace. The distance between the mine-owners and the miners has increased; mutual distrust has become intensified; jealousies will be more accentuated; the owners will try to find out means whereby they could be independent of men so far as possible; machinery to dispense with man's labour will be invented and an attempt will be made to render capital more secure. In the end, the owners will find themselves non-plussed, in spite of inventions. And they will find, to their cost, that, if they must rely for their sustenance on serving others, theirs must be a comparatively hard lot. Thus will there be a "stale-mate." This seems to us to be the logical result of the use of physical force. Suppose, however, that the men had simply struck work and relied solely upon the justice of their cause to vindicate itself; the result could only have been mutually beneficial. The so-called blacklegs would, in time, have also ceased work. The owners would have seen the folly of their ways and implored their men to return to work. It may be argued that, in practice, capitalists have always been able to replace strikers unless there has been force used against those accepting work. There is much to be said in favour of this statement. But it has been here assumed that men who believe in justice also believe in their ability to command a due wage for their labour in any place on earth. If they have no faith in themselves, and if they feel that they cannot do without particular masters, they are self-made slaves who may strike if they wish but whose strike can never better their condition in reality. They may get an enhanced wage; they may have reduced hours of work; but they have pledged their souls. They may not call themselves free men. To us, the lesson of the strike is unmistakable. Brute-force will avail against brute-force only when it is proved that darkness can dispel darkness.

The Effect of the Stoppage of Indian Labour

A recent issue of *South Africa* contains an interview with the Hon. Sir Liege Hulett, who is at present in London.

"What," Sir Liege Hulett was asked, "is the effect of the stoppage of the introduction of coolies from India?"

"It has practically doubled the wages we have to pay for coloured labour, whether Indian or native, and must affect the increase of cultivation by curtailing the profits to some extent. This rise in wages has helped to keep natives in Natal, for, though the pay is not so high as on the Rand, the purchasing power is greater, and the natives save more money, which pleases the heads of the kraals. Then we have substituted a system of native labour in place of rent. That is to say, if a native works for us at the current wages for six months, we exempt him from paying any rent."

"And these things," we suggested, "form a way out of the labour difficulty?"

"We have found a partial way out," answered Sir Liege Hulett. "Of course, we have a large number of Indians in Natal—well over 100,000, including the women and children—and these are an increasing factor. Their growth in numbers, owing to the excess of the birth-rate over the death-rate, is very considerable. That growing population of Indians must find work to do, and a large number come on to the estates. The working age may be put at 15 and onwards, so that every year there must be so many more young men coming into the labour market."

"But are the Indians satisfied to be agricultural labourers?"

"Most of them have to be. Of course, there are many Indian traders, but there is now no more scope in that direction and the young Indians must go to the land, to which they naturally belong. That is the class we are getting, though at a higher wage than was paid to the indentured Indians."

"Why a higher rate?"

"The general rate of pay has increased, the industries having developed by leaps and bounds."

"And you cannot form a ring to keep down wages?"

"No; the man who treats the labour best gets the most."

"Do your Indians return to India now?"

"Only a very small proportion, as they cannot return to South Africa. Consequently, they are re-indenturing and staying in Natal." The Government, Sir Liege explained, permits a re-indentured Indian to visit his native country and return. As only about two years have elapsed since the prohibition of the further introduction of freshly indentured coolies, there is still a large number in Natal. But the Indian women are not now employed as they used to be. Some still volunteer for work on the estates, but for the most part they are beginning to make better homes and stay there. Though the Indian agitators of the Transvaal wish their fellow countrymen to have the free run of the whole Union, the other Province object to this, as does Natal, for the reason that it requires the labour locally.

"Are the Indians making any notable progress in education?"

"Some of them want to send their children to school, as it gives the clever boys a chance of becoming clerks for Indian stores, which are required by law to keep their books in English. The European merchants do not now employ Indian clerks, but the lawyers do."

"You rely upon public opinion in the matter of the employment of coloured clerks in stores?"

"Yes, and everything tends to send the bulk of the Indians to the land, where, I may say, many of them

are able to read and write, at any rate in their own language."

"Evidently," we remarked, "your labour supply comes from somewhere, as the production has gone up?"

"We are utilising the unindentured Indians and the natives to a greater extent and at higher wages, and we are using more animal labour in the work of cultivation and mechanical appliances to a greater extent than before. For instance, in one of our mills we have an American off-loader which takes the whole of a load from a truck and puts it on the platform for the feeding of the mills. The effect is to release our trucks and to enable six or eight men to do what formerly required 50 or 60."

In short, as Sir Liege Hulett admitted in conclusion, though the labour difficulty is serious for the moment the outlook has its redeeming features. Sir Liege added that he had some hope of Natal, and especially the warm coast districts, being able to employ the natives from tropical Africa for whom the climate of the Rand had been found unsuited.

Temporary Permits

In order to show how even in important and *bona-fide* cases temporary permits are refused to British Indians, we print the following correspondence between Mr. Polak and the Registrar of Asiatics:—

Mr. Polak to the Registrar, 12th May, 1913.

"Mr. Isaac Samuel David, of Durban, is desirous of visiting the Transvaal temporarily in order to see his father who resides there. He was born in Natal and is personally known to me as a very respectable young man.

"I enclose a certificate from the Revd. A. A. Baillie setting forth his qualifications. The school holidays commence in July, and I should be glad if you would kindly issue to him a temporary permit to visit the Transvaal during that period."

"St. Aidan's Indian Mission, Natal.

"St. Aidan's College Private Bag,

"Durban, May 3rd, 1913.

"This is to certify that Isaac Samuel David, of Overport, near Durban, a teacher in the employment of this Mission, was born on November 26th, 1894, and baptized in this Mission on February 24th, 1895. I understand he is anxious for a permit to visit his father, who resides in the Transvaal. He wishes to go during the holidays, this July, and to return to his work in Natal by the first of August.

"(Signed) A. A. Baillie,

"Supt. Indian Missions, Natal."

The Registrar to Mr. Polak, 15th May, 1913.

"With reference to your letter of the 12th instant, I regret I am unable to comply with your request in respect of a temporary permit for Mr. I. S. David."

Mr. Polak to the Registrar, 19th May.

"I am in receipt of your letter of the 15th instant, herein, No. 1/E/21333, informing me that you are unable to comply with my request on behalf of Mr. David.

"As I am aware that temporary permits are issued by you to Indians from time to time, may I know upon what principle, if any, your refusal to issue one in this case is based?"

The Registrar to Mr. Polak, 22nd May.

"I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 19th instant and to state that I have nothing to add to the communication addressed to you on the 15th idem by Mr. Cody, in respect to I. S. David."

The Education of Coloured Children

The subject of Coloured education has secured a certain amount of prominence of late (says the *A.P.O.*). In the recent petition on the subject, it was pointed out that the School Boards of the Cape Province only interested themselves in a paltry 1,787 Coloured children, whilst in the Cape Peninsula alone there were 4,000 embryo hooligans, who were growing up in ignorance and vice. . . . Every stray and unwilling European child who has not yet found his way into a school, is being eagerly hunted up by the attendance officers. Willing Coloured children, whose parents are prepared to pay, are dismissed from white schools, and no provision is made for them. . . . It is almost ten years ago since the boards were formed, and large sums of money have been spent on building new schools. . . . Not a penny has been spent in the erection of a single Coloured school. When the educational needs of the Coloured population are mentioned, the inevitable reply is: "We have no funds." But funds are readily found for building colossal palaces for European children.

The building of a large European school costing £20,000 is undoubtedly making us think a little more about educational matters. Within a few yards of this school is the Coloured second-class public school, the highest grade Coloured School in the Peninsula. Look at the building! A building which some years ago was found unfit for a white third-class school is good enough for the Coloured people. . . .

The European School Boards have proved themselves incapable, selfish and narrow-minded, and have failed hopelessly in discharging their duties.

Immigration Judgment

By an order of March 15 last, an interdict was granted by Mr. Justice Carter at the Durban and Coast Circuit Court, upon the motion of Banoo Gulam Mohideen, restraining the Chief Immigration Officer, Natal, and all other persons, until further order from deporting one Abdul Kadar Bambhai, provided the applicant should deposit with the said officer the sum of £25 or security to that amount, for a visiting pass, for the expenses of the deportation of the said Bambhai if necessary, and for other costs or expenses which might be ordered to be paid by the applicant. Further, the order called upon the Chief Immigration Officer to show cause why he should not be ordered to permit the said Bambhai, then on board the *S.S. Salamis*, to land and remain in Natal.

The applicant, a fruit dealer, of Ladysmith, is the father of Bambhai, who is now 18 years of age, and was born in Surat, India.

The applicant applied in 1910 for permission for his son Bambhai to land in Natal, he arriving on or about March 10, describing him as "a passenger" by the boat *Kansler*. The applicant also asked for a certificate of domicile for his son.

Mr. Justice Gardiner said that the appellant's father was domiciled in Natal in 1898, and had been confirmed to be so domiciled. The applicant came here in 1910, when he was 15 years old with the intention of permanently residing in Natal, and he lived here two years. On account of his own health and the illness of his mother, he went on a visit to India in March, 1912. He returned in March 1913, and the Chief Immigration Officer sought to prohibit his entry into Natal because he could not fulfil the test laid down in section 5 (a) of Act 30 of 1903, and the officer accordingly was of the opinion that he was not domiciled in Natal. These facts were not disputed, and it might be added that the applicant was married in India, in 1904, but he was then only 9 years old, and there-

fore his Lordship held that, in his opinion, that marriage could not be considered as having made him a major in 1904 for the purpose of the Natal law. While the Court might not be able to interfere with the discretion of the Immigration Officer on matters of fact, where that discretion had been exercised *bonafide*, the Court was not precluded, in his opinion, from correcting his mistakes of law. In his opinion the applicant was domiciled in Natal, and he was not one of the domiciled persons shut out by Act 3 of 1906.

He concurred in the order in favour of the applicant, which Mr. Justice Carter proposed to make.

Rabindranath Tagore

At the close of Rev. C. F. Andrews' lecture at Simla on Rabindranath Tagore (says the *Modern Review*), the Viceroy spoke of him as the poet laureate of Asia.

At a lecture in Dublin delivered in March last, Mr. W. B. Yeats, the poet of the Celtic Revival, said: "Tagore was not only a great poet—if not the greatest poet at the present time in the world—but he was a great saint, and his religious lyrics were known and sung all over Bengal."

Mr. Under-Secretary Montagu has said that Rabindranath is doing incalculable good to India by teaching beauty, love, religion and patriotism.

Every newspaper and review in England of any note has published an appreciation of "Gitanjali." *The Observer* quotes the following, saying, "we cannot deny ourselves the delight of quoting the finest patriot song that we can ever remember to have read"—

Where the mind is without fear and the head is held high;
Where knowledge is free;
Where the world has not been broken up into fragments
by narrow domestic walls;
Where words come out from the depth of truth;
Where tireless striving stretches its arms to perfection;
Where the clear stream of reason has not lost the way
into the dreary desert sand of dead habit;
Where the mind is led forward by thee into ever-widen-
ing thought and action—
Into that heaven of freedom, my Father, let my country
awake.

His School

In an interview with Mr. Tagore, by the special Commissioner of the *Christian Commonwealth*, the writer says:—

For some years the poet has devoted himself to his school, described to me as a sort of nature monastery. Mr. Tagore explained that he "started a boarding school," but it appears to be a school-boy's paradise. "My father built a small house a few hours' journey away from the city," he said, "on a wide, bare heath, where there are only two very old trees standing. Under these trees he built a stone seat, and spent his days in meditation. I started my school there. It is a new experiment, because we have no such boarding schools in Bengal; parents do not like to send away their children. Most of the boys who came to me at first were supposed to be unmanageable; my school was regarded as a sort of penal settlement for them! But I found that somehow the old associations of the place and the freedom they enjoyed changed the boys marvellously in a very short time. The training is on spiritual lines. I do not believe in violent methods, and the boys do pretty much as they like; they climb the trees and run about the garden, their classes are held out in the open air, and the teachers live with them as friends. My system? I have no system. I make the boys as happy as possible; that is my only method. They perform charades and plays, produce a school magazine, and I provide them with papers and magazines to read. The teaching in ordinary schools used to repel me, and I remember it in dealing with my boys. I make them happy." The repetition of

the phrase seemed to supply the clue to Mr. Tagore's conception of education.

He began, I learned, with five or six boys, and there are now nearly 200. He will not allow more than ten boys in a class, believing that a teacher cannot give proper attention to more. The teaching staff numbers twenty-two. The cost to the parents is not more than eighteen rupees a month, or a little more than £1 for each boy, which covers everything—boarding, tuition, medical attendance, and laundry.

Our Friends in India

At the twentieth Madras Provincial Conference held in May, Mr. G. A. Natesan moved the following resolution:—

1. "That this Conference desires to place on record its high appreciation of the noble and unselfish labours of the Hon. Mr. G. K. Gokhale in the cause of the Indians of South Africa during his recent visit to that country. This Conference further desires to place on record its deep sense of sorrow and disappointment that as yet the Union Government has not been able to take prompt and effective measures to put an end to a situation which has for years past been 'a growing scandal.' 2. This Conference authorises the President to send a message of sympathy to Mr. Gandhi and our fellow countrymen, who have been for years strenuously and heroically fighting for the honour and glory of their motherland. 3. This Conference is emphatically of opinion that the indenture system of recruiting labour in India for British colonies has resulted in untold misery and suffering to the labourers and is as injurious to the self-respect of the Indian people as it is opposed to the British sense of freedom. It regrets that the Government of India has not accepted the Resolution of the Hon. Mr. Gokhale proposing the entire abolition of the system, and trusts that the Government will take immediate steps to put an end to an evil which has provoked universal indignation in the country."

Mr. K. Srinivasa Iyengar of Tanjore seconded the resolution and spoke of the several hardships experienced by the Indians of South Africa.

Will India Retaliate?

The Indian Daily News approves of Mr. Justice Hasan Imam's suggestion, given in his evidence before the Public Service Commission, that India should discriminate against Colonials in the Public Service of India. It says:—

There is one suggestion in the evidence of Mr. Justice Imam which is of considerable importance in principle and that is the exclusion from the service of British subjects belonging to Colonies which exclude Indians. It is possible that this will not exclude many but it is a good principle and one of the few legitimate ways in which India can express her decided views on this question. People retire from India to Australia and then send their children to the Indian Civil Service. A recent Lieut-Governor, a High Court Judge as well as a Finance Minister are instances of this and, we dare say, there are a good many more, but it is eminently desirable that these Colonies who talk such a lot about the Empire should understand what the Empire is. The Australians live in a state of chronic blue funk about Japanese aggression, they behave like some Englishmen do about the Germans, they see spies round every corner and then they make themselves disagreeable to Indian British subjects. Then they come round and ask for billets in India. With the views that prevail among Australians about the colour question, it is obvious that by their early training such men are quite unfit for the purposes of the Indian Civil Service which at least demands an

open mind on the subject of Indians. Apart, however, from the question of qualification is the question of principle. The Australians and Africans are people who have carried their race prejudices and antipathies to very great lengths and have told the mother country that they are self-governing institutions which do not intend to carry out the ideal of Empire to the extent of admitting other subjects of the Empire to equal rights. Of course, that is within their power. Great Britain is not likely to coerce them or try to do so, and as to reasoning with them, that is a mere waste of time. With regard to Natal, the Indian Government has refused to allow the colonists to buy further "slaves" from India on the ground, however, mainly of bad treatment. It is time then, that the Government of India took up the question from Mr. Imam's point of view and asserted its right to prohibit Australians, New Zealanders and Africans on principle. It would be supported by all India on this point and everyone would be pleased to see a little more pluck and plain-speaking on the subject and nothing would be more popular among Indians or calculated to make them rally round the Government. A Government which allows itself to be kicked is very much like an individual which allows himself to be kicked. And we are afraid the Indian Government has generally allowed itself to be kicked and treated by the Colonial office as Harris, the green grocer, was by Mr. Tuckle at the great Soiree at Bath.

News in Brief

Mr. Gandhi has now been for nearly two weeks in Johannesburg. He is in communication with the Government regarding the points in the Immigrants Bill that are still left unsettled. If there is no settlement arrived at, the struggle will revive immediately. We hope to be able to make a definite announcement in our next issue.

In view of the imminence of the Passive Resistance struggle, and in response to Mr. Gokhale's cable, Mr. Polak left for London last Thursday by R.M.S. *Walmer Castle*, to aid Mr. Gokhale in his representations to the authorities and other work in connection with the status of British Indians in South Africa. Mr. Gokhale is most desirous of bringing the Indian question in this sub-continent most prominently both before the Imperial Government and the Government of India.

In the House of Commons on the 10th instant, says Reuter, Mr. Harcourt informed Mr. Morrell, in reply to a question put by the latter, that he was aware of Indians' complaints in regard to the Union Immigration Law, and he hoped to lay papers on the matter on the table of the House shortly.

Prize-distributions were held at the Stanger and Cato Manor Indian Schools, on the 27th and 28th ultimo. Both schools are under the management of the St. Aidan's Mission.

The Annual Sports of the St. Aidan's College were held at Sydenham on the 30th ultimo, many European and Indian visitors being present.

We [India] understand that the Hon. Mr. Gokhale has been invited to give evidence before the Royal Commission on Indian Currency as the representative of the Bombay Chamber of Commerce. Though his health has much improved as the result of careful treatment, Mr. Gokhale feels that his duties on the Public Services Commission, upon which he has come to this country, will be of an exacting nature, and he has therefore expressed to the Secretary of the Currency Commission his inability to attend as a witness.

The Gaekwar of Baroda has, it is said, appointed a *mehtar*, i.e., a gentleman of the "untouchable" sweeper and scavenger caste, a member of his legislative council.

The following figures, taken from the Union Estimates for 1913-14, will give some indication of what it costs the public annually to restrict and "protect" Asiatics:—Salary of Registrar of Asiatics, £1,000; Chief Immigration Officers, £1,390; Protector, Indian Immigrants, £750; Deputy Protector, £500; Assistant Protector £450; Inspector, £300; Senior Clerks, £860; Clerical Assistants, £2,770; Immigration Officers, £2,623. Sundry salaries and expenses total about £3,000. This amounts to considerably over £10,000, and then there is a grant-in-aid to the Indian Immigration Trust Board of £985.

Among those who have just been honoured with the C.I.E. by the King (says the *Inquirer*) is Babu Abanindra Nath Tagore, a relative of Mr. Rabindra Nath Tagore. Mr. Abanindra Nath Tagore is the officiating principal of the Government School of Art, Calcutta, and has been described as the most original and imaginative of living Indian painters, and the fountainhead of the new influence that has been for several years past vitalising contemporary art throughout India.

Mr. R. M. Sharma, of British Guiana, writes to the *Modern Review*, describing an awful tragedy at Rose Hill sugar plantation, which resulted in the death of sixteen Indian labourers and the wounding of more than thirty others. It appears that the police ordered that five persons (alleged ring-leaders) should be handed over. This the Indians refused to do, and, without apparent cause, the police fired two volleys into the crowd, who had turned towards their homes. Some women and children were shot and met their death whilst sitting in their houses quietly. What the exact cause of the disturbance was is not quite clear, but one cannot believe that there was any warrant for shooting down defenceless people in that manner. It is another proof (if such were needed) of the servile character of the system of indentured labour. As long as it continues, such things are likely to happen. Questions were recently asked in the House of Commons regarding this matter and there is at present two officers of the Government of India making an inquiry on the spot.

The Gaekwar of Baroda in addressing his Council recently, had some very pertinent remarks to make on the question of representation on legislative bodies: He could not, he said, favour one community or caste, however "high" it might be considered, at the expense of another, however "low." He wanted all communities to be equally well represented, and in particular the agricultural classes and the depressed classes. The agricultural classes preponderated in Baroda and they were the pillars of the State. The depressed classes also ought to be enabled to make their voices heard in the Councils of the State. Graduates, vakils and other educated classes could easily make their views heard by the Government. By this he did not mean to put a low estimate on the value of representation by the literary classes. But he wanted to know also the needs and aspirations of the common man. He exhorted the Councillors to be always broad-minded and sympathetic, to discard narrow, clannish views and to look on all classes of people with a fraternal eye. If, unfortunately, some classes of people occupied a lower position than themselves, let them not treat these lower classes with contempt. If he were asked who were his teachers in regard to the reforms he wished to carry out in his State, he would reply, the agriculturists. It was for their sake that during the last thirty years he had been accumulating experience, and in the light of that experience he was labouring.