

# Indian Opinion

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## A SCHOOL INSPECTOR "SPEAKS OUT"

A LARGE number of Europeans and Indians gathered in St. Aidan's Indian Mission, Sydenham, on the 1st instant, to witness and take part in the dedication and opening of the new school for girls there. The Mission (says the *Natal Mercury*) under the Rev. A. A. Baillie, is a very active one, and this is the latest phase of its development. A number of interesting speeches were made—the Lord Bishop of Natal (Dr. Baines), the Superintendent of Education (Mr. C. Mudie), Archdeacon Gregson, and Mr. Loram (inspector of schools, Durban) taking part. The Bishop spoke of the duty of the white community to the Indians, while Mr. Loram emphasised the duty of the Indians to the whites, who, he pointed out, had done a great deal for them.

The proceedings opened with the dedication.

The opening ceremony followed immediately. This was performed by Mr. Mudie, and the assembly then filed into the building to hear the speeches. The Bishop presided.

The Superintendent (Mr. Baillie) explained that it was nearly ten years since the girls' school scheme was taken in hand by his predecessor, Canon Smyth, whom he wished could be present in order to realise the fruit of his planning and thinking out. The building had been erected at a cost of about £600—all of which, he was glad to say, had been paid. He hoped the school would prove to be one of the best Indian schools in the Province.

### The Bishop's Address

After paying the customary compliments and speaking to the Europeans present, his Lordship said they owed it to the Indian people in their midst to do the best they could for them. They were debtors to the Indians—debtors as Natalians to them, for the Indians came here, not of their own initiative, but for the European's advantage, and the Europeans owed it to them to lift them up and make their lives happier and brighter. "We owe to them," he added, "as being fellow-members of the same great Empire and fellow-subjects of the same great King. We are trustees for their moral interests, and we are neglecting a duty which we owe to them if we pass them by, as it were, on the other side, and do not do all we can to help them to lead true, clean and right lives. And we are debtors to them besides as Christians. We owe it to them to give to them that which we value more than anything else. It may not be possible for us to do very much of the work ourselves. It may be that we must do it very largely through others. We must have deputies to do this work of training and teaching and raising these people in our midst. The Mission is such a deputy, and we must support it with all our powers, by our prayers, by our work, so far as we are able

to give of that work, and by such money as we are able to contribute."

### Manual Instruction Wanted.

In his speech Mr. Mudie said: "Deeds are better than words, but in these days the tongue seems to usurp the hand, and the vapourings of the blatant and foolish appear to be taking the place of the productive activities. This afternoon's ceremony, however, demands that a little talking be done, and it was with unfeigned pleasure that I accepted Mr. Baillie's kind invitation to be here this afternoon to add my word to that of others, to rejoice with those who do rejoice, and to celebrate the consummation of a great and worthy effort.

"In Natal the organisation of schools is a quadruplex arrangement, there being separate institutions for the Europeans, the natives, the Indians, and the coloured folk, the last-named embracing Mauritian, St. Helenas, yellow people, Eurasians, half-castes, and the many more products of the miscegenation of the dark and pale races of mankind. While the education of the European and the coloured people is mainly subsidised by Government, that of the natives and Indians, on the other hand, has been chiefly undertaken by the different religious denominations, with but slender assistance from the Government. Of the 35 Indian schools in the Province no fewer than 15—that is, three-sevenths of the whole—are under the aegis of St. Aidan's Mission; and, as head of the Education Department in this Province, I have watched with great delight, deep interest, and hearty appreciation the effort made by this mission for the furtherance of education among the Indians of Natal. The cause of this satisfactory state of affairs are not far to seek; it is mainly due to the enthusiasm, energy, and organising ability of the mission superintendent. The old French proverb, "*Tel maître, tel valet*" might be paraphrased, and the words "As the superintendent, so the teacher" written on the lintel of every school door in the mission. While so much credit is due to Mr. Baillie and the teaching staff, I would take this opportunity of bestowing one word of praise on my colleagues, Inspectors Mr. Loram and Mr. Ballance, who have done so much by their advice and co-operation for Indian education in the coast district.

"Although a great deal is now being done for the education of the Indians in the Province, it is feared that it has been of a too groovy and restricted kind, that the instruction given has been

### Bookish Rather than Practical

and that the future of the child has not been sufficiently kept in view. We all know how the Indians excel in the crafts, in the industries, and as husbandmen; and it would be well if the authorities of the Indian

schools would collaborate with the Education Department in organising a scheme for the more efficient training of hand and eye, and for the strengthening of the muscle, as well as the development of the brain. To me it is pleasing to learn that a beginning is being made in this institution, and that manual instruction and industrial work are to be salient features in the curriculum of this school.

"In my last annual report I drew attention to the fact that in the Indian schools throughout the Province there were seven boys to every girl. This school will soon alter the ratio; and that it is intended for girls only and not for boys, is of the most hopeful augury for the future of the Indian community in Natal. Old prejudices are breaking down, caste-feeling is dying slowly, but surely, and I feel that the Indian girls trained in this school who will go forth from it as domesticated Christian women, will be the greatest factor in the near future in the amelioration of the social and moral conditions of the Indian people. Good wives and mothers spell happy homes; good birds are reared in good nests.

"In looking round about us we see signs of unrest on every side. Social and economic problems call for solution, education itself is in the crucible, and South Africa is a land bristling with its own peculiar difficulties, educational and other. Have we, as educationists, not been guilty of allowing instruction to pass as education? Have we not been too long content with a merely artificial and academic veneer, and are the vocational modifications proposed going to bring about educational salvation? The Indians in this Province are noted for their industry and cleverness, but the prevalent vices of uncleanness and dishonesty require ruthless eradication, and their place must be taken by the Christian virtues, if the Indian community in this country hopes to occupy an honoured position in the economy of things. The development of the child's personality and the formation of its character are of greater importance than the multiplication table and manual training, and the Education Department is satisfied that in this and the other schools which are happily under my friend Mr. Baillie the inculcation of religious and moral principles forms the basis and groundwork of the whole of the teaching.

"It is because I believe heart and soul in the education of the whole man or woman, because I see in this institution the beginning of a great movement for the betterment of the Indian people, and because you are doing so much for yourselves, that I am proud and glad to be here to-day to declare this school open and to wish it every success and a brilliant future."

Archdeacon Gregson emphasised the fact that this was a girls' school. History showed that if a people were to be raised in the best possible way, they had to look to and to help their womenkind. No race succeeded in the best possible way if it neglected its womenkind. He hoped to see the new school turn out girls who would make good wives for the rising generation of young Indian men. No educated man wanted to marry an uneducated woman, for an uneducated woman palled after a time in the view of an educated man, no matter how attractive she might be to begin with. The school would see young educated Indian women growing up side by side with young educated Indian men, and would, he felt sure, do a great deal towards the building up of solid character.

### A "Straight Talk"

Mr. Loram, inspector of schools, Durban, took a different line from the other speakers. He gave the Indians a straight talk, not, like the Bishop, on the duties of the white people to them, but upon their duties to the white people. He endeavoured to make them realise that their position in this country is not the position which many of them seem to fancy it is, but the position which they came to this country to fill—the position of manual workers. The Bishop had told them one side of the story. He had pointed out

the white man's duties to them, and what the white man owed them. But there was another and a very distinct side to the picture. "You have duties by us," he told them, "and the question I want to ask is what you Indians owe us.

"I think you owe a very great deal to the white people of this country. Surely, the white people have done a great deal for you Indians. I think I am one of those who hold the common and popular view that we do not want Indians in this country at all. We have so many problems as things are, and by immigrating Indians we have only complicated the position. But you are here, and, because we are British it behoves us to see that you take part in our social organisation. What is that part to be? I know what you want. All you boys want to go into offices, and the girls want to do fancy work at home. But that will not do. We are to keep the offices for the white boys, and thus it will come about that you Indians will have to work by your hands—go in for manual training, as the Superintendent put it. It is in that way that you will have to earn your living and the sooner you realise that, and the sooner your education is directed in that way, the better.

### We European People

have taught you how to earn your living. But is it not a fact that a great many educated Indian young men and boys do nothing for a living? They walk about Grey Street dressed up, and smoking cigarettes, and their parents have to keep them. We have taught you, and now you must work. Your education has done you some good. You are better than you used to be, but you are not nearly good enough yet. Just look around and see the hovels in which many of you live. They are a disgrace to you, and they are a disgrace to us. Education has not fashioned you yet. So, you see, I hope, what a lot has to be done on your side. We have done what we can, imperfectly and grudgingly perhaps, but still you have to do your part. You have to realise—and the quicker the better for you, as well as for us—that you have a tremendous obligation to us, just as we have toward you, and until those of you who have some education have gone out and acted as missionaries amongst the others of you, and improved the social and moral conditions of the people about you, your education will have been more or less fruitless."

The Indians listened in silence, and did not applaud at all. On the other hand, when the Bishop was talking about the white man's duties to them, they were not slow to cheer.

The ceremony ended with the usual compliments, and the Europeans attending were afterwards entertained at tea.

### Immigration Appeal Boards

It was announced in the *Union Gazette* of the 1st instant, that Boards have been appointed for the summary determination of appeals by persons who, seeking to enter or being found within, the Union or any Province, have been detained, restricted, or arrested as prohibited immigrants, to have jurisdiction within the areas specified below:— (a) To sit at Capetown, with jurisdiction over the whole of the Province of the Cape of Good Hope.

(b) To sit at Durban, with jurisdiction over the Province of Natal and Magisterial Districts of East Griqualand and Ngqeleni in the Transkeian territories.

(c) To sit at Pretoria, with jurisdiction over the Orange Free State and the Transvaal, and the Fiscal Divisions of Mafeking, Vryburg, Kuruman, Gordonia, Hay, Barkly West, Kimberley and Herbert.

The following gentlemen have been appointed for a period of six months as from May 1 to the Boards mentioned:— Messrs. J. T. Wylde, F. J. Centlivres, and C. W. Cousins, Capetown, with the first-named as Chairman; Messrs. P. Binns, M. S. Evans, C.M.G.,

and G. W. Dick, to sit at Durban, with the first-named as Chairman; Messrs. H. Rose-Innes, M. R. Greenlees, M.A., LL.B., and M. Chamney, to sit at Pretoria, with the first-named as Chairman.

## From the Editor's Chair

### MR. LORAM'S IMPERTINENCE

We are giving, elsewhere, the full text of the impertinent, unbalanced and uncalled-for speech delivered by School Inspector Mr. Loram, at the opening ceremony of a girls' school under the aegis of St. Aidan's Mission, superintended by the indefatigable Rev. A. A. Baillie, to whom the Bishop of Natal paid a well-deserved compliment. It was here, where he was an honoured guest of the Indians, that Mr. Loram found an opportunity for giving vent to his pent-up feelings. We congratulate him on the courage of his convictions, but we question his taste and propriety. He would have us believe that we owe everything to the Europeans of Natal and South Africa. It is certainly well to examine one's debts. It is one's duty to know and discharge his debts, and credits will take care of themselves. Mr. Loram, whilst he was emphatic that we were his and his fellow Europeans' debtors in this country, did not condescend to enter into details. Let us, therefore, analyse our debts. First, to dismiss Mr. Loram, we must, of course, be beholden to him for pointing out the way to good conduct by his having set the admirable example at the opening ceremony. No doubt, he considered that his official position, contrary to custom, warranted his making a political speech, especially as he was speaking from his high position as a benefactor. Then, for the Europeans of South Africa generally, some of us came at their invitation to serve them for five years, to turn their fields into gardens at less than market wages, sometimes receiving kicks also to rouse us to action. Meanwhile, we are taught the virtue of taking alcohol. After we have discharged the debt of five years' service, we pay for the inestimable boon of living in Natal but not migrating to the other parts of the Union a sum of £3 per year each for ourselves, our wives and our children. From pressure of circumstances our women, as Sir J. L. Hulett has reminded us, sell their virtue, though it is consoling enough to our benevolent creditors, like Mr. Loram, that we pay our debts. If, perchance, we enter South Africa as free men, we are kept in our proper place by being deprived of the facility for trading or engaging in any pursuit that may be also desirable for our European creditors. It is necessary, too, that we observe proper decorum in their company. We are, therefore, expected, when allowed at all to travel in tram cars, to take back seats and to segregate ourselves in railway coaches. In some parts, it is considered advantageous for us not to own landed property, and some other parts we may not enter at all. If, for want of means, we are living in hovels, Mr. Loram properly points the finger of scorn that we must do so. And we dare not live in decent houses or own a carriage and pair lest we become too proud and vain. We are carefully taught to consider our children upstarts if they dress decently and learn from the superior race to smoke an occasional cigarette. We are painfully conscious that we have by no means exhausted the list of our liabilities. But we hold that the list is heavy enough as it is, and it will tax all our energy to repay the debts above specified.

Mr. Loram allows that we may and ought to do rough manual work and thereby discharge a portion of the onerous liabilities. We wonder what the Indian Associations, the Indian schoolmasters and the Indian parents who send their children to schools inspected by Mr. Loram, have to say.

There is another aspect of Mr. Loram's speech which cannot be allowed to pass unnoticed. Here is a servant of the Government telling youths that they should go in for manual training because there is no room for them in offices. But the Government do not provide, in their schools for Indians, facilities for technical instruction. The St. Aidan's Mission, which receives only a general education grant from the Government, has recently commenced giving instruction in carpentry without receiving any assistance from the Government for this new and much-desired development. It is all very well for the Government's Inspectors to sing the praises of manual training for Indians, but the cry is insincere. What the Government and Mr. Loram want is not that Indians should become trained workers, skilled in all useful arts and handicrafts (because there again the field is a special white preserve), but that they should fling away all ambition to compete with their European fellow-citizens. Consequently, the Government will provide no opportunity for Indians to become anything other than hewers of wood and drawers of water for their European masters.

To our Indian young men, born in South Africa, one word and we have finished: Don't be angry with Mr. Loram. He is misguided and, in the intoxication of pride and power, has spoken with an unrestrained tongue full of bitterness. But, even behind his speech, there is honesty of purpose. He believes what he says. There is no doubt much that remains to be done by our young men. They certainly need not seek work as office boys or office clerks. There are nobler occupations which will make them better men and citizens. Office clerkships are not worth competing for. Mr. Loram undoubtedly represents the popular view. Let us turn his warning to good account.

### IN OPERATION

THE New Immigration Act is already in operation and it has been used, if our information is correct, in a most merciless manner. Of about twenty Indian passengers who arrived by the S.S. *Palamcottta*, nine have been declared as prohibited immigrants, "their habits being unsuited to this country." These men are, we are further informed, domiciled residents. If the beginning is to be of this character, Indians have a dismal future before them. We hope that the Indian leaders will move to protect these men. And we warn the Government against a drastic policy, unless they wish to face passive resistance of a determined type. Even those who are not strong enough to take up passive resistance may be found ready for it, if the temper of the community is put to an unduly severe test.

### APPEAL BOARDS

APPEAL Boards, under the new Immigration Act, have been appointed. The personnel of the three boards is admirable except for the fact that the respective Immigration Officers for the various provinces have seats allotted to them on these boards. If they are to retain their present position as Immigration Officers, their appointments as judges, sitting in appeal against their own decisions, will, to say the least of it, be anomalous. Their appointment will nullify the benefit of appeal given to aggrieved parties.

## Narayansamy-Nagappan Memorial

The Secretary of the Indian Women's Association advises us that the memorial for the late passive resisters, Narayansamy and Nagappan, is to take the shape of scholarships, tenable at least for four years, at the rate of £15 per year, for education in India of South Africa-born Tamil youths. The conditions attached to these scholarships are that the scholars should be over the age of 12 years and up to or under 18 years; secondly their qualification should be tested by a Committee to be appointed by the Indian Women's Association; thirdly the scholar or scholars that might be selected by the Committee shall remain during their educational course in India under the guidance of those whom the committee may appoint, and that any independent action on the part of the scholar shall forthwith desentitle him to any payment after the exercise of such independence. The fare for the outward and return passage shall be paid out of the Memorial Fund. The scholars shall be selected out of the children of parents who are unable to find the expenses of the education in India of their children. The character of the children will be the final test. The number of scholarships will be announced in due course. Application should be made, with full particulars, to the Secretary of the Indian Women's Association, Box 6522, Johannesburg, on or before the 31st day of August next. Parents are requested to supply all the particulars available regarding the boys whose names they wish to submit as Narayansamy and Nagappan scholars.

## A Cape Immigration Case

At the Caledon-square Police Court recently before Mr. Van Reenen, an Indian named Sam Morris was charged with contravening section 7 of the Immigration Act of 1906.

The accused, according to the indictment, arrived at Cape Town per the *Edinburgh Castle* on September 3 last year, and declared that he had not been previously convicted of any crime.

Mr. Friedlander told the Court that on June 5, accused was charged with contravening section 5 of the Immigration Act, under which he was accused of being a prohibited immigrant at large in the country. There was an alternative charge—precisely the same as was now preferred against him. One plea was entered, and most of the evidence called concerned the alleged false declaration. Indeed, the records showed that had it not been for a particular circumstance, he would have been found guilty on that count and not on the other. As it was, he was convicted of the first charge. Against that conviction he successfully appealed.

Accused was released, but the Immigration Department having in mind the very much wider Act to come into force, had him re-arrested after he had made arrangements to leave the Province for up-country, and was again charged with the same offence. Moreover the Magistrate was asked to take a preliminary examination, which was bound to have the inevitable effect of detaining him over August 1, when the new Act began to operate.

He submitted that he was entitled to draw the inference that the object of prosecution was not with any idea of securing a conviction, but with the ulterior object of utilising the process of the Court in order that the man should be detained until he could be made subject to this new Star Chamber legislation. If there was the slightest possibility of that being so, the liberty of the subject was being interfered with in order to carry out the designs of a Government Department. He appealed to the Magistrate not to

be a party to allowing the use of the process of that Court.

In his opinion the whole proceedings should be immediately stopped. At any rate it was not a case for a preparatory examination. When the case first came before the court it was treated as a summary trial, and as the facts were just the same now, he urged that there was no reason why it should not be treated the same. If the Immigration Officer desired to keep his client within their toils until the operation of the new Act, let them follow him throughout the country, but he did not think it right to do so by lending them the aid of the court.

Mr. Van Reenen told the attorney that he had no knowledge of the previous charge. At the same time he could assure the defence that the aid of the court would not be administered as indicated.

Mr. Friedlander maintained that the onus was on the Crown to convince the court that something had occurred to take a preparatory examination instead of, as on the previous occasion, under summary jurisdiction. There was no disguising the prejudice underlying such tactics which were, in his opinion, used to subject his client to a long and expensive trial.

Mr. Van Reenen: But there is nothing before me to show that the charge against accused is the same on which he was tried before; even if there was, after all this is a preparatory examination and the accused is not in jeopardy at all.

Mr. Magennis, who conducted the prosecution, then proceeded with the evidence.

Joseph Henry Alexander, Immigration Officer, stated that he boarded the *R.M.S. Edinburgh Castle* when she arrived at Cape Town on September 3, 1912. The declaration (produced) was signed by "S. Morris." He could not identify accused as the man. Question 16, inquiring if the immigrant had been convicted, was answered in the negative. Had the reply been "Yes," accused would not have been allowed to land.

Cross-examined: Witness said the declaration was apparently not signed in South Africa. Witness asked Morris one or two questions verbally, but did not repeat question No. 16.

Charles Ernest Wait said he was a passenger on the *Edinburgh Castle*. He identified the accused as the S. Morris on board.

Detective Head-constable Cleary informed the Court that he was present at the Oudtshoorn Circuit Court on September 25, 1909, when accused was sentenced to 21 months' hard labour for housebreaking and theft.

Clarence Wilfred Cousins, chief immigration officer explained that when passengers landed they were compelled to make a declaration. If it was unsatisfactory the passenger was detained.

By Mr. Friedlander: He (Mr. Cousins) was present when accused's appeal was allowed, and later had the warrant issued for his re-arrest. In doing so his intention was to proceed with the present case.

Mr. Friedlander: Had you not at any time expressed to anyone your intention of detaining accused if possible until the new Act came into force on August 1st?

Mr. Van Reenen ruled that the question was irrelevant.

Mr. Friedlander: Have you any reason to doubt the statement of paragraph 4 to the effect that he entered this Province through the Transvaal in 1912?—He says so.

Have you any information to give the Court upon that?—Only hearsay evidence. I have no personal knowledge.

This man has been well known to you for some years. Have you seen him between 1912 and 1913?—Yes, frequently. I saw him on one occasion which resulted in his subsequent appearance before me.

So far as you know you never saw him at your office?—Not that I know of.

Where was it that you saw him?—At the corner of Parliament-street and Church-square in Cape Town.

How was he asked to attend?—One of the officers told him verbally.

Was he cautioned as to any statement he might make?—Yes, carefully.

In English?—Yes.

The Magistrate: Would it not be better to produce this evidence at the trial?

Mr. Friedlander: But it might be here, your worship.

Mr. Van Reenen: It seems to me there will be an indictment for the Criminal Sessions.

Mr. Friedlander (to Mr. Cousins): You say he said he could not write well enough for the Act. Did you ask him?—Witness: I asked him, and he replied No, but qualified it by saying a little, but not well enough for the Act. He did not wish to write at all.

How did he come to apply for a temporary permit?—By an application made by him in writing.

Have you got the application?—Yes.

I should like to have it produced. (Witness then produced the application and read it to the Court.)

You have declined to refund the £9?—Certainly.

Did the Minister of the Interior sign the application in Cape Town?—Yes.

Was any written communication made to him upon the subject?—Not that I know of.

The accused was then committed for trial.

On the advice of Mr. Friedlander, accused declined to sign his evidence. The attorney explained that his reason in doing so was because some point might arise over the signature.—*South African News.*

## The "Natal Mercury" on the Immigration Act

The *Natal Mercury* of the 1st instant has the following editorial:—

It is evident that active influences are operating in London to arouse public opinion at Home with respect to the unwelcome element which may be introduced into our troublous political affairs by a renewal of passive resistance on the part of the Asiatics in South Africa against the Immigration Act. A message in our cable news columns to-day represents *The Times* as taking the subject up very significantly and very forcibly. The great English journal points to the certainty of organised resistance against the Act on the part of the South African Indians, and suggests that "there seems no reason why a practical compromise cannot be arranged in the time which is still available." In previous allusions to the position which the Immigration Act has created among the Indians, we have emphasised the likelihood of a general renewal throughout South Africa of the methods adopted by the Transvaal Asiatics in 1909 and 1910 to resist the Registration Ordinance. It may not be news to most people to know that the pivot of a good deal of the movement is centred in Natal, but it may be some addition to general intelligence on the matter to state that a representative of the Indian community arrived in London by the last mail steamer directly despatched to the Capital of the Empire in order to represent to the Imperial authorities the circumstances which arise under the Immigration Act with respect to the Indians. These have been stated in detail already in our columns, and the cabled summary of *The Times* article appears to sufficiently recapitulate them. The entire gravamen of the Indians' objection to the Statute is that it entrenches and strengthens the racial bar against South African-born Asiatics with respect to their privileges of domiciled and free movement about the country, and there is not the slightest doubt that they are entitled to raise the appeal to British principles of equal treatment of all

subjects of the King on both these grounds. There is also the subject of non-civilly registered Mahomedan marriages, which, under the present law, stand invalidated by Mr. Justice Searle's recent judgment at the Cape, subsequently endorsed by Mr. Justice Gardiner in Natal, with the result that Indian wives in this position may be compelled—of course, against all the permanent and traditional canons of the British judicial system—to give evidence against a husband involved in any criminal cause. It is said, and we believe with some foundation, that the Union authorities are allowing it to be understood that they will give further attention to the matters being urged by the Asiatics during next session of Parliament. We can only express the hope that this may be so. The provisions of the Act depart widely from the assurances given by the Government to Mr. Gokhale last year, and from the practical, no less than from the ethical, point of view, amendments to the measure are essential.

## The Act in Operation

The *Natal Mercury* of the 7th instant had the following leading article:—

*The Times* the other day, in a leading article, drew attention to the need for amendments in the Union Immigration Act, and said "if we call attention to the question it is because the situation admits of no delay." Four important points were mentioned as imperatively requiring amendment, in order to confirm the promises made to Mr. Gokhale and others. One of those points was amendment of the clause invalidating the right of domicile to Indians in Natal, which was not merely a distinct breach of faith, but a piece of rank injustice unheard of in any country of the world, and particularly in the case of a British subject in a British Colony. *The Times* expressed the opinion that, as the Union Government had been reasonable in the matter, means would still be found to satisfy the just protests of the Indians to the Act. We are afraid, however, that even the good intentions of the Government may be frustrated by the administrative tactlessness and ineptitude which seems characteristic of the Immigration Department in dealing with this ticklish question. It was admitted that, even if some portions of the Act were found inequitable, for or not likely to work fairly, they could be made light by administrative tact and discretion; but tact and discretion have never been conspicuous qualities in the administration of the Immigration Department during the last few months, as we have had to point out so frequently, and as the Judges of the Supreme Court have also had to draw attention to. An instance of the sort of thing which has caused so much friction and trouble in the past is that of the S.S. *Palamotta*. She is the first ship coming from India with Asiatic passengers to come under the provisions of the new Act. She arrived here on Saturday, with 20 passengers for Durban. They are all people with previous domicile in Natal, but domicile certificates are now being ignored. Up to yesterday only four of the passengers had been allowed to land, on payment of a bond of £26 each, and, for the others, the Department is said to be looking into their cases. The deposit has been greatly increased, it appears, although the Act does not say that it should be. Surely it does not take from Saturday to Wednesday to go into the right of some 20 passengers, all well-known people, able to prove domicile in the country, to land without any trouble, and certainly at the outset, and when the question of amending the Act on the very points now apparently being made the most of for oppressive purposes by the Department, which seems always inclined to consider its own authority of much more consequence than the interests of the Empire or of any Imperial question.

## How India is taking the Immigration Act

Reuter's correspondent at Simla telegraphs to London that much feeling has been aroused in India, now that the provisions of the South African Immigrants' Regulation Act are fully known. Many messages are being received by the Indian Government, which urge that the Crown should intervene.

Mr. Gokhale, who is returning to India immediately, is taking the question up with the Imperial authorities.

The Native Press is unanimous in pressing the necessity of retaliatory measures being taken, and maintains that the Union has broken faith with Mr. Gokhale.

### An Important Message

The Council of the Bombay Presidency Association have sent the following telegram to the Viceroy:—

"The Council of the Bombay Presidency Association beg respectfully to bring to Your Lordship's notice how deeply and grievously the hearts and feelings of the people of all classes and communities in this Presidency have been stirred by the passing of the Indian Immigration Act by the South African Legislature. They regard it as an outrage, indignity and gross injustice to the Indian people, who are equal subjects in the British Empire. They recall the pronouncement by the mouth of Lord Lansdowne that any unjust or unequal treatment of British Indian subjects in what was then a foreign State would be a cause of war.

"Now, in the same territory under the British Crown, the Colonial Government are permitted to oppress and degrade British Indian subjects far more outrageously and arbitrarily than before. In spite of all the promises and hopes held out from time to time, not only are British Indian subjects arbitrarily excluded, but a measure is passed which retains the racial bar, disturbs existing rights in Natal and Cape Colony, pronounces ex-indentured Indians to be prohibited immigrants, repudiates Indian marriage laws, and places married Indian women in a most invidious position. The indignities thrust upon Indians in South Africa during the past years have been borne with patience, now exhausted, and this harassment and denial of the common rights of British citizenship must result in a new passive resistance movement in South Africa and widespread agitation in India.

"The Indian people in the last resort commend the protection of their fellow countrymen to the august solicitude of their beloved King-Emperor and, therefore, earnestly implore Your Excellency's Government to urge upon the Imperial Government that the Government of South Africa be informed that His Majesty's veto will be exercised unless the operation of the measure is postponed pending a joint Imperial, Indian and Colonial conference with a view to the solution of the problem in such a manner as will preserve the rights of His Majesty's Indian subjects as guaranteed in the gracious proclamation of Queen Victoria."

An identical telegram has been sent to the Secretary of state, says the *Bombay Chronicle*.

### Press Comments

The *Bombay Chronicle*, in its issue of the 17th June last, remarks:—

Well might Mr. Gandhi declare that the amended South African Immigration Bill will not give satisfaction to the Indian community, for it has completely failed to embody the provisional settlement of 1911, and, he might have added, the compromise of the following year. The provincial barrier remains; the closure of the Orange Free State to Indians is

maintained, and existing rights in other respects have been disturbed. Mr. Harcourt must be a simpleton if he really fancies that the racial equality of Indians has been assured under the Bill. Mr. Gandhi is a far better judge of his countrymen's feelings in regard to the Bill, and the rights and wrongs of the matter. The Indian community in South Africa has been betrayed, and here is Mr. Gandhi saying that failing the carrying out of the provisional settlement of 1911, the revival of passive resistance will become imperative. Mr. Fischer has already declared that such a movement will compel the Union Government to exclude Asiatics as such. That at any rate will be honest. The present position is intolerable. If Mr. Fischer thinks there is no room in South Africa for Indians, his obvious duty is to get rid of them, and, before repatriating, compensate them. The "squeeze out" policy is dishonest, oppressive, and disgraceful. Magnanimity in politics is not seldom the truest wisdom. That was a saying of Burke's *apropos* of how Imperial problems should be dealt with; and Burke added, "a great Empire and little minds go ill together." Those who are erecting racial barriers within the Empire are men of little minds. We have profound distrust of the whole tribe of self-styled Imperialists who can only think of Empire in terms of superior and inferior races, and of how the latter should be held in permanent tutelage for the permanent advantage of the former.

### News in Brief

The appeal of Mr. K. Ebrahim against the decision of the Licensing Board, which revised the permission granted by the Licensing Officer to transfer Mr. Ebrahim's licence from one place to another, came on for argument last week before the full Bench. Judgment was reserved. One of the grounds of appeal was that two members of the Board were unfit to sit as judges because they had already expressed the opinion that Indians should not get any licences to trade.

Reuter's correspondent in Victoria, British Columbia, telegraphs to London on the 4th instant that the Premier, Sir Richard MacBride, has made the declaration that his Government could conceive no treaty right or influence which would entitle anybody to interfere with British Columbia's supreme authority to deal with the question of Oriental immigration into that province.

At the last monthly meeting of the Krugersdorp Town Council, Mr. Blake appeared on behalf of two Indians who applied for butchers' licences at Burgersdorp and Paardekraal. After a lengthy examination of the applicants as to their fitness for the post, it was decided to refuse both applications, it being the opinion of the Council that they were not desirable persons to hold such licences.

The *Krugersdorp Standard* has again discovered that the Asiatics of that dorp are doing too much business and that it is time to wake up and take drastic measures to put a stop to what appears a terrible state of affairs. "One thing is quite clear, (says the *Standard*), and that is that the farmers will have to be made understand that the white residents of Krugersdorp will refuse to buy produce from any farmer who spends his money in an Indian store. A few severe lessons of this kind would have a wholesome effect upon the farmer who offends against the white traders. The farmer would soon learn on which side of his bread he would find the most butter." Just so; but we have heard all this silly talk before.

Dr. A. H. Gool, of Capetown, recently delivered a lecture on Hygiene before the S.A. Teachers' League. The most effective germ-killer, and the cheapest, said the Doctor, is fresh air and sunshine.