

Indian Opinion

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PREFERRED DEATH

AN indentured Indian servant, named Munsami Naidoo, made his periodical appearance in the First Criminal Court on the 29th ultimo, (says the *Advertiser*) before Mr. Armstrong. He was originally charged with deserting from the service of his master, Sir Duncan McKenzie, of Nottingham Road, and was ordered to be imprisoned for a short term and then return to his work. The Indian served his term, but resolutely refused to go back, and from that time to the present he has been before the Court—in all about thirty times—on the charge of refusing to return when ordered to do so, and on each occasion has been sent back to prison. The man is absolutely determined not to return to the employ of Sir Duncan, but is willing to be transferred to any other employer. Various Magistrates, including Mr. Gibson, Mr. Cauvin, Mr. Hodson and Mr. Armstrong, have endeavoured to reason with him, but Munsami is a stoic. To one and all he says that he prefers death in any form to going back. Some time ago his case was laid before an official known as the Protector of Indians, but that authority is apparently equally obdurate, and sees no reason for arranging a transfer, so that Munsami was again in the dock on Saturday. Asked if he would now return, he firmly but courteously declined, stating that he still preferred death but would willingly agree to being transferred to another master. He declined to consider the suggestion that Sir Duncan had altered his disciplinary methods, but declared that he feared worse than death if he went back.

His Worship had no option but to send Munsami back to prison for seven days with hard labour, at the end of which period he will probably come before the Court again.

[NOTE: We refer to the above in our leading columns.—Ed. I.O.]

Mr. Matthews Again Censured

A missing pass-book formed the subject of severe comment by the Judge-President (the Hon. J. C. Dove Wilson) at the Supreme Court last week, when he sat with the Hon. Justice Bird. The case was one in which Alfred Summers, of Red Hill, a book-keeper, applied for an amendment of the record in regard to the decision of the Magistrate at Inanda, in sentencing him to four months' imprisonment on a charge of theft.

Mr. Rowland Bristow Chapman, of Messrs. Lewis Byron and Co., appeared for the applicant, and the Attorney-General represented the Crown.

In an affidavit, Mr. Chapman said that on the 5th and 19th of May and the 3rd of June he appeared in the Court of Mr. Maynard Matthews, at Inanda, in defence of Summers. He asked leave to amend the record of the evidence of Albert Honeysett with regard to the words:—"I made an entry of 4s. 9d. to square the ledger, and to my great regret the pass-book shows the

balance to be 14s. 11d." The pass-book, which was known as "Chillot's" pass-book, was then put in, although the record made no mention of it. He was cross-examining a witness at the time, and the fact that the pass-book was put in was well within his memory, as he considered it to be very material evidence in favour of the accused, and until it was put in the pass-book was in his possession.

He said that in cross-examining a witness he asked for the production of the pass-book referred to, and it was found to be missing, no explanation could be given by the Magistrate, Clerk of the Court, or the Prosecutor as to its disposal.

In giving judgment, the Judge President said: "In this matter application was made to have the report amended, in order to show that a certain pass-book, known as 'Chillot's' pass book, was put in. There had been no mention of that fact. The affidavit upon which the application was made states that in cross-examination he asked for the production of the pass-book, and it was found to be missing, and no explanation could be given by the Magistrate, the Clerk of the Court, or the Prosecutor as to its disposal. That application was intimated to the Magistrate on the 30th of August, and the matter came before the Court on August 24th. There was no information from the Magistrate on the subject, and the Magistrate was then given an opportunity of dealing with the matter.

"All that the Magistrate has done since is to address a note to the Registrar of the Circuit Court at Durban, on August 27th, which says: 'Will you kindly inform the Court, in reference to the application, that the affidavit is quite correct.'

An Extraordinary Thing

It is difficult to understand," said the Judge President, "that the Magistrate was dealing adequately with the important and serious allegations made in the affidavit supporting the application. He apparently admits the statement that the pass book was put in, and that when it was asked for subsequently it was missing and he admits that no explanation could be given by himself, the Clerk of the Court, or the Prosecutor, as to its disposal. Certainly it is a matter which the Court cannot allow to rest there. It is an extraordinary thing that a document in the custody of the Court should be allowed to go outside, and no explanation is forthcoming.

"We shall remit the matter to the Magistrate to inform us as to the circumstances in which the pass-book came to be missing, the circumstances in which it was first discovered that the pass-book was missing, to state any possible explanation which could account for the absence of the pass-book, and further what steps have been taken in order to discover its whereabouts, and he will claim, for the purpose of supporting his report, reports by the Clerk of the Court and the Prosecutor, stating similarly every fact which bears upon the disappearance of this pass-book.

"It is altogether a matter which cannot be allowed to rest where the Magistrate has left it, and it ought to have occurred to the Magistrate, out of regard for the proper conduct of cases, that a full and detailed explanation was necessary, and not a mere brief and cursory note such as he has sent, stating that the affidavit was true."

Judgment was accordingly given, asking for a statement as to the missing pass-book, the other Judges concurring.—*Natal Advertiser*.

[NOTE: Although the above incident has no direct connection with Indian matters, it again brings to notice the incapable and insolent manner in which Mr. Matthews conducts the Court business at Verulam and bears us out in our contention that he is no longer fit to occupy the Magisterial Bench.—Ed. I.O.]

Indians and the War

Subscriptions are being raised by Indians in Johannesburg for the Governor-General's War Relief Fund.

Numbers of young Indians of Johannesburg have signed on as members of an ambulance or similar corps when the Government may call for them.

The Mayor's Relief Fund

The Natal Indian Association is in receipt of the following letter:—

The Joint Secretaries of the Natal Indian Association, Durban.

Dear Sirs,—I am directed by his Worship the Mayor to convey to you his very sincere thanks for the great assistance rendered by your Association in collecting from the Indian community the handsome amount subscribed in aid of the War Relief Fund. The splendid response of the Indians of Durban to the Mayor's appeal is appreciated by the Town Councillors and the burgesses alike.—Yours faithfully, (Sgd.) J. GOLDSMITH THOMPSON, Hon. Secretary, Mayor's War Relief Fund.

We are informed that the Association continues in its endeavours to collect further funds in aid of the movement started by the Mayor. The Indian schools are, at the suggestion of the Natal Indian Association, subscribing their mite towards the fund, which will in due course be handed to his Worship the Mayor. Arrangements are in course of completion to assist also in other ways, details of which will be announced later.

Indian Women to Help

At a large meeting of Durban ladies, held in the Town Hall on Wednesday evening, presided over by the Mayoress, it was announced that the Indian women of the borough were both willing and anxious to assist in every possible way in furthering the objects for which that meeting was convened, and were prepared to undertake work, such as sewing, knitting, etc., as the Committee might desire. This announcement evoked applause.

Greytown and Umvoti Indians

Greytown, September 2.—At an enthusiastic meeting of the Indian community this afternoon, in the Court-house, convened by the Magistrate, splendid donations were made, and the following resolution was moved by Mr. M. Lakhi, a prominent merchant: "On behalf of the Indian community, I desire to express our absolute loyalty to the throne and person of his Majesty the King. We are prepared in Greytown and Umvoti to do our utmost to assist the Empire. We are proud to know that our brethren of India are on the water, and will be given the opportunity to fight for the Emperor of India on European soil. We shall do our all to assist with both money and kind the relief fund being raised in Umvoti."

There was an unexpected scene in the *Times of Natal* office the other morning, when some 30 Indian boys, newspaper sellers, filed in and deposited 6d. each towards the War Relief Fund. Appreciation of the thoughtfulness of those not able to afford even so small a sum was expressed on all sides.

Capetown Indians

Capetown, August 31st (Reuter).—A large representative meeting of Indians was held yesterday, when resolutions were adopted expressing loyalty to the King, and offering the services of the Indian community in the Cape Peninsula in support of the British Raj.

A further resolution urged the extension of the period provided for identification certificates granted for the return of men who had gone to India and who might be delayed owing to the war.

Protests were made against the granting of trading licences to enemies of the country while refusals even to grant removal licences were upheld against British Indians.

A subscription list was opened for the Governor-General's Fund.

A Stretcher-Bearer Corps

In connection with the offer made by Colonial-born Indians of Cape Town to furnish a corps of 20 stretcher-bearers, and which offer has been acknowledged with appreciation by General Smuts, Mr. V. A. Pillay of Port Elizabeth, writes to the effect that steps will also be taken at that centre to secure volunteers for this service.

Cape Moslems' Offer

Capetown, September 6th (Reuter).—The Cape Moslem Association has resolved to offer to the Union Government a corps of 2,000 men to serve either as town guards or in any other capacity as the Government may desire.

Coloured Men's Loyalty

Capetown, August 31st (Reuter).—Under the auspices of the African Political Organisation upwards of 2,000 coloured citizens of Capetown attended a patriotic mass meeting in the City Hall. Sir Frederick Smith presided, and many prominent Europeans were on the platform.

Dr. Abdurahman said that, though the coloured people had grievances they had always recognised that they had the same measure of liberty, of freedom, and of political equality under the Union Jack. The time had come for them to put aside their grievances and to consider the greater issues at stake. He spoke of the security they enjoyed owing to the British Navy, and moved a loyal resolution, which was carried with acclamation, and which stated, *inter alia*, that they trusted that the British nation would meet with success.

A further resolution was moved appealing to the coloured people of South Africa to contribute to a fund to be administered by a committee representative of coloured citizens.

The meeting also unanimously approved of the raising of a corps of 5,000 coloured men for active service at Home and abroad, and expressed its loyalty to the Union Government.

A Pretoria Meeting

A meeting of Cape coloured people was held on the 28th ultimo in the Cape location, Pretoria, says the *Pretoria News*; for the purpose of enrolling the names of men willing to serve in the African Political Organisation Volunteer Corps (Hosken Division.)

Mr. Samuels, the Chairman of the A.P.O. Location Branch, explained to the men the object of the meet-

ing. Mr. Keiller, Chairman of the town branch, read a letter from Dr Abdurahman with reference to the raising of a corps of 5,000 Cape Coloured men. The enrolment, he explained, was only a preliminary step to ascertain the number of men willing to assist.

Speaking to the men, Mr. Keiller said that this was a call from their Mother Country, and it behoved them as British subjects to give ear to that call. It was without hesitation that he could say that the coloured people were born with that instinct of loyalty to the King and country. He knew that a lot of disabilities had been placed on them, but now was the time for them to answer to their call of duty.

Messrs. Esu, George, F. Jacobs, Miller and Noah spoke in the same strain. The enrolment then took place and 105 men came forward to sign the forms.

London, September 2nd.—The Japanese forces have occupied seven islands in the vicinity of Kiao-Chow. They are also sweeping the surrounding seas for mines, a thousand having already been removed from the water.—Reuter.

From the Editor's Chair

TO THE G.O.M.



MANY HAPPY RETURNS

YET again it is our great privilege to tender respectful congratulations to the Honourable Dadabhai Naoroji and to our fellow-countrymen in India upon the birthday anniversary of India's "Grand Old Man" who reached his ninetieth birthday on the 4th instant. No doubt, congratulations have been pouring in at the humble villa at Versova from all quarters. We are sure, however, that none will convey a deeper meaning than those he will receive from South Africa to which he has been even in his advancing years so true, so inspiring, and so loyal a friend. When Mr. Polak was last in India and visited Mr. Dadabhai at his home, he took special occasion to send a message of encouragement and good-will to his countrymen here. We earnestly pray that the Almighty may spare him yet for many years to live as a symbol of patriotic labour for the beloved Indian Motherland.

A SCANDALOUS CASE

MUNSAMI NAIDOO, the indentured servant of Sir Duncan McKenzie, of Nottingham Road, is a thorough passive resister. He has been sent to gaol again and again—in all about thirty times—for refusing to return to his employer when ordered to do so. Each time he is brought forward, he has one reply and that is that he prefers death to returning to his employer. It appears that the Protector of Indian Immigrants has considered the case and sees no reason for transferring the man elsewhere. Consequently, there is a deadlock. A more scandalous state of affairs could hardly be imagined. One would naturally think that the man's fear and constant refusal to return were sufficient to justify his transference to another employer—an arrangement which the man is agreeable to. But no, red tape and cold officialism stand in the way. For our part, we do not care whether the poor man's fears are well-founded or entirely groundless. All we can say is that either the man has cause for his fears or he is mad. Which ever is the case, it is time that this scandal of sending the man to gaol needlessly should cease. If the Protector still fails to find a remedy it will be the bounden duty of the Natal Indian Association to bring the matter to the notice of the Government.

THE GOLD LAW

IN January last, a measure amending the Transvaal Gold Law came into force which repealed the definition of "unwrought gold," and replaced it by one of the most far-reaching character, the object of which was to attack Indian jewellers, and simultaneously new regulations were framed which confined the issue of jewellers' licences to white persons. As our readers will remember, a test case was recently brought in the Witwatersrand High Court with the object of compelling the Commissioner of Police to issue a licence to an Indian jeweller, but the Court held that the law provided for racial differentiation in other respects, and that therefore the regulations were not *ultra vires* in this respect also. At about the same time that this case was decided, an Indian jeweller named Chinathambi was arrested in Johannesburg for carrying on the occupation of a jeweller without a licence. The case was the first taken under the new regulations and was therefore in the nature of a test case. Evidence was led to show that the man knew nothing whatever about the regulations, which had been published in the *Union Gazette*, and that he could neither read nor write English. It was also shown that he was a jeweller, not only by occupation, but by caste, and that he was unacquainted with any other method of earning his livelihood. It was urged on his behalf, that as this was a test case by the Crown, and in view of the undisputed statement for the defence, a nominal fine should be imposed, but the Magistrate imposed a fine of £25, with the alternative of three months' imprisonment with hard labour, and as the unfortunate man was unable to pay the fine, he has had to go to gaol. Moreover, owing to a legal technicality, in spite of the fact that he has been in this country for the last 17 years, he is not eligible for registration, and is to be deported. It is quite evident that the object of the authorities has been gained, namely, to ruin the Indian jewellers in the Transvaal, by making it impossible for them to carry on their occupation.

The G.O.M.

On the occasion of the ninetieth birthday of the Hon. Dadabhai Naoroji, the Natal Indian Association addressed a congratulatory message and the Zoroastrian Anjuman sent the following cablegram to Versova:—"Accept hearty congratulations birthday Natal Zoroastrians."

The Transvaal Indians cabled congratulations to the Grand Old Man.

The Use of Indian Troops

In a leading article on the war, the *Sunday Times* makes the following comment on the use of Indian troops:—

Magnificently as the British have fought upon land and sea, it is still imperative that the Empire should utilise the whole of its strength. The greatest military nation in the world is striving to crush the British Empire, and it would be foolish not to employ all the resources of the Empire in resisting the attack. It is this consideration which has influenced England in allowing Indian troops to take part in the war, thus following the example of France in employing Algerian regiments. The Indian regiments include some of the finest fighters in the world, and their behaviour in the field is always admirable. The decision to employ some of them in Europe is proof of the absolute confidence which England has in the Indian army. It is probably true that England would not use Indian troops in a country in which an acute colour problem existed. But in any case, when engaged in war with a country whose written promises are worthless, whose soldiers drive women and children before them in order to protect them from the guns of the enemy, and whose Government three weeks after the beginning of the campaign is forced to excuse its own brutalities to its own people, it matters little whether the troops employed come from the West or the East. If Great Britain's Indian regiments meet the Germans in battle, we are convinced that it will not be the Indian soldiers who will be convicted of the methods of savages. Moreover, the offers from India—and America—are significant. They give evidence of the world-wide indignation which has sprung up against the policy of the mad dog of Europe. The Germans are fighting desperately. But the end is certain. There will be no Kaiser of Europe.

"Rand Daily Mail"

Although much of the news from India in the last few years has related to the doings of malcontents, it is plain to-day (says the *Mail*) that the loyalty of the great mass of the people has remained unshaken. The Ruling Chiefs have been vying with one another in the generosity of their offers of men and money to the cause of the Empire. The Maharajah of Mysore has placed the whole of his troops at the disposal of the British Government, besides making a princely donation of fifty lakhs of rupees (over £330,000) towards the war fund of Great Britain. There has indeed been, as Lord Crewe said, "a wonderful wave of enthusiasm and loyalty throughout India," due largely "to the desire of the Indian people that Indian soldiers should stand side by side with their comrades in the British Army." As France has been employing African troops in the great war, there is naturally a strong feeling in India that England should not refuse the services of Indian regiments. The British Government has therefore decided to increase the English force in France by adding to it two divisions, and one cavalry division, from India. In the ranks of the Indian Army are found some of the finest soldiers in the world. Not only are the men splendidly trained, but their general conduct is such that the Government can use them in any country with perfect confidence. The decision of the English War Office will enable India to take part in the defence of the British system which has given her peace and prosperity, and will at the same time strengthen the Allies by giving them a magnificent fighting force. In a crisis of the nature of the one which faces the Empire, it is necessary that the whole of our resources should be used in order to make the terrible conflict as brief as possible. The sending of Indian troops to France affords additional proof of England's stern resolve to resist the German menace to the bitter end. The whole weight of the British Empire must be thrown into the struggle, and it is

pleasing to find that the Asiatic subjects of the King realise the supreme importance of every part of the Empire doing its duty. The Indians in South Africa have placed themselves at the disposal of the Union Government, thus showing that past controversies here as in Ireland, have not diminished the loyalty of the Indian peoples to the Empire.

The Right to Register

In the Supreme Court of the Transvaal early last month before the Judge President, Mr. Justice Curlewis and Mr. Justice Gregorowski, the case of *Registrar of Asiatics v. N. M. Moosa* was heard.

The Court gave judgment in this appeal against an order of Mr. Justice Mason directing the appellant to receive and consider an application by the respondent, an Asiatic, for a certificate of registration, under the Asiatic Registration Act, 36 of 1908, in circumstances recently reported.

The Judge-President, in the course of his judgment, said it must be assumed, for the purposes of the appeal, that the respondent was resident and actually in the Transvaal on the 31st of May, 1902, which under section 4 (3) (b) of Act 36 of 1908, would have entitled him to apply for a certificate of registration. Thereafter he returned to India, and on his seeking to re-enter this Province recently he was ordered to be deported, and the Registrar refused to accept his application for a certificate on the ground that, having been deported, he was a "prohibited immigrant" under the Immigrants' Restriction Act, 22 of 1913, which it was argued for the appellant tacitly repealed the right to obtain a certificate of registration under the Act of 1908. His Lordship could not agree with this contention. On the assumed facts, the respondent had a right under Act 36 of 1908 to make application for a registration certificate, and nothing in the Act of 1913 took away the right. The respondent's right to obtain a certificate must be determined under the Act of 1908. The appeal must therefore be dismissed with costs.

Concurring judgments were delivered by Justices Curlewis and Gregorowski.—*Star*.

Farmers and the War

While the veritable tidal wave of patriotic offers of service, irrespective of colour, creed or party bias, is literally overwhelming the Union, there is a question still more paramount than even the colossal and almost universal warfare itself, and that is the question of our food resources, (says a writer in the *Post*). It is already ancient history that during the January strike mostly every farmer in the districts adjacent of the railways was commandeered for service, with the consequence that in the majority of cases whole farms were denuded of their masculine representatives. The existing circumstances are admittedly dissimilar, but with the practically unanimous enthusiasm and patriotic sentiment now prevailing, the result is likely to be the same in the end, and although it would be a thousand pities to in any way damp this extremely gratifying and laudable ardour, yet, bearing in mind the unfortunate seasons experienced by the agriculturalist during the past few years, it is nevertheless certain that preparation of the soil on an increased scale would, in the ordinary course of events, have been necessitated this year in an attempt to recoup losses over previous seasons.

That at least is no doubt the reasonable view held by most husbandmen, and, in addition, in face of the unparalleled and unfathomable developments now confronting all of us, the South African public generally must necessarily concern itself with the vital importance of provision being made for raising adequate crops during the coming season.

General Smuts' Bereavement

Telegrams of sympathy with General Smuts on the occasion of the death of his father, have been addressed by the Chairmen of the Transvaal British Indian Association and the Tamil Benefit Society.

The following personal letter has been addressed to Mr. A. M. Cachalia by General Smuts:—

The Treasury, Pretoria,
1st September, 1914.

Dear Sir,—I thank you very much for your kind expression of sympathy at the death of my father. It was good of you to send me your condolences which my wife and I much appreciate. Please communicate with the individual members of your Association who have so courteously addressed me.

Believe me,
Yours sincerely,
J. C. SMUTS.

Letters of sympathy were also addressed by the Natal Indian Association and the Zoroastrian Anjuman, expressing sympathy with General Smuts and the members of his family.

Governor-General's Fund

Pretoria, September 3rd (Reuter).—A minute of the first meeting of the Central Committee of the Governor-General's Fund, held in the Union Buildings on Tuesday, has just been issued. Those present were General Smuts, the Hon. the Administrator of the Transvaal, Mrs. Louis Botha, the Mayors of Pretoria, Johannesburg, and Krugersdorp, Mr. A. B. Roberts, the Provincial Secretary, and Mr. Jno. Dougall. Owing to the absence of the Acting Governor-General, the gathering took the form of a conference, presided over by General Smuts. The resolution constituting the Central Committee was read, as follows: "As the Governor-General will ordinarily reside in Pretoria, the Central Committee will be there. He or his representative will be a member and preside. The Central Committee will include the Administrators of the different Provinces, and the Mayor or other representative of each town which contributes towards the fund. The Mayors will be requested to form local communities. The fund to be devoted primarily to dependents of those who go to the front, more especially those who may be killed or otherwise die in the war. In the distribution of the fund in different localities, effect will be given as far as possible to the wishes of the local committee, and in such a manner that the distribution to sufferers in each locality may bear reasonable proportion to the amount of the contributions from such locality."

The following omnibus resolution, dealing with the questions of the supervision and the distribution of the fund and the scale of relief, was adopted: "As being more economical, speedier, and efficient, the collection of contributions and gifts for the special objects of the Governor-General's Fund, and the careful distribution to parties rightly entitled to relief from the fund within the several municipal areas, these functions should be entrusted to the Mayors and local committees of and within such areas. The amounts so collected and expended to be advised from time to time to the hon. treasurer, Mr. John Dougall, Box 542, Pretoria, for record, and the information of the Governor-General and the Central Committee. All other contributions and gifts to the Governor-General's Fund, from whatever source, will be received by the hon. treasurer, Pretoria. These will be administered by the Central Committee (a) to those families of dependents not receiving relief through local committees and (b) when

the central fund will permit, to supplement any of the local funds." With regard to the measure of relief to be given, it was resolved that this should be left to the good judgment of the Mayors and local committees, so that the necessities of each and every case should, as far as possible, be promptly and fairly met and provided for.

Representative Government for Indians

A telegram from Lisbon received by the Consul-General for Portugal states (says the *Mahratta*) that the Portuguese Parliament has approved of the financial and administrative autonomy of the Colonies. The limits to the autonomy relate only to military and international affairs and any reasonable man would recognise them as necessary and beneficial, for the colonies themselves. For, taking an instance near home, is it conceivable that tiny Goa could without danger be left to defend its own autonomous Government? Unless that Portuguese colony wanted to be engulfed in another empire it could not have reasonably asked for complete autonomy. But administrative and financial autonomy stands on a different footing altogether; and it, like air and water, may be as beneficial in India as in Europe, though the coats Indians wear may not be of the same stuff or fashion as those of Europeans. Such, at least, seems to be the belief of the Portuguese Republic, which has generously extended to all her colonies the independence which, it knows, is as worthy of being cherished and loved in India as well as in Portugal. And so Goa henceforth will have a representative assembly, with a Governor at the head sent from Portugal, to administer its own affairs. The position will correspond to that of the self-governing colonies of the British Empire. We congratulate the people of Goa, Christian as well as others, upon the right they have now gained,—a right which they have the proud distinction of being the first people in India to gain.

A Successful Indian Scientist

Following upon his success at Oxford, Professor J. C. Bose of the Presidency College, Calcutta, has achieved another in his discourse, on Plant Response, given on June 2nd before the University of Cambridge (says the *Leader*, Allahabad). The interest in his lecture was so keen that the Botanical Department of Cambridge imported some soil from India in order to give his plants the best possible conditions for exhibiting their specific reactions. The Tripos examination was proceeding at the time and a special request was made that Prof. Bose should delay the hour appointed for the lecture for ten minutes in order to allow advanced students who had been sitting for their Tripos to reach the lecture-room in time. The large Botanical Theatre was filled with scientific specialists, dons and advanced students who followed with great attention the experiments with which the lecturer illustrated his discourse. The applause which greeted each demonstration was led by the eminent botanist Sir Francis Darwin, who in proposing the vote of thanks said that he was filled with admiration, not only for the brilliancy of the work but for the convincing character of the experiments. The lecturer was an experimentalist of rare skill and ingenuity, and it had moreover to be remembered that he had been obliged to work in great isolation, and to depend entirely upon himself, even for the training of his mechanics who had constructed for him instruments of such extraordinary delicacy and precision. The problems he had attacked were of wide interest and much might be expected from the furtherance of this work.

Death of Lord De Villiers

Lord De Villiers, Chief Justice of the Appellate Court of South Africa, died at Pretoria on the 2nd instant after a brief illness.

The Natal Indian Association forwarded the following telegram to Lord P. De Villiers:—"Natal Indians grieved death your revered father. Irreparable loss South Africa. Deeply sympathise with you."

The Natal Zoroastrian Anjuman sent the following telegram:—"Natal Zoroastrians tender heartfelt sympathy in your bereavement."

The president of the Natal Anjuman Islam telegraphed:—"Anjuman Islam deeply sympathises in your great loss."

A telegram of sympathy with the family of the late Lord De Villiers was addressed by the Chairmen of the Transvaal British Indian Association and the Tamil Benefit Society.

News in Brief

On the 24th ultimo, Mr. Polak delivered a lecture before the Yeoville Branch of the Johannesburg Theosophical Society on the Indian question. A sympathetic discussion followed.

The list of Natal Indians who have plural wives should be sent to the Natal Indian Association, 110 Field Street, Durban, and those of the Transvaal to the British Indian Association, Box 6522, Johannesburg.

Mr. and Mrs. Gandhi and Mr. Kallenbach arrived in London from South Africa on the 4th ultimo, says *India*, and were received at Waterloo Station by a number of Indian and English friends. They were garlanded both at Southampton and at the London terminus.

A reception in honour of Mr. and Mrs. Gandhi and Mr. Kallenbach was to be held at the Hotel Cecil on the 8th ultimo. Included in the reception committee were Princess Sophia Duleep Singh, Mr. Gokhale, the Congress delegates now in England, and all the leading Indians resident in London.

London, September 2nd.—Jews to the number of 244 have been given commissions in the Russian Army. Their co-religionists held a thanksgiving service and prayed for the success of the Russian arms.—Reuter.

London, September 1.—Justice Sir William Solomon, the chairman of the Indian Grievances Commission, has been appointed a Knight Commander of the Star of India.

London, August 31, 3.30 p.m.—The Government's decision to employ Indian troops was received with the utmost gratitude throughout India, whose peoples are proud of the compliment paid them, and especially of the confidence shown in the stability of their soldiers.

Mr. Maurice Verne, a Parisian journalist, has started a campaign against the fashion of wearing starched collars.

London, September 4th.—A great wave of passionate loyalty has swept over India, surpassing all expectations. Meetings attended by tumultuous crowds have been held in the large centres throughout the country. Papers of all shades of opinion agree that England's cause is India's.

The Queen has honoured Mr. S. Fyze Rahamin (says *India*) by an inspection of some of his Indian drawings, which are being exhibited at the Goupil Gallery (5, Regent Street, London).

The following affecting message was addressed by Lord Hardinge to the people of India on July 16th:—"In the midst of the sorrow and heavy burden of grief that it has pleased the Almighty in His infinite wisdom to place upon me and my family in taking my dear wife to her eternal rest, I wish to convey to the people of India my profound gratitude for the countless expressions of deep love and true affection for Lady Hardinge that have reached me from every class and creed throughout India, and for the sympathy offered to me and my family in our great sorrow. In her I have lost a truly devoted wife and a most noble helpmate, and the people of India have lost a very loving friend. She loved India, her women and children, the suffering and the poor—few can realise how much. Though gone to her eternal home, her love for India will, I know, remain and bring its blessing from above."

The Jamaica Legislative Council recently passed a law prohibiting Chinese, Syrians or other aliens from landing in the Colony, except they could show £30. The so-called Alien Bill has not yet become operative, it not having received the Royal Assent, but the *Gleaner*, Jamaica, urges that pressure should be brought upon the Imperial Government to pass the bye-law or, if it be disallowed by the King on the advice of the Secretary of State for the Colonies, that the popular representatives in the Legislative Council should pass at the earliest possible opportunity a strongly worded resolution claiming for Jamaica the same rights and liberties to deal with undesirable Asiatic Immigrants as are enjoyed by the great self-governing Colonies of the Empire.

Mr. Gandhi and the Colonial-borns

Mr. Gandhi, speaking at the farewell reception given to him by the Gujarati community of Durban in July, said that he would take the opportunity to address a few remarks to the Colonial-born Indians, as he did not know whether he would have another opportunity to speak to them. To them his first words had been when he came to South Africa and to them his last words would be when he left it. It was they who had assisted him with his first piece of political work in South Africa, when a petition signed by some 10,000 Indians had been addressed to Lord Elgin, the then Secretary of State for the Colonies, against the disfranchisement of Indians. That petition had been successful in its object, the Bill being vetoed, though the Government of the day subsequently in another form achieved its purpose. The Colonial-borns had since also borne their share of the communal work, but they could, if they would, do more. It was they who were the permanent Indian settlers of South Africa. To the Colonial-borns, South Africa was their birth-place and home, and it was essential to the well-being of all other sections of the community that they should work together with the Colonial-borns. Their responsibility was great. It was they who would have to nurse the settlement, to maintain the happier tone, which had now been established between the European and Indian communities and to live down the prejudice which to day still existed in South Africa. This they would accomplish in time if they did their duty at all times. He referred to the fact that Nagappan and Valiamma had both been Colonial-borns, as had the ladies who did such noble work at Newcastle. He urged upon them to preserve their national characteristics, to learn their mother-tongue and study the history and traditions of their Motherland, where he would hope to see them some day.