

Indian Opinion

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BRITISH PRESS ON INDIA'S EFFORT

THERE has been a unanimous burst of enthusiastic praise and admiration by the British Press at India's rally to the cause of Great Britain.

"The meaning of the British Empire," says the *Pall Mall*, "stands clear before the world to-day—clearer than the most gifted pens have ever written or the most informed minds have ever known. The rising of India to claim her honourable place in the battle front of all the Britains, the pouring of her troops across the seas, the opening of her purse, the eager service of her Princes, the surging acclamation of her common faith and loyalty, compose a spectacle so moving and so wonderful that silent contemplation becomes easier than praise or even gratitude.

"When the Kaiser threw down his brutal defiance to the peace of the world, to the law of nations and to the rights of humanity, he can little have dreamt from what distant shores the answering shout of justice and its defenders would return to him. Where he thought to sow discord he has begotten unison; where he scattered the seeds of intimidation he is reaping the harvest of defiance and Nemesis. When he broke the borders of a peaceful neighbour, how could he realise that he touched an alarm bringing remotest continents to the rescue? How could the intoxication of self-will foresee that Himalaya and Hindu Koosh would march to the avenging of the Ardennes?

"It is impossible to find words that can express the mighty significance of this gathering of the nations to punish wrong, and to support the strong arm uplifted in its defiance. No event in the history of the world has lent greater vividness to the dream of human confederation, of a supreme jurisdiction of justice, and of universal security for common liberty."

"The Times"

"In all its long annals the House of Commons has never been more moved than it was upon the reading of the wonderful message from the Viceroy of India," says *The Times*. "The Indian Empire has overwhelmed the British nation by the completeness and the unanimity of its enthusiastic aid. India is sending 70,000 men—horse, foot, and artillery, British and Indian, Rajput and Ghurkha and Sikh and Pathan, a formidable fighting force trained and maintained in constant readiness for warfare—to fall into line beside their brethren and the French.

"The proudest Princes of India have buckled on their swords and are hastening to battle in the fair land of France. At their head comes the gallant Sir Pertab Singh, the Nestor of Rajput chivalry, who vowed long ago that he would not die in his bed, and at seventy years of age claims to face the foe once more upon the battlefield. With him is the knightly figure of the Maharajah of Bikanir, the young Maharajah of Patiala, the head of the Sikhs; the Heir-Apparent of Bhopal, the hope of a powerful Mussulman ruling family; the Maharajah of Jodhpur, another famous Rajput ruler;

and many more representatives of the most ancient and honoured princely families of India. Seven hundred Princes and Chiefs of India have placed the whole of their resources at the disposal of the King-Emperor. They have offered their swords, their treasuries, their troops, their lives.

"The peoples of British India—the innumerable millions under the sole control of the Government—have been equally lavish in their outpourings and their demonstrations of loyalty. From the grim Khyber, from far Baluchistan, from the mountain heights of Chitral, promises of assistance and appeals for enrolment are being pressed upon the Government of India. Nor is this all. The Prime Minister of Nepal, the great Ghurkha State, has offered the formidable troops he controls, an offer of inestimable value.

"Such is India's glorious answer to the Kaiser and his misguided dreams of revolt in the East. Asia has joined in the battle against brutal lust for power, and her weapons are turned against him. Already the thunder of Japanese guns portends the final disappearance of the German flag from the Pacific. Even the Dalai Lama, gratefully remembering the shelter given him by the British in his days of adversity, offers a force of Tibetans, and prays for the success of British arms. The Kaiser has lighted a torch indeed, for he has set the West and the East alike afire against him."

The "Standard"

"Perhaps nothing, not even the splendid loyalty of the Oversea Dominions, is more significant than the spontaneous outburst of loyal fervour from the princes and people of India," says the *Standard*. "All that is noble in our great Eastern Empire has risen in passionate loyalty to the British Raj. No incident of these weeks of crowded experience should give us a purer pride and gratification than this. For it tells us, with eloquent sincerity, that, though our way is not exempt from the shortcomings due to human infirmity, the peoples of India recognise that in the main it is a just, a kindly, and a beneficent rule."

The "Daily Mail"

"The action of India touches us the more deeply because it comes from peoples that are not bound to us by ties of blood. It is a proof that the British Empire has a spiritual existence which neither distance nor time nor climate nor colour can destroy, and that it represents ideals for which all its citizens are prepared to live and die. It is also the final justification of our work in India. For it has been our glory that in India we rested our power on other sanctions than those of force. We have striven to prepare a vast Empire of subject peoples to govern themselves, and we have tried to care for justice and loving-kindness more than for mastery, for honour than for material gain. Now we know that it has not been in vain when we have such evidence of Indian loyalty and love."

The "Manchester Courier."

"The splendid example of loyalty to England set by India is one of the most satisfactory of many remarkable happenings brought about by the present war. It is a challenge to all the nonsense and arrogance of critics of the Bernhardt type. The 'multitudinous races and people' are one, without reference to geographical division, religious distinctions, political divisions, or races. Loyalty has bridged all cleavages. The idea that our Colonies and India are a 'splendid illusion' will never again be entertained by any sane man."

The "Daily Graphic."

"No one can read the Viceroy's short summary of what India is doing without feeling that a great event has occurred in our history. Here are men not of the same race as ourselves, knowing our language only as a foreign tongue, familiar with our traditions only at second hand, and yet one and all they come forward with a loyalty that has rarely been equalled and never surpassed to offer their blood and treasure in the service of their Sovereign and in the service of England. Few have dared to hope for such a universal demonstration of loyalty from the numberless multitude of varied races that make up the 300,000,000 inhabitants of the Indian Empire."

The "Daily Chronicle"

"The Viceroy of India's despatch brings vividly before us the fine loyalty of India in this crisis. Some writers in the German Press have been representing it as a sort of virtue on Germany's part that she is fighting foes of many races, and a sort of crime on our part that some of these races are Asiatic. We should have thought, on the other hand, that the combination of British, Russian, Indian, and Japanese troops against a common aggressor pointed rather to the faults of his aggression than to anything else. As to the "culture" of our Asiatic fellow-subjects and Allies, no Sikhs or Ghurkhas fighting under the British flag ever had the crime of a Louvain or an Aerschot, a Tirfement, or a Visé to their credit, nor will they have."

The "Star."

"If there is one thing that we may rejoice in at this crisis, it is that the calculations of our enemy have almost all been falsified, while ours have been justified. How futile appear the feeble efforts of German professors and Turkish agitators to organise a Moslem revolt through the British Empire in the face of the splendid outburst of loyalty and patriotism which has come from the Indian Moslems, as well as from all other creeds in the Dependency. Mistakes there have been in our rule, for we are fallible, but it is clear that there is no sense of injustice or oppression such as Teutonic theorists had demonstrated must appear when the stress of battle fell on the British Empire."

The "Pall Mall Gazette."

"Thanks and honour are the unbounded due of those magnificent forces which have been sent from the Indian Empire, of its princes who have risen to their great office of leadership, and of that enormous community of our fellow subjects which in every fashion within its power has made our cause its own, and joined its efforts and its prayers with ours for overwhelming victory. We admire the insight which has realised our grounds of quarrel, the loyalty which has rushed to claim a part, the confidence and devotion which have offered life and money with unsparing hand. Whatever the burdens of the war may be to ourselves, its rewards will outstrip in magnitude and durability the utmost sacrifice that we could lay upon duty's altar. In such an hour may we not rejoice to know that they are the rewards of courage, of honour, and of every impulse that spurned the meaner and the weaker way?"

Indian Press on the War

Our London contemporary *India* gives the following typical comments of the Indian Press:—

The "Tribune" (Lahore)

Everyone is doubtless asking on the present occasion, "What is the attitude of Indians in the face of this unparalleled crisis?" There is but one answer to it, and that answer is given by all without a moment's hesitation. It is one of passive and trustful loyalty to the person and Throne of the Sovereign, irrespective of all our differences and irrespective alike of the approval or disapproval by various sections of public opinion of the policy that has commended itself to His Majesty's responsible Ministers.

The "Bengalee" (Calcutta)

Behind the serried ranks of one of the finest armies in the world, there stand the multitudinous peoples of India, ready to co-operate with the Government in the defence of the Empire, which, for them, means, in its ultimate evolution, the complete recognition of their rights as citizens of the freest State in the world. We may have our differences with the Government—and what people have not—but in the presence of a common enemy, be it Germany or any other Power, we sink our differences, we forget our little quarrels and close our ranks and offer all that we possess in defence of the great Empire, to which we are all so proud to belong, and with which the future prosperity and advancement of our people are bound up.

The "Herald" (Dacca)

If the loyal meetings which are being held all over the country do nothing else, they will at least give the enemy to understand that Britain does not stand alone in the fight in which she had to enter much against her own will; and that the vast people of an Empire in which the sun never sets stand behind her like one man, ready to place at her disposal the last gun, the last man, and the last penny they possess.

The "Indian Patriot" (Madras)

The whole continent of India is moved by one feeling of concern and one feeling of loyalty and devotion. A united people of three hundred millions, merely standing behind the Government, imparts a moral stimulus and sense of strength which no enemy, however powerful, can disregard.

The "Beharee" (Bankipore)

We are sure we echo the sentiment common to the people of the country when we say that we are deeply beholden to his Excellency Lord Hardinge for the timely cable to His Majesty that the loyalty of every man in India might be thoroughly relied upon in the event of war. India's fortunes are indissolubly linked up with those of England.

The "Advocate" (Lucknow)

Now that England is at war with a foreign enemy she may absolutely depend upon the loyalty of the people of this country. They may have their grievances, they may have their differences with the Government, but they are firmly attached to British rule; they are fully prepared at this crisis to place their resources at the disposal of the authorities in defence of their country.

The "Jam-e-Jamshad" (Bombay)

This is the time when India should feel it to be her duty to show to the world—to England's foes and allies alike—how greatly she is attached to her, how staunch and resolute is her devotion to her interests, how ready and willing she is to make any sacrifice she can in men and treasure, for the defence of her possessions and the assertion of her honour and dignity.

From the Editor's Chair

"OUR INDIAN POPULATION"

OUR readers will, we have no doubt, entirely appreciate the spirit of the letter addressed at General Botha's instance to the Transvaal British Indian Association, in reply to its representation of the subject of the alleged use by him, at Bank, of the word "coolie" in the course of his speech. The Indians of South Africa will have no hesitation at all in accepting General Botha's assurance that he had no intention, if he used the word, of injuring in any way the susceptibilities of the Indian population of the Union. His use of the expression "our Indian population" has a very gratifying ring, and it is a symptom of the new spirit which we believe has already commenced to infuse the relations of the Indian community and the Union Administration. We trust most earnestly that this spirit of good-will will be carefully fostered by both sides so that those relations may be increasingly productive of good feeling throughout the Union.

THE EFFECT OF WAR

THERE are at present a number of Indians at the Immigration Depôt, Durban, awaiting the opportunity of being sent to their homes in India. But, as in the case of many other people, the war has altered things and they find themselves stranded in Natal for the time being. Elsewhere we describe the circumstances of their detention. No-one can be held to blame and the best thing is to make the best of the position. The Immigration Trust Board is bound, in the ordinary way, to provide food and shelter for time-expired Indians and their families until a steamer arrives to take them to India. In ordinary times people have to wait, unfortunately, sometimes months. But the war is an exception to the general run of events and the uncertainty of the steamer service to the east coast of India makes it doubtful when it will be considered safe to despatch a boat-load of human beings to Madras or Calcutta. Some of these men, we understand, are inclined to argue that they have a right to be fed, free of charge, at the Depôt. Whether a court of law would, under the special circumstances, so decide, we are extremely doubtful. But in any case, to take a common-sense point of view of the matter, it is much better to work and earn two shillings or more per day and pay 4d. for their food than to loiter their time away and exhaust their slender resources in town where they will always find opportunity for spending. We hope that employers of labour—European and Indian—will remember these people and find employment for them of a temporary nature.

Just before going to press we received a letter from the Protector stating that arrangements were being made for 200 adults to leave by the s.s. *Umsambi* on the 20th instant. The Indians for the Madras district will be provided with a certain amount to pay their train-fares from Bombay. There will remain behind some fifty or sixty men who will require employment.

NO PASS

We have been informed that "free" Indians are being prosecuted for not being in possession of a pass. It is now some months ago that instructions were given by the Government for the issue of permanent discharge certificates to those formerly subject to the £3 tax and those subsequently discharged from indenture. It appears that the forms are in the hands of the printers with no immediate prospect of their being completed. Until these certificates are issued, every poor man is liable to be arrested and punished. We cannot think that there is need for such delay but it

may be that, on account of the war, there is a shortage in the ranks of the Government printers. If that is so, we think there are other printers in the country who could manage such a simple job if it were given them to execute. Those Indian public bodies whose duty it is to look after the welfare of their poorer brethren should not fail to press the matter of the issue of these certificates at an early date so that the present unsatisfactory position may be relieved.

Indians Stranded in Durban

A large number of Indians whose indentures expired some time ago, some of them having been waiting as long as three months for the arrival of a steamer to take them to India, have now been informed that, owing to the war, it is impossible to say when a ship will be available. The presence of the German cruiser *Emden* in the Bay of Bengal has made the despatch of ships to or from Madras and Calcutta a risky performance, and, until this cruiser is put out of action, it will not be safe to send the Indians to their homes. This, of course, has caused great disappointment amongst the labourers and has raised a difficulty in regard to their food supply. The Indian Immigration Trust Board are, in the ordinary course of events, responsible for their maintenance at the Depôt until one of the ships under contract to take Indians back to India arrives. But the extraordinary circumstances of the war renders the position awkward for all parties.

There were, last week, about 150 men besides women and children at the Depôt, and efforts were being made by the Protector of Indian Immigrants and the Secretary of the Trust Board to get the men to accept temporary employment in town or on the neighbouring sugar estates until such time as the way was made clear for their departure. About a fortnight previously, the Protector, with the approval of the Government, had issued passes to 60 or 70 men and they had gone out to work. But when our representative called at the Protector's office last Friday about 150 men with their families still remained at the Depôt, being unwilling to leave the town. The men were brought up to the office and the position again clearly explained to them. They were told that, if they accepted employment temporarily there need be no fear of their being made to re-indenture. Passes would be issued and instructions given to the employers that, on notification of the pending departure of the steamer, the men should be released at once. If they chose, they could find work in Durban, live at the Depôt and, if they so desired, have food provided for them at 4d. per day. Those who were certified by the medical officer to be unfit for work and women without husbands would be kept at the Depôt without charge. Owing to the helpless fear that possessed them, offers of employment by firms in town had been refused and in the meantime the vacancies had been filled by others. But if they would only go out and seek work the Protector offered to provide food for them and they could pay when they received their wages. Eventually some of the men agreed to return to their former employers whilst others said they would seek employment in town.

The Position Relieved

Just before going to press we received the following letter from the Protector:—

"In connection with the Indians detained in Depôt pending return to India, I beg to inform you that arrangements are being made for 200 adults to leave by the s.s. *Umsambi* on the 20th instant, for Bombay. The Indians for the Madras District will be provided with a certain amount to pay their train-fares from Bombay.

"This will relieve the pressure, and only about fifty or sixty adults will remain behind."

The Prime Minister and the Word "Coolie"

On the 2nd instant the Chairman of the British Indian Association addressed the following letter to the Private Secretary to General Botha:—

"Members of my Association have read with great respect and appreciation General Botha's important speech at Bank this week. I observe, however, that in the course of his speech, according to Reuter's indirect summary, he is reported to have used the word 'coolie' on three occasions. The paragraph to which I beg to refer is as follows:—

"The British Government was determined to take German South-West Africa, and, if the South African Union had not done its share, the Imperial Government might have sent 50,000 coolies there. (Cries of 'Hague Convention') Nonsense! The gentleman who exclaimed 'Hague Convention' did not know what he was talking about. Besides, there were coolies, Indians and Japanese already in the fighting. (Cheers.) The British Government would have been quite justified in asking coolies to take German South-West, and could have told these people when the war was over that they could make a settlement there later on. Would that, he asked, have been to the interest of South Africa, and would mothers quietly have contemplated such a state of affairs?"

"My Association is aware, of course, that the word 'coolie' is somewhat indiscriminately used in South Africa when 'Indians' are intended, and although its use is not intended to offend, nevertheless as the word is confined amongst Indians themselves to those of the labouring classes, the word 'coolie' meaning a labourer, the Indian community generally feels that the word should ordinarily not be used. It is certainly out of place as applying to the military classes, and those Indians in this country who have volunteered their services to the Government. My Association is well aware that General Botha had not the slightest intention to hurt Indian susceptibilities, assuming that Reuter's summary correctly represents what he said, but I venture respectfully to hope that in the event of the Government circulating his speech in any form, care will be exercised so that the word 'Indian' is used throughout where at present the word 'coolie' appears.

"Trusting that General Botha will appreciate the spirit in which this letter is addressed to him, and that he will understand that my Association has every desire to refrain from causing him any embarrassment whatever at the present critical juncture."

The Reply

The following is the reply, dated the 3rd instant:—

"I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 2nd instant, which I have shown to General Botha. In reply I have to state that General Botha is not sure whether the word 'Koelie' was indeed employed by him during the course of his speech at Bank last week; he does not wish to be unfair towards the reporter, however, and it is quite possible that the word was used. In any case he wishes me to assure you that nothing was further from his mind than to give offence to our Indian population by the use of a word which by them is considered opprobrious. As you will be aware, in Dutch, the word 'Koelie' is more ordinarily used than the word 'Indien' and does not convey anything derogatory.

"General Botha hopes that your Association will accept his assurance that no offence was intended by the expression if used by him."

Mr. Cachalia, on the 6th instant, closes the incident with the following:—

"I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 3rd instant, in reply to my Association's

letter of the 2nd instant, with reference to General Botha's speech at Bank. I need hardly assure you that my Association was quite satisfied that General Botha had not the slightest intention of giving offence to the community that it has the honour to represent, and very much appreciates your courtesy in writing on General Botha's behalf in this matter."

The Zoroastrian Anjuman, Durban, also sent a telegram protesting against the words used by General Botha.

In reply to a correspondent the *Natal Mercury* adds a foot-note as follows:—

The Prime Minister was presumably speaking in Dutch, and the term to which our correspondent objects may have erroneously crept into the translation. At any rate, its use was unfortunate; and we cannot imagine that General Botha intended to be offensive to the Indians, whose splendid loyalty to the Empire everybody admires.

Coloured Passengers on Cars

At a meeting of the Durban Town Council on the 6th instant, the Financial Committee reported as follows on the question of coloured passengers on tramcars:—

On July 6th, 1914, the Council adopted the following resolution: "That the question of making suitable provision for the handling of the coloured traffic on the trams be referred to the favourable consideration of the Committee on Estimates of Ways and Means; reports to be furnished by the General Manager of Tramways and the Town Treasurer." The Durban Ratepayers' Association Conference, at its meeting held on July 22nd, 1914, adopted the following resolution: "That the Town Council be requested to obtain such powers as will enable them to exclude coloured passengers from travelling on tramcars reserved for white people, and further take into consideration the provision of suitable accommodation for coloured people." In submitting this latter resolution, the Hon. Secretary of the Conference stated that "considerable feeling was expressed against the present unsatisfactory methods of dealing with the Asiatic and native traffic, the mover of the resolution pointing out that the Transvaal Municipalities had been able to get a Bill passed through the Provincial Council in 1912, giving them the right to exclude coloured passengers from using cars intended for white traffic." While we have noted the request of the Ratepayers' Conference for consideration when further legislative powers are before the Council, we desire to point out that at present the Council has no statutory authority to act in the direction indicated. After careful consideration of a joint report submitted by the General Manager of Tramways and the Town Treasurer on this matter, from which it appears that to a large extent the inconvenience to which the passengers are subjected, when travelling on the tramcars, is that of overcrowding, we have given instructions to the General Manager of Tramways to take such steps as are necessary to prevent overcrowding in future, a course which your Committee believes will obviate largely the inconvenience to which we have referred. Apart from this instruction, your Committee desires to state that, while it is not prepared at the present juncture to submit a recommendation in the direction of incurring expenditure in this matter, it will review the position when general conditions are more favourable than they are to-day. With regard to the powers possessed by the Transvaal Municipalities under the Local Government Ordinance of that Province of 1912, to which reference has been made by the Ratepayers' Conference, your Committee desires to point out that the Transvaal Supreme Court, on August 11th, 1914 (by a majority of the Bench), held, in the case of an appeal from a judgment of Mr.

Justice Ward dismissing an application by two Cape coloured men (Williams and Adendorff) for an order restraining the Johannesburg Municipal Council from refusing to allow them to travel on any of the municipal tramcars, that the appeal should be allowed, and accordingly Williams and Adendorff were granted an order restraining the Johannesburg Municipal Council, or any of its servants, from preventing or from refusing to allow applicants from travelling on any of the ordinary municipal tramcars for the conveyance of passengers on payment of the usual fare.

The "Mercury" Dissatisfied

We cannot agree with the finding pronounced by the Financial Committee that the main cause of complaint under this head is the overcrowding to which the cars are occasionally subject, (says the *Natal Mercury*). The actual complaint was specifically set out in the resolution passed by the Ratepayers' Association Conference last July, and we consider it the duty of the Town Council, in view of the strong public opinion which has developed on the subject, to declare their intention to apply for the requisite powers at the next available opportunity they have for promoting a Municipal Amendment Ordinance.

Indians and the War

The Durban licensed Indian fisherman have contributed £36 18s 6d. to the Mayor's War Relief Fund.

London, October 5th (Reuter).—The Aga Khan had an audience of the King to-day, and subsequently took lunch with their Majesties the King and Queen.

The Port Shepstone Indians have collected £23 7s. which has been handed over to the Durban Mayor's War Relief Fund.

Indians Honourably Mentioned

London, October 5th (Reuter).—The Press Bureau publishes a statement by Mr. L. Harcourt, the Colonial Secretary, regarding the operations in East Africa. From this it appears that there has been considerable activity on the boundary of British East Africa and German East Africa, owing to the attempts of the enemy to raid British territory and cut the Uganda railway. Mr. Harcourt warmly thanks the Volunteers, and praises the gallantry of all arms. The Governor of the Protectorate mentions Captain J. Pottinger, Subadar Sherbaz Naick, and Gul Mahomed for conspicuous bravery, and Lieut. R. Hardingham for excellent work in keeping touch with the enemy for six days.

More Indian Help

The Secretary of State for India announced in mail week that in addition to the offers of service and assistance in connection with the war which have been made in India to the Viceroy, the following offers have been received from Chiefs and others residing in England:—

His Highness the Gaekwar of Baroda.—All his troops and resources.

Their Highnesses the Maharaja and the Maharani Maji Sahiba of Bharatpur.—(1) The whole resources of their State; (2) two motor-cars and a chauffeur, with all expenses; (3) Rs. 2,000 to the Indian Relief Fund.

His Highness the Raja Akalkot.—Personal service in the field.

His Highness the Raja of Pudukota.—"All I possess"; expresses his anxiety to serve in any capacity. Has placed his motor car at the disposal of Government, and is returning to India to raise, subject to approval, a regiment of his subjects to release a Regular regiment.

Mir Ghulam Ali Khan of Khairpur.—Personal service in the field.

The British Indian residents in England of every class and creed have been (it is added) forward with loyal and generous offers of personal services and help.

Transport of Indian Army

A letter received from Calcutta (says the *Natal Mercury*) states that when the writer was recently there the vessel by which he was travelling was alongside six German prizes, from which the coal had been removed, the machinery dismantled, and over which British soldiers mounted guard. It was also stated that among the prisoners in India the war in Europe was looked upon with great disgust, and, further, that the war was very unpopular in Germany.

It was further reported that so numerous were the German prizes in the possession of the Government that it had been possible to charter no fewer than 65 British India boats to act as "troopers" for the conveyance of the Indian army to Marseilles. And in return for this service the Government had allowed the "B. I." Company to temporarily take over a large number of prizes in order that its ordinary trade and passenger business might not be too seriously affected by the withdrawal of so many of the company's own vessels. It is said that these vessels were officered by "B. I." men, and manned by lascars. For this reason the necessity of transferring the large Indian Expeditionary Force to Europe in no way interfered with the ordinary trade and commerce of the East, the Germans, "to their grief," having been the means of supplying an extensive supplementary fleet of fine liners.

Praise for Indian Troops

"One who knows them" writes in the *Natal Witness*:—

It is quite impossible for anyone who has not lived among our splendid Indian troops, fought side by side with them, marched with them, starved with them, and shared their chupatties and their blankets, to realise the kind of men they are. The average person quite misunderstands them. He regards them as men of a lower type than himself—black men, good fighters, perhaps, when well led, but not in any sense to be regarded as the equals of the lordly whites. It is a huge mistake. The native of India who belongs to one of the fighting castes is the equal, physically and intellectually, of any European soldier and superior to most. To begin with, he is a gentleman by birth. Any trade or profession but that of arms is beneath his dignity. He was born to be a soldier and nothing else, and he is just as much superior to the rebellious Sepoy of 1857 as the trained and intelligent University graduate is to the undersized, aenemic loafer of the East End of London. Morally, he is a far better man than the average European, because the caste laws which he observes with magnificent rigidity, make for clean, wholesome living, and the production of a breed of men who can stand unashamed before the world.

Let me try to give a pen picture of the men who are now fighting for the British Empire on the soil of France, and who in a few weeks or months will be hammering at the gates of Berlin. Take the stalwart Sikh. He is a man six feet in height, deep of chest and broad of shoulder. There is not an ounce of superfluous flesh about his splendidly developed body. He has been an athlete from his earliest years. Every muscle has been developed to the highest degree of perfection, and if you happen to see him when he is stripped to his skin and about to take his daily bath, you will see a human being as perfectly proportioned as any Greek statue to be seen in a museum. Like his comrade, the Bengal Lancer, he is a born fighting man. His ancestors, for a hundred generations, were fighting men too. He has been suckled on the traditions of a fighting race, weaned on those of a fearless ancestry, and trained and educated to the belief that the noblest ending of any life is a soldier's death on the battlefield. He lives for that end. He will face

death at any time with the sublime coolness of the fatalist, but he will do more than that. He will even seek it if it is to be found in combat, but he will sell his life very dearly indeed when he is actually face to face with a foe.

There is no better fighter in the world than a Sikh, a Bengal Lancer, or a Ghurkha. These men will live where European troops would starve. The writer has known them to give their rice to their white comrades when rations have been short, and to be content, themselves, with the water in which the rice was boiled. Over and over again during the Chitral and other campaigns, the British soldiers would have starved or been frozen if their Indian comrades had not fed them and shared their blankets with them. "A tora parky Johnny," a little grumpy devil of a Ghurkha would say to a white man, on a bitterly cold night, "tum iska blanket puckrao. Ahm bota gurrum"—meaning that he was quite warm enough and that the Britisher was welcome to his blanket. And a few hours later white man and brown would go into action side by side, each prepared, if necessary, to give his life for the other. Men who have lived and marched and starved with the native troops of India love them with a love that passes that of brotherhood.

An Indian Display

On the 3rd instant a grand procession took place in Johannesburg and a collection was taken for the Governor-General's fund. The Indian community was well represented. Indians dressed in national costume and military uniforms and mounted on horses paraded behind a magnificent banner on which were the words "Actions speak louder than words." Four sweet little girls, beautifully dressed in saris, rode upon a great elephant, thereafter a decorated wagon which, together with the design of the banner, was the work of Mr. Solomon Royce. A number of gaily dressed Indians followed on foot. Mr. Cachalia and Mr. Bhikjee also walked in the procession.

The Committee of the Johannesburg Branch of the Governor-General's fund has addressed a letter of thanks to the Transvaal British Indian Association for the help rendered in organising the procession. Thanks are conveyed to all Indians who took part.

News in Brief

We hope to reproduce some interesting photographs of the Indian Army as a supplement to our issue of the 28th instant.

Dr. James Cantlie, who is giving instruction in ambulance work to the London Indian Volunteer Corps, is well-known as an author of books on Red Cross work, and is a friend of the famous Chinese reformer, Dr. Sun Yat Sen.

At the Church Synod, Pretoria, Bishop Furze said that even to talk of 'passive resistance' (whatever they may mean by that) at such a time as this is in our opinion as un-Christian as it is unpatriotic.

While the Hindu tries in vain to enter Australia and British Columbia, we have had it proclaimed, on the authority of *The Times*, that the Kabyle from Algeria, is invited to take up his residence anywhere in France, from the Mediterranean to the British Channel, and that already several thousand African labourers are at work in the coalfields of the north and the vineyards of the South.—*India*.

The school children of St. Oswald's Indian School, Newcastle, met recently for the special purpose of bidding farewell to the Rev. and Mrs. Harker, who are leaving the town for the City. Mr. A. M. Ephraim, headmaster, referred to the great interest Mr. Harker

had taken in the school, and the kindness of Mrs. Harker in giving lessons in sewing to the girls. As the result of a threepenny subscription among the children, presentations of a fountain pen and a fan were made to the reverend gentleman and his wife, respectively.

The number of Indians employed on the South African Railways at the end of last year, says the Report of the General Manager, was 3,616, as against 3,850 at the end of 1912, a decrease of 234. There has been a gradual wastage in this class of labour since the complete cessation of Indian immigration in 1911.

The Mauritian and Colonial-born Hindu Benefit Society of Port Elizabeth propose building a Temple, including a hall, school, etc., on the property in central Rudolph Street, bought last year. The chairman appealed to members to do their duty towards the accomplishment of this purpose. They needed a place of worship, a good hall for meetings and better school accommodation than they had at present.

London, October 2nd, (Reuter).—The *Komagata Maru*, which carried Indian emigrants from Calcutta to British Columbia, who were denied a landing at Vancouver on account of their being unable to comply with the immigration test that is applied to all who seek admission to Canada, has again reached Calcutta. On the ship's arrival the Indians aboard started rioting, using revolvers and other weapons. Police and troops were called out, and the rioters were overcome, but not before 16 had been killed and others injured. Many of the returned emigrants were arrested. Two Europeans and five natives other than those from the *Komagata Maru* were also killed in the course of the affray.

Dr. Clifford, the well-known passive resister, has given to the *Standard* his views as to the war. "Hating war, I searched high and low for reasons against our entrance into the conflict, but when I had weighed the evidence, pro and con, I could not say that our Government had taken a wrong step. It seemed to me that it was not a war between England and Germany, but between the forces of freedom and those of slavery, between the forces that mean the growth of popular government, of the independence of nations, and fidelity to promises, and those against them; a war for the progress of humanity and all that in my judgment hinges thereon. And we were therefore forced into it."

New India of August 5th published the full text of a decision given by the Superior Court at Los Angeles, in the State of California, upon an application by Mr. Sakharan Ganesh Pandit, a Brahman graduate of the Bombay University, for admission to citizenship of the United States. Under the provisions of the revised statutes of the United States, letters of naturalisation are granted to "aliens being free white persons, aliens of African nationality, and persons of African descent." The Court held that, although it was inclined at first to believe that there could be no legitimate relationship between a Hindu and the Caucasian race, it had now, after a careful examination of the authorities, become thoroughly convinced that such relationship does in fact exist, and that a Hindu, of the Brahman caste, from Northern and Western India is to be classed as of the Caucasian race. It came, therefore, to the conclusion that the petitioner had succeeded in establishing beyond all reasonable doubt that he was a "free white person" within the meaning of the Naturalisation Act, and ordered that he should be admitted to American citizenship.