

Indian Opinion

PUBLISHED WEEKLY IN ENGLISH AND GUJARATI

No. 50—Vol. XII. WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 16TH, 1914. Registered at the G.P.O. as a Newspaper
PRICE THREEPENCE

A HEROIC FIGURE

MR. C. F. ANDREWS is contributing an interesting series of articles headed "Helpers in the struggle" to the *Modern Review*. The second of these articles, in the October number, is devoted to Miss Emily Hobhouse who went out from England, during the Boer war, to investigate the condition of the inmates of the Concentration Camps. Mr. Andrews writes :—

But of all those who helped us with timely sympathy and succour in the hour of need the grandest and most heroic figure was Miss Emily Hobhouse. I think I have never come across any one who impressed me more as living nearer the Christian ideal in action.

Shattered and frail in body,—an invalid for whom each day that passed must have been a day of new suffering bravely borne—she had attained the fearlessness that looks at death with the calm eyes of intimate knowledge. Again and again she had almost crossed the border, but her wonderful spirit sustained the physical frame, not allowing it to give way till the last work was finished. When I met her I felt in the presence of one concerning whom the greatest of all prayers in the Upanishads seemed to be finding fulfilment :—

Lead me from the unreal to the Real ;
Lead me from darkness to the Light ;
Lead me from death unto the Deathless.

For these eternal values and standards were her every day experience and gave her an almost unerring wisdom.

Yet no name was more hated among a large section of the colonials than hers, while on the other hand no name was more passionately loved. I was warned never to mention it in Natal. She was the woman, so it was said, who had slandered and betrayed her country and sided with the enemy in the great Boer War. She had committed the unpardonable sin : she had dared to criticise her own kith and kin when she believed them to be in the wrong : she had dared to side with the cause of truth when it was the most unpopular thing in the world to do so,—she, an invalid, a sensitive, shrinking woman. People who know nothing of her suffering, her bodily weakness, her deathless courage, her passion for sincerity, spoke of her as though she were some outrageous woman who had sold her birth-right for notoriety's sake and was now enjoying the earthly reward of her guilty shame. She was at one time actually deported by the Administration as a dangerous person : and even now to-day, thirteen years after the Boer War, the hostility in the hearts of men and women was still so great, that her name was mentioned to me with execration. "I am a well wisher of Mr. Gandhi," said one to me, "and please tell him that it will do the Indian cause no good, but only harm, to be mixed up with that woman !"

Oh ! the petty hates and miserable jealousies of our human life ! How mean, and yet how pitiful they are ; it only the good person who said this could have seen Miss Emily Hobhouse face to face,—why ! the very

sight of her gentle eyes would have disarmed all suspicion and taken away all prejudice. I answered, at the time, that there was no greater honour which the Indian cause could receive than the sympathy of such a pure and upright heart as that of Miss Hobhouse.

But what was her offence, that all this bitterness and bigotry was excited against her ? This is the strangest part of the story. For her offence was nothing more nor less than a brave and successful attempt to right an intolerable wrong.

During the Boer War as the invading army swept forward over the Orange Free State and Transvaal, it was found necessary for military purposes to burn down the Boer home-steads and segregate in concentration camps the women and children and old men. This was done with a haste and ignorance that was little less than criminal in its awful results. Disease swept through the camps : they became fever plots where dysentery, enteric and cholera were generated. The suffering of the Boer mothers and their children was terrible beyond words. The death roll was appalling.

Private information however about the real state of things reached England and stirred Miss Emily Hobhouse's heart. She determined to go out and see with her own eyes what was taking place. She met with great difficulties. Officialdom heard of her coming and every obstacle was thrown in her way. But she had powerful support and could not be treated lightly. She made her way to the front and gained entrance to the concentration camps themselves. There she lived and worked, nursing with her own hands the sick and dying, seeking out all the while with her quick womanly mind the remedy for the evils which she witnessed. There, during those months of suffering, she learnt to love the brave Boer mothers and their brave young children. There too she learnt to hate the war, with a stern and pure hatred. It was an experience never to be forgotten. Little by little she saw the great wrongs righted ; the death roll decrease ; the children recover from sickness ; the mothers grow strong and well once more. During the last year of this long protracted war, the evil that had been committed at the outset was nobly redeemed by the British Nation. The conscience of England, always slow to act but just in action, was roused at last ; and no effort was spared to provide every health-giving support to the Boer women and children in the camps. The end of the war thus made some amends for the beginning. But the one who, more than any other, saved the situation from supreme disaster was that frail suffering invalid whom I met in Capetown at the house of General Botha.

The day after my arrival in Durban a long letter came for Mr. Gandhi from Miss Hobhouse. It was one of the first letters I saw among his large correspondence, and it greatly touched me. There was no blame, which had stirred General Smuts' resentment, but an intelligent understanding of it and an apprecia-

tion of the Indian position. There can be no doubt that during the days that followed the influence of Miss Hobhouse with the Boer leaders did much to pave the way to a reconciliation. While we were in Pretoria she wrote again and again both to Mr. Gandhi and myself and she thus kept herself in touch with the whole negotiations and took part in them.

It was when I reached Capetown that I saw her personally. She was staying at Groote Schuur, the house of General and Mrs. Botha. This country house had been presented by Cecil Rhodes (in his will) to the Premier of the South African Union for the time being, whoever he might be, and a Boer General was the first to occupy it. The place was eight miles out of Capetown on a spur of Table Mountain. I doubt if there are many grander views than that from Groote Schuur. At the back of the house the beetling crags of Table Mountain rise almost perpendicularly towards the sky; whilst in front, far below, the blue waters of Table Bay fade away on the horizon. I walked out along the side of Table Mountain and at every turn of the Road the vision of beauty was fresh and new: but the most beautiful spot of all was Groote Schuur itself. Mrs. Botha, the General's wife was devoted to her home—a deeply religious woman, simple and domestic, gentle and loveable. She received Mrs. Gandhi, when she came to Capetown later, with the utmost kindness and consideration. I had the misfortune to miss meeting her on that day I called, but from all who knew her I heard what an ideal woman she was, and I could see with my own eyes what an ideal home she had made. Miss Hobhouse was lying on her invalid's couch in the verandah which faces the great Table Mountain. The mountain itself in all its awe and grandeur loomed before us as we talked together about the Indian trouble. I could not help contrasting the frailty of the delicate woman before me with the towering crags overhead lashed by a thousand storms. Yet I knew full well that within that human form was an eternal spirit more enduring than the granite hills and more unmoveable.

We talked on for long that morning. I was afraid of tiring her, but she would not let me go. She wished to hear all I could tell her about India itself. We began our talk with *Gitanjali*, which she had just read and deeply valued, and spoke of the religious life in India that lay behind it. But it was the social side which seemed to be her own special province—the justice and injustice of the world and how to meet its problems. With her all humanity was one. Colour distinctions simply did not exist. Race distinctions seemed to have fallen altogether into the background. She was a liberal in politics of an advanced type, eagerly following the new socialist movements, yet keeping an intense reverence for the individual and for individual liberty. Very few people whom I have met have given me a stronger impression of intellectual force, yet that was tempered by a tender sympathy which felt keenly for the weakest and had a vital place for the single unit as for the whole. To her the life of humanity was not an intellectual problem, but rather a problem of love. It was in love that, she felt, lay the only final solution.

"What a humiliating confession to have to make, that only war brings out that which is noblest in us. Think what that means. It means that we live at so low a moral level that we cannot recognise the sacrificial call except in this crude and violent shape. Its higher and more spiritual forms, such as it ever wears in Christ's own time of peace, pass us by untouched and unattracted. We can only rise to the idea of giving our life for others when it involves taking somebody else's. We can only love and save our brothers at the cost of hating and killing our foes."—CANON SCOTT HOLLAND.

The Anglo-Japanese Alliance

London, December 12th.—Reuter's correspondent in Tokio telegraphs that General Barnardiston, who commanded the British forces at Tsingtau had a splendid reception on his arrival on a visit as the guest of the Japanese nation.

After a reception by high military and State officials, General Barnardiston drove through streets lined with cheering crowds.

An extensive programme of festivities, lasting a week, has been arranged in honour of the occasion.

General Barnardiston was received in audience by the Emperor.

The Japanese Press publishes eulogies on the visit, and dwells on what it refers to as the dawn of a new era in the relations of East and West, which, they declare, will set the seal for ever on the Anglo-Japanese Alliance.

London, December 12th.—A telegram from Tokio states that General Barnardiston told a Reuter's representative that the warmth of his reception had astonished and delighted him. People in Britain talked about the Japanese Alliance, but only one who had fought by the side of the Japanese and saw the rejoicings of the Japanese people at our co-operation could understand how truly the Alliance was appreciated.—Reuter.

Administrator v. Capetown Council

In regard to the refusal of the Capetown City Council to grant permits of removal to certain Indian traders, previously reported in these columns, the Administrator of the Cape Province has addressed the following letter to the Council:—

"With reference to previous correspondence on this matter, I am directed to point out that it now appears from the report of your Medical Officer of Health that the premises are suitable, and that he knows of no reason why the applications should be refused on the ground of the public health. That being so, I am further directed to state that it is clearly the intention of Ordinance No. 19 of 1914 that application for certificates for new licences and applications for removal certificates should be considered from different points of view. It was not the intention of the Legislature that persons whose names appear upon a list of established traders should be debarred from carrying on their trade by a refusal on the part of any Council to grant a removal certificate, unless good reasons exist for such refusal. The question of granting a certificate for a new licence is upon a totally different footing. The power of preventing removals, and, indeed, the power of controlling the trade of butchers was, for the first time, entrusted to local authorities by Ordinance No. 19 of 1914, and, in the case of removals, to prevent a possible hardship, the right of appeal to the Administrator was expressly given.

The provisions of Sub-section 5 of Section 12 of the Ordinance afford an indication to local authorities of the grounds upon which a removal certificate should be properly refused, and I am directed to state that, provided that no reason exists on the ground of the public health why a removal certificate should be refused, and provided that the locality to which the business is proposed to be transferred is suitable, the Executive Committee is bound favourably to entertain any appeal made to them under Sub-section 4 of Section 12. The Executive Committee feel that, in the case of a removal, the question of the type of man cannot be allowed to enter into consideration, as it does not appear equitable that any person should in effect be deprived of a vested right to earn his living

in a particular way in which he is protected by the Legislature, owing to his particular type being one to which a local authority in the first instance would have refused to grant an original licence. In connection with the fresh powers given under Ordinance No. 19 of 1914 I am instructed to call your attention to the provisions of Section 147 of the South Africa Act, whereunder all matters differentially affecting Asiatics are reserved for the consideration of the Governor-General-in-Council. In conclusion, I am directed to request that the Council will give further and early consideration to the matter, with a view, if possible, of granting these and similar removal licences upon the above basis. *In case, however, your Council does not see its way to accept this interpretation of the Ordinance named, the Executive Committee will have no alternative but to issue the certificates applied for.*

The letter was signed by Mr. Lewis Mansergh, the Provincial Secretary.

The A.P.O., from which we take the above, states that the City Council has again refused to grant the removals.

From the Editor's Chair

AN IMPORTANT PRINCIPLE

LAST week we reproduced from the columns of the *Natal Advertiser*, the report of an important decision of the Natal Division of the Supreme Court on the subject of an immigrant's rights under the Immigrants Regulation Act of 1913, as amended by the Indians Relief Act of 1914. It would appear that a certain Indian immigrant, whose admission into this Province had been prohibited, in 1913, before the first-mentioned statute had been enacted, determined to claim his rights, if any, under the new legislation. But because he had been previously restricted, the Principal Immigration Officer here held that the man no longer possessed any rights, and the officer accordingly procured from the Minister a warrant for his removal, without giving him the opportunity of carrying his claim to the Immigration Appeal Board as required by statute. The Court has now held that it has no jurisdiction to interfere with the Minister's warrant, but that the Immigration Officer had acted illegally in depriving the man of his right of appeal to the Board. The Officer's action, even though taken with the knowledge and consent of his departmental chief, was high-handed and arbitrary in the extreme, and has operated against the liberty of the subject and the exercise of statutory rights by the latter. It appears to us to be a remarkable finding of the Court that it has no jurisdiction where the Minister has issued a warrant of deportation after the unlawful action of his subordinate; but the Immigration Act is an extraordinary measure, and Parliament has blindly confided to a single individual, without restraint in law, such enormous powers as should never have been conferred in a democratic country. We have not before us the actual text of the judgment, and it may well be that this strange doctrine is liable to be upset by the Appellate Division. However that may be, the Court has offered a very strong hint as to its views on the procedure adopted, and we earnestly hope that, having this in view, the Government will enable the unfortunate victim of its administrative action to place his case before the Appeal Board for adjudication.

A NEW "WAR FUND"

WE have received from the Licensing Officer, Natal (Mr. Herbert C. Wynne Cole), a letter stating that a "Natal Indian War Fund" has been opened by "the Indian people in Natal" to raise funds "to help the Government during the present crisis." The letter further states: "At the request of the Indians of the Province, I am acting as their Treasurer and Chairman and subscriptions are being sent direct to me." Attached is a list of contributors to the fund from Indians in Maritzburg and district. We are at a loss to understand why the Licensing Officer of the Province should be asked by "the Indians of the Province" to organise a special fund. There are already the Mayor's Fund in Durban and Maritzburg and the Governor-General's Fund to which the Indian community has largely contributed. Are we to understand that contributions to these funds should cease and that all should contribute in future to the Licensing Officer's Fund? Unless we hear that responsible representatives of the whole Indian community have deputed the Licensing Officer to act for them, we shall decline to publish anything further regarding the matter.

No Progress by Carnage

The New York *World* vigorously dissents from "the opinion that, as people now are, progress is most easily and naturally gained by carnage. It is true that great things have been achieved by war, but there is nothing to show that they could not have been gained in peace. If we admit that in wars the earth is scourged and purified in some respects we cannot overlook the fact that evils unspeakable always follow."

"War is not of God, It is of the devil. If civilisation to-day is decrepit and cruel; if it is burdened with unjust laws; if weakness is imposed upon; if greed is paramount; if religion and charity are practised only spasmodically and half-heartedly; if physical and mental infirmities, handed down from father to son, are increasingly evident, and if taxation is taking the heart and life out of industry, it is war—war past and war present—on which the awful responsibility must rest. Peace has no such consequences."

"A God of justice and of mercy does not thus punish his children. Mankind suffers to-day from the gathered guilt of older times, accentuated by its own blood-guiltiness. Every sentiment which attaches decent men to home, religion, and civilisation; every impulse that aspires to a better day; consideration of justice; every idea of enlightened progress; every aspiration for mercy, every charitable thought, and every hope of good government under which the average man, woman, and child may expect to have a chance in the world, is based not upon war, but upon peace."

"Castigation and retribution by God?"

"Chastisement and destruction and desolation by God?"

"No!"

"These things proceed from earthly war-lords and war-gods."

"It is not weakness, it is not the fear of wounds and death, it is not love of ease, that make men cry out against the awful sacrifices of war. It is the spirit of humanity and knowledge prevailing powerfully against the dictates of savagery. That is the force, armed only with the right, which some day must subdue the world."

There is but one issue, as Stephen Phillips finely says—

"With but one lightning is this thunder rife;
Shall man in Force or Faith discover life?"

Indians and the War

The Press Bureau states that the King's tour in France began with a visit to the Indian troops.

The Secretary of the Transvaal British Indian Association has received a letter from the Secretary to the Governor-General stating that the telegram addressed by the British Indian Association to the Secretary, War Office, conveying congratulations to the Indian troops at the front, has been transmitted to the Commander-in-Chief, British Expeditionary Force.

The Victoria Cross

London, December 7.—(Reuter). The King on Saturday handed the Victoria Cross to a Hindoo Sepoy. Another Victoria Cross has been awarded to a Mahomedan now in hospital.

London, December 7.—(Reuter). The *Gazette* announces that the Victoria Cross has been awarded to Naik Darwan Sing Negi, of the 39th Garhwals, for great gallantry on the night of November 23, near Festubert. When the regiment was clearing the enemy out of the trenches Negi, although wounded in three places, was one of the first to push round each successive traverse, in the face of severe fire from bombs and rifles at very close range.

The *Gazette* also announces that the Victoria Cross has been awarded to Sepoy Khudadad, of the 129th Duke of Connaught's Baluchis. On October 31, at Hollebek, although his British officer was wounded, and the other gun had been put out of action by a shell, Khudadad, who was himself wounded, remained to work his gun until all the other five men of the gun detachment had been killed.

Moslem Loyalty.

London, December 11.—The Moslems in India continue to hold meetings expressing loyalty. The Raja of Sermur has given 2,500lb. of tea, the Nawab of Loharu 200 camels, and the Prime Minister of Nepal many blankets for the Gurkhas serving in Europe. The above gifts are merely typical of scores of others. —Reuter.

Rewarding Indian Soldiers

London December 12—Reuter's Delhi correspondent states that for some years it has been the practice of the Government to reward deserving Indian military pensioners with grants of valuable land in the Punjab canal colonies, wherein the extension of irrigated facilities had brought into cultivation enormous areas of land, for which there has been keen competition.

Recently the Punjab Government, with the approval of the Government of India, have in the case of the latest colony, decided to increase the allotment of 103,000 acres, which had been set aside for grants to Army pensioners, to 178,000 acres. These grants will be made at the close of the year, and, in addition to that, part of 103,000 acres which will be given as rewards for services during the present war, an additional area of 75,000 acres will be specially reserved for this purpose, and distributed among Indians who distinguish themselves during the present campaign or their heirs.

This liberal policy will meet with the widest approval in the Punjab, which is the best recruiting ground for the Indian Army.—Reuter

The Holy Places

The following notification, issued by the Government of India on the 2nd ulto., lays down the policy of his Majesty's Government in respect of the Holy Places:—

In view of the outbreak of war between Great Britain and Turkey, which to the regret of Great Britain has been brought about by the ill-advised, unprovoked, and deliberate action of the Ottoman Government, his Excellency the Viceroy is authorized by his Majesty's Government to make the following public announcement in regard to the Holy Places of Arabia, including the Holy Shrines of Mesopotamia, and the Port of Jeddah, in order that there may be no misunderstanding on the part of his Majesty's most loyal Moslem subjects as to the attitude of his Majesty's Government in this war in which no question of a religious character is involved. These holy places and Jeddah will be immune from attack or molestation by the British Naval and Military forces so long as there is no interference with pilgrims from India to the holy places and shrines in question. At the request of his Majesty's Government the Governments of France and Russia have given them similar assurances.

Casualties

Heavy casualties among the officers of the Indian regiments at the front have been reported during the week (says *India* of the 13th ultimo). On Wednesday the list was particularly large. Twenty-four English officers were returned as killed, and one died of wounds, of whom five belonged to the 8th Gurkhas and six to the 2nd Gurkhas. Seven Indian officers, of whom five were Gurkhas, have also been killed, and one, a Sikh, has died of wounds; while twelve have been wounded, and three are missing. Thirteen English officers were reported wounded.

A Night Attack

The *Times* special correspondent sent news on November 10th of a daring night attack by Indians on a regiment of German soldiers from Wurtemberg; in a night reconnoitre, their officer had discovered their disposition and strength. The French Algerian and Moroccan troops had heard that something was afoot and had obtained permission to take part. The crack of rifles showed that the Indians had accounted for the outposts; the German guns got into action, but the attacking party became silent; it was sheltering. Thinking that they had been accounted for, the enemy withdrew, but in a short time the Indians, Algerians, and Moroccans, aided by some French guns, were fighting hand to hand and house to house in two villages, and the Wurtembergers "were thrown back in disorder with a loss of 3,000 dead and wounded. Many prisoners were taken," continues the message, "in this five hours' fight." Six guns were captured. And the Allies had gained six miles.

Commander's Address to the Troops

The following is Sir James Willcocks' address to the Indian troops under his command, dated October 40th, issued when they were brought into the actual field of battle:—

Soldiers of the Indian Army Corps,

We have all read with pride the gracious message of his Majesty the King-Emperor to his troops from India.

On the eve of going into the field to join our British comrades who have covered themselves with glory in this great war, it is our firm resolve to prove ourselves worthy of the honour which has been conferred on us as representatives of the Army of India.

In a few days we shall be fighting as has never been our good fortune to fight before, and against enemies who have a long history.

But is their history as long as yours? You are the descendants of men who have been mighty rulers and great warriors for many centuries. You will never forget this! You will recall the glories of your race, Hindu and Mahomedan will be fighting side by side with British soldiers, and our gallant French Allies.

You will be helping to make history. You will be the first Indian soldiers of the King-Emperor who will

have the honour of showing in Europe that the sons of India have lost none of their ancient martial instincts, and are worthy of the confidence reposed in them.

In battle you will remember that your religions enjoin on you that to give your life doing your duty is your highest reward.

The eyes of your co-religionists and your fellow-countrymen are on you. From the Himalayan Mountains, the banks of the Ganges and Indus, and the plains of Hindustan, they are eagerly waiting for the news of how their brethren conduct themselves when they meet the foe.

From mosques and temples their prayers are ascending to the God of all, and you will answer their hopes by the proofs of your valour.

You will fight for your King-Emperor and your faith, so that history will record the doings of India's sons, and your children will proudly tell of the deeds of their fathers.

"Worthy of All Praise"

A French officer contributes to the *Daily Telegraph* an article on "The Indian Troops in the Firing Line," and after giving vent to the enthusiasm which met the Indians on arrival, he proceeds to give some interesting particulars of their experiences under fire and of the results of their reckless bravery; they are learning experience now. He declares that they have proved themselves worthy of all praise and confidence, and are now ready, instead of showing their courage by jumping up as soon as the enemy is seen and thus bringing his shells on to the spot, to lie for days and nights in a muddy ditch with rain pouring down. Truly the conditions of European warfare are new! "Anyhow, the Indians have made up their mind," says this French officer, "to go through the ordeal with unflinching tenacity. Each regiment walks at night into the trenches with as much order as if it had already fought in the battle of the Aisne."

The Indian Soldiers' Fund

The Indian Soldiers' Fund continues to do well (says *India* of the 13th ultimo). The total on Monday was £74,128; on Tuesday, it was £78,204; on Wednesday, it was £80,000; and yesterday (Thursday) the sum received had amounted to £82,332.

The latest subscriptions include £1,000 from the Burma Oil Company, £525 from the Bengal-Nagpur Railway Company, £500 from Sir Jacob Sassoon and Messrs. Brunner, Mond and Co., £200 from Lord Crewe, £105 from Lord Elgin, £100 each from Lady Northcote, Sir William Cooper, C.I.E., and the Burma Railway Company.

An association called "The Eastern League," composed of Indian and English ladies, has been formed for making warm clothes and providing comforts for the Indian troops at the front. Work parties are now being organised to knit and make warm things on the lines laid down by the Central Committee of the Indian Soldiers' Fund, to whom the work of the league will be forwarded. The willingness to work is great, but funds are required for the purchase of material. Contributions may be sent to the hon. treasurer, Mrs. Beverley, Nascot Lodge, Watford, Herts; or to Lady Hayes Sadler, Bailey's Hotel, Gloucester Road, W.

The Times has published the following letter from Lieut-Col. E. H. Sharman, I.M.S. officer in charge of the Indian Section at the Royal Victoria Hospital, Netley:—

There are now (November 7th) 470 wounded Indian soldiers in the Indian Section of the Royal Victoria Hospital at Netley. I have received numerous inquiries from people who are anxious to send gifts to the wounded Indian soldiers as to what gifts would be most suitable. We have already received large supplies of warm clothing and cigarettes, and the following articles would be greatly appreciated:—Fresh and

dried fruits of all descriptions, stationery, and envelopes. I feel sure that the public will make a generous response to this letter, and in this small way show their gratitude to these brave defenders of the Empire. All packages should be clearly addressed to the "Officer in Charge, Indian Section, Royal Victoria Hospital, Netley," sent carriage paid in boxes or crates, which need not be returned by us.

Moslem India Firmly Loyal

The process of passing resolutions affirming the complete loyalty of Moslems to the British cause goes steadily on throughout India (says the Calcutta correspondent of the *Morning Post*). It is no longer possible to attempt to mention even the more important of the societies which have passed unanimous resolutions. Their name is legion.

Several illustrious names, however, appear among the ruling chiefs who are throwing all their influence on the side of the important work of convincing the less educated of the Mahomedan masses that the present is not a religious war and that no teaching of the Koran necessitates the shedding of Indian blood in favour of the clique which keeps the Sultan a prisoner. The Begum of Bhopal, one of the few Moslem ladies who has made the Haj or pilgrimage to the holy cities of Arabia, addressed a large gathering of her Sardars, officers, and people on the subject of the present crisis in the Mahomedan world. Her Highness attributed Turkey's action to the fact that Germany has by stratagem lured Ottoman statesmen from the straight path.

The Prince of Arcot, presiding over the Madras Presidency Moslem League, said that their loyalty was too deep rooted even to be shaken by political tornadoes. The Prince appealed to all leading Mussulmans of the various districts so to educate the masses as to prove that their loyalty stands above all suspicion. This is the form which Moslem activity is now everywhere taking.

The only possible danger arises from the ignorance of Moslems of the poorest classes who also might conceivably be moved by treacherous underground propaganda. There seems every reason to suppose that priests of every grade are doing the work of instruction loyally, and the British Government's guarantee of Jeddah, Mecca, and Medina being preserved from attack has assisted their work. There is, indeed, among some educated Moslem Indians a tendency positively to welcome the present upheaval on the ground that it may result in some change in sovereignty in Arabia. The wars, persecution, and repression conducted by the Young Turks in Hedjaz and Yemen are recalled, and very plain speaking is heard as to their failure to assure what after all is the Sultan's main title to the loyalty of the faithful, namely, provision of safe routes to Mecca and Medina.

Reports from the frontier indicate that the Moslems of the North-West are quiet, and it is this quarter which alone excites the slightest anxiety, if indeed, it is correct to use that expression at all.

The Labour Problem in India

That India as a whole is over-populated is an entirely mistaken idea (says *The Times*). Of its vast area of nearly 1,800,000 square miles two-fifths has less than 100 persons to the square mile, and there are great tracts of country with less than 25 persons to the square mile. In nearly two-thirds of the districts and States the number is less than 200, while in only about a quarter does it range between 200 and 500. There is moreover an absolute shortage of labour in all industries based on modern capitalistic conditions, and it is seriously retarding the economic development of the country. A few weeks ago, presiding at the Assam dinner, Mr. C. C. McLeod, while congratulating the

tea industry upon its present prosperity, referred to this labour difficulty.

Shortage is seen not merely in distant Assam, but also in Bengal and Upper India, where factories and workshops are within easy reach of congested agricultural areas in the fertile Gangetic valley. A distinguished captain of Indian industry informs us that the want has been keenly felt at the mills and collieries and in transport work, and that this spring his firm alone "could easily have employed an extra 5,000 hands for these purposes, but they were not obtainable." It may be added that the problem has not suddenly arisen, leaving the promoters of emigration to countries where the Indians are unwelcome without opportunity of knowing the facts. At a conference of the Indian and Ceylon Chambers of Commerce held so long ago as January, 1905, a resolution was passed asking for a Government Commission to investigate the inadequacy of labour for organized industries. Since then the difficulty has become more acute year by year.

The Duty of a Christian Citizen

Dr. Alfred Salter, a well-known social worker in Bermondsey and a Labour Party candidate, has written a striking statement on the duty of the Christian citizen. It appeared first in the *Labour Leader* (September 24), and the *Friend* reprinted it as a Special Supplement (October 9). Here are some of its main points:

"Behind all human actions and motives there is a philosophy or creed, and behind all actions and motives that affect us deeply there is a religion," says Dr. Salter. "What a man thinks or does at times like these depends on what his religion is. Every man has a religion, though he may not know it.

"There are only two main religions in the world, though each of them has many forms: (1) The religion which trusts in the power and ultimate triumph of material forces—faith in materialism. (2) The religion which trusts in the power and ultimate triumph of spiritual forces—faith in God.

Powers that Fell

"Assyria, Babylon, Egypt, Persia, Rome, Spain were all mighty world powers that conquered by relying on material force. By each of these in turn the claims of love, of mercy, of brotherhood, of the sanctity of human life, were treated with scorn as contemptible weaknesses, and the advocates of such claims were suppressed or laughed out of court. All these military empires in their day and generation were omnipotent. Nothing could stand against them. All have perished and gone—but the word of the Lord endureth for ever.

"My religion is the Christian religion. I may misunderstand or only partly understand it, but I must speak as I have been given light. If in my bottommost heart I want to know what I should do under any given circumstances I must ask myself what is God's command on the subject and what would Christ do in my place. In the matter of this war I must try to picture to myself Christ as an Englishman, with England at war with Germany. The Germans have over-run France and Belgium, and may possibly invade England by airship and drop bombs on London. What am I to do? Am I to answer the Prime Minister's call, make myself proficient in arms, and hurry to the Continent to beat the Germans off?

"Look! Christ in khaki, out in France thrusting His bayonet into the body of a German workman. See! The Son of God with a machine gun, ambushing a column of German infantry, catching them unawares in a lane and mowing them down in their helplessness. Hark! The Man of Sorrows in a cavalry charge, cutting, hacking, thrusting, crushing, cheering. No! No! That picture is an impossible one, and we all know it.

"That settles the matter for me. I cannot uphold the war, even on its supposedly defensive side, and I

cannot, therefore, advise anyone else to enlist or to take part in what I believe to be wrong and wicked for myself. A country, as an individual, must be prepared to follow Christ if it is to claim the title of Christian.

The Decision

"What is the result of such a policy? If I refuse to fight or support measures of defence, then I may get shot by the enemy as an act of war, or I may be shot by the authorities of my own State as guilty of treason. Very well. I say deliberately that I am prepared to be shot rather than kill a German peasant with whom I have no conceivable quarrel. I will do nothing to kill a foe, directly or indirectly, by my own hand or by proxy. So help me, God. Never. If the Socialists of Germany had felt able to take this line, there would have been no European War."

Congress and Colonies

In a leading article in a recent number of the *Allahabad Leader*, amongst the special reasons given for holding a session of the Indian National Congress this year is the following:—

There is next the proposal of his Excellency the Viceroy regarding a reciprocity arrangement between India and the dominions. A time of war, it is true, is not a fit and proper occasion for the settlement of acute or chronic controversies, but as in respect of the problem of Indians and the defence of the country, so in respect of this subject of the relations between India and the self-governing dominions there will not be a more propitious time than the present for a strenuous endeavour to arrive at a just and an honourable settlement. For the demonstration of Indian loyalty has made a deep impression on the people of the dominions, whose soldiers are now comrades in arms of our soldiers on the field of battle, and it is very probable that the dishonouring notion that India is only peopled by 'coolies' not fit to be fraternised with has been abandoned in those parts of the Empire. Their mind must therefore be more receptive now than it was or will be to proposals for a settlement. Nor will India be always fortunate in her Viceroy and Governor-General as she is in Lord Hardinge in whom the qualities of the statesman and of the humanitarian are so excellently commingled. It will be a blunder if the Congress does not meet this year to consider his Excellency's well-meant proposal.

We greatly regret that owing to serious ill-health, Mr. Gandhi has been confined to bed for several days, and has practically been unable to carry on his work in England. We are glad, however, to know by the last mail that he had already been able to get out a little, and was hoping shortly to join those members of the Indian Ambulance Corps in England, including Mr. Sorabji Shapurji, who had already commenced work at Netley Hospital, nursing the Indian wounded there. We sincerely hope that his complete recovery will be rapid.

Heesa Bhai Madhoo, an Indian immigrant, appealed at the Supreme Court last week, before the Judge-President (the Hon. J. C. Dove Wilson), the Hon. Justice Broome, and the Hon. Justice Hathorn, against a decision of the Immigrants' Appeal Board. Mr. Michel appeared for the applicant and Mr. E. W. Douglass, K.C. (Attorney-General) for the Board. The Board held that the Indian was not lawfully entitled to have a certificate of domicile, which had been obtained by fraudulent representations. The Court dismissed the appeal, without hearing the Attorney-General for the defence.—*Natal Advertiser*.