

Indian Opinion

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OFFENSIVE REGULATIONS

IN connection with the protest recently made against the Bazaar regulations of Boksburg, the Chairman of the British Indian Association has addressed the following letter to the Acting Secretary for the Interior, Pretoria :—

Sir,—In the *Transvaal Provincial Gazette* of the 27th February last, there appeared a series of Regulations in connection with the conduct of the Asiatic Bazaar in the Boksburg Municipality.

2. So far as my Association is aware, these Regulations were not published in the *Union Gazette*, though their subject matter was, strictly speaking, not Municipal, dealing as it did with affairs specially affecting the Indian community; and as such reserved to be dealt with by the Governor-General-in-Council in terms of section 147 of the South Africa Act, presumably as Union and not as Provincial matters.

3. Moreover, at the time of the publication of these Regulations, the attention of the community represented by my Association was wholly occupied by interests of vital importance to its welfare, and, as a consequence, its attention was not particularly drawn to them, and therefore my Association did not communicate with you thereon.

4. I beg respectfully to refer to sections 1 (the Registrar of Asiatics is a Union and not a Provincial officer), 4, 10, and 12 of these Regulations to indicate that your Department, as representing the Union Government, and not the Provincial Administration in any form is the final court of appeal on the question of policy, and to explain why my Association ventures especially to address you on the subject now.

5. My Association's attention was directed to these Regulations for the first time about three months ago, when certain Indians in the Boksburg Bazaar were arrested and charged with breach of section 26 thereof, and it considered the matter to be so important, that it advised an appeal to the Supreme Court against the Magistrate's decision, which appeal was decided on the 14th instant, adversely to the Appellant. Until the decision of the Court was made known, my Association did not desire to communicate with you on the subject; hence the further delay.

6. Still more recently, the Germiston Municipality has advertised for objections to similar regulations, with certain modifications, which, it is understood, the Municipality desires to enforce in its Asiatic Bazaar, and I beg to append hereto, for convenience of reference, a copy of my Association's letter of objection addressed in duplicate to the Municipality and the Administrator of the Transvaal thereon. It should be noted that the objections contained therein are lodged against the regulations as it is proposed to modify or amend them.

7. My Association desires to make it quite clear that, in offering these remarks, it has no objection whatever to reasonable sanitary and police supervision of an Asiatic Bazaar, and it will be observed that the

objections raised are not, with one exception, to any sanitary regulation *per se*. But, in my Association's humble estimation, these regulations and proposed regulations, go far beyond mere sanitary precautions or ordinary police supervision.

8. For all practical purposes, an autocrat is set up in these Locations, who is endowed with most extensive powers of control, such as might be bestowed upon him with some degree of reason were the section of the population affected barbaric in its habits, or lawless in its conduct.

9. These reasons, however, can never justly be said to apply to the Indian community which, generally speaking, enjoys a high reputation for lawabidingness, and, I venture to think, its historic civilisation is very far indeed removed from barbarism.

10. It has, for very many years, been the main occupation of my Association—and a very unpleasant and anxious one—to make it plain to the general public that legislation affecting Indians here, as though they were a lawless and a barbarous people, deserving of specially restrictive treatment, would never be tolerated by the Indian community, and I humbly beg to remind you that suspicion that their degradation to this level was the hidden and perhaps unrealised object of the legislation directed against them, was one of the most potent influences that induced them to enter upon and persist in the long and bitter struggle that has so recently and in such auspicious circumstances been concluded.

11. My Association respectfully represents that the whole tenour of these regulations as in force in Boksburg and as now proposed for Germiston, is such as most deeply to offend the susceptibilities of self-respecting Indians, and in so saying, I am not forgetting that certain ignorant members of the Indian community have apparently acquiesced in their enforcement. But it must be perfectly well understood by the Government that no community can permit itself to be judged by the action of its more backward members, nor can it allow itself to be bound by them.

12. Additional force is lent to these objections by two further considerations. The first is that, at the time that, after dispute and agitation, and after great loss, too, the local Indians were induced to remove from the old Locations to the new, at Boksburg and Germiston, it was on the clear understanding that their position was to be no worse than it was before. The second is that they were informed that the locations would be administered as at Pretoria. It is evident that, if the present regulations are allowed to remain in force, an evil precedent, so far as the Indian community is concerned, will be set for imitation throughout the Transvaal, and perhaps in other Provinces of the Union, with the result that, in each town a petty tyrant will be set up, practically answerable to nobody, and enabled, in the circumstances so created, to render the life of any Indian who does make himself sub-

servient to his instructions, whether reasonable or not, so intolerable as to compel his removal from one Location and prevent his entry into another; whilst a further effect will be a tendency for the Indian population to drift from one place, where there happens to be a particularly rigorous official, to another where the administration is more sympathetic, and the probability of extending unrest in the European community.

13. It cannot be said that the Indian population is to-day more addicted to crime than it has been in the past, and if, for so many years, it has been found possible to do without such regulations as these under review, it does not appear clear to my Association why the present time, when it is generally desired that the two sections of the community shall live together in friendliness and mutual respect and confidence, should be chosen to elaborate a system of control worthier perhaps, of the earlier day of distrust, suspicion, and contempt, but hardly in accord with the new spirit prevailing. The ordinary powers of the police, and the reasonable *sanitary* precautions embodied in these regulations, to which my Association offers no objection whatever, of which it entirely approves, and which it will endeavour to assist in enforcing to the best of its powers, should suffice to-day for the control and supervision of an Asiatic Bazaar in the Transvaal.

14. For these reasons, my Association respectfully urges the early repeal of the particular regulations to which objection has been taken, so far as Boksburg is concerned, and the suspension of the proposed regulations for Germiston until they have been similarly revised.

Indian Field Ambulance Corps

A London correspondent of the *Bombay Chronicle* gives the following account of the Indian Field Ambulance Corps and its outings into camp:—

Our offer was responded to by the India Office with the remark that we were not in a position to shoulder the gun. True none of us was ever a soldier and none of us had come down here to learn the art of war. Most of us are here to study for the Bar, many for medicine and a few for the Engineering and Civil Service examinations. However in response to our appeal, through Mr Gandhi, we were put under Mr. James Cantlie to learn the art of healing wounds if not of inflicting wounds. We passed through the emergency course of "first aid" and elementary hygiene. Now we are under Lt.-Col. Baker (retired I.M.S.) who is our Commanding Officer appointed by the War Office. On Saturday the 3rd October, Col. Baker with his two lieutenants took us into camp at Eastcote where a sports field was very kindly placed at our disposal by Mr. E. R. Debenham, L. C. C. and convenient buildings in an adjoining ground were lent by Mr. Haywood. We left Baker Street at 10-26 and reached Eastcote at 11-10. It is only 12½ miles away from London. There is nothing particular to mention regarding our journey. On our halt in the field Col. Baker addressed us on the subject of diet. It was really a psychological moment for us. Many of us are staunch vegetarians, many only mutton-eaters, many mutton and beef, and many mutton, ham, pork and beef eaters. To simplify our commissariat and our mess we divided, at the sacrifice of many of us, into two main divisions—vegetarians and mutton-eaters. Then followed another critical moment when our Commander ordered us to divide into groups of eight each. We are so much attached to each other that it became a hard job to make a company of eight. A philosophical mathematician would certainly fail to break into fractions one solid sincerity, adhesive attachment and warm will. But for our company all the groups are arranged in a cosmopolitan manner. The eight will always be together, in pitching and striking the tent, sleeping in it, walking or marching outside it and while eating or messing together. It is really very

important to know that every company has a person who is able to cook tolerably well. At about 1 o'clock one of the Lieutenants taking one Company instructed us how to pitch a tent. Then the command was given "fetch the tents," all the rest of the companies marched and fetched them, being wrapped up in sacks, from a gymkhana store-room situated in a corner of the field. Then we were ordered "Prepare Tents." It was exceedingly interesting to observe how sharply and patiently every one of us was able to raise the tents within ten minutes, although as our Lieutenant informed us, the standard time is 3½ minutes. At 1.30 we were whistled to lunch. Many of us surely must have missed the dainty dishes and many of us must have felt the absence of the korma or Pillao of the Indian Restaurants at Harcourt Lane or Leicester Square. If any one who has no idea of India and its people were to glance at our victuals he would have concluded unhesitatingly that the Indians are fond of sandwiches. Most of us were provided with pockets full of them by our kindly landladies. Besides a great many of us had chocolates, pastry and lemon drops. The most remarkable lunch was brought by Mr. Gandhi. It consisted of assorted fruits of superfine quality and nuts of different kinds. A crowd of us was attracted by the very appearance of it and stepped very slowly towards Mr. Gandhi with smiles and questioning looks to participate in the dessert of the Garden of Eden which Mr. Gandhi ceaselessly offered. At 2.15 we were commanded to strike tents which we did within five minutes but the military exactitude demands 70 seconds. There was indeed sweet concord, pleasant harmony when we used the mallets in pitching and striking tents. The sports ground was metamorphosed into an actual camp. Was it not sad for the distant onlooker to see the field deprived of its white ornaments within such a short time? From 3 to 5 we drilled on the uneven field which was next to our camping ground. At 6.15 we were once more at Eastcote Station which we left by the Metropolitan Electric Railway at 6.22. In the train we had a jolly time. "*Sare jahan se acha Hindustan hamara*"—the free translation would be "East and West, our India is best,"—was sung in enthusiastically loud chorus.

Boksburg Bazaar Case

In the Transvaal Provincial Division of the Supreme Court, before the Hon. Justice Wessels, Mason, and Gregorowski, the case of *Bhaga Lala v. Boksburg Municipality* was heard. This was an appeal against a conviction by the Magistrate at Boksburg.

The accused was charged with contravening Clause 26 of the Boksburg Municipality Asiatic Bazaar Regulations in that on September 9 last, at the Asiatic Bazaar, the accused, being a male person over the age of 16 years, and not being the registered lessee of a lot did wrongfully reside on Stand 244 there situate without having first received from the inspector a permit to do so. He was found guilty and sentenced to a fine of 5s.

The accused appealed against this conviction on the following grounds: (a) Section 25 of the Asiatic Bazaar Regulations, purporting to be framed under Section 10 (1) of Ordinance 17 of 1905, is *ultra vires* of the Ordinance; (b) that the permit purporting to be issued in virtue of the provisions of the said Section 26 of the aforesaid Regulations is *ultra vires* of the aforesaid Regulations; (c) that Section 40 of the aforesaid Regulations is *ultra vires* of the Ordinance.

Mr. P. Millin appeared for the appellant; Mr. R. Feetham for the Municipality.

The Court held that the section under which the accused was charged was not *ultra vires*, and dismissed the appeal and confirmed the conviction and sentence.—*Transvaal Leader*.

From the Editor's Chair

LOCATIONS

WE publish elsewhere correspondence between the Transvaal British Indian Association and the Government, on the subject of recent and proposed regulations affecting Indian Locations in certain Transvaal towns, and we also publish a brief report of a test-case decided last week in the Transvaal Provincial Division of the Supreme Court with reference to one of the Boksburg Regulations. It would seem, from the Court's decision, that the Municipality is within its legal rights in making permission to reside in the Location dependent upon the furnishing of information that it is on other grounds undesirable to submit. We understand that, had the particular case been dealt with under the second part of the section in question, that part would probably have been held to be *ultra vires* of the parent Ordinance. Clearly, the present situation is unsatisfactory in the extreme, and we welcome the powerful representation that has now been addressed on the general question by the British Indian Association. There is no doubt that the reactionary precedent set by Boksburg will, if allowed to remain, go far to deprive the Indian community of many of the advantages secured by it as result of the Passive Resistance Struggle. We appreciate and cordially endorse the Association's statement that it has no objection whatever to and will endeavour to co-operate in the enforcement of reasonable sanitary by-laws or of the ordinary operation of police regulations that are applicable generally; but to single out and segregate Asiatics for special treatment as if they were a barbarous people, and then to enforce against them specially rigorous by-laws of a particularly offensive character, whereby they are in fact handed over to a number of Dogberries, is a position that cannot be contemplated with equanimity by the Indian community. We trust that the Association's representations will be received and dealt with in a friendly spirit by the Government. This is no time for further dispute; on the contrary, all Indians would desire to co-operate with them or with the Municipal authorities, in every possible way, but such co-operation can only be successful if both parties respect each other's feelings.

EN ROUTE FOR INDIA

WE have received cable information that Mr. and Mrs. Gandhi left London for India on the 19th instant. We learn that, whilst undertaking the heavy work of organising the Indian Ambulance Corps amongst members of the Indian community resident in England in the face of great difficulties, Mr. Gandhi, who had acted as Chairman, overtaxed his strength, weakened as his bodily forces already were from the effects of the severe self-restraint that he had imposed upon himself during the recent phase of the Passive Resistance campaign. The result was that, for some time, he was practically incapacitated for work, and those who realise his tremendous will-power and energy, will understand how serious his illness must have been. We are now informed that he has been suffering from a severe attack of pleurisy. Mrs. Gandhi also has not yet regained her strength after her long illness. Both, we are

happy to say, are now convalescent; but it would seem that these illnesses have made it impossible for them to remain in England, and undergo the rigours of the winter season there. They have, therefore, decided to return immediately to the more genial climatic conditions of the Motherland. The illnesses may, perhaps, be a blessing in disguise, for it is uncertain how long otherwise Mr. Gandhi might have felt it his duty to remain in England, in spite of his intense desire to return to India. We earnestly hope that the sea-voyage will have recuperated the strength of both Mr. and Mrs. Gandhi, and that by the time they reach home, they will have been quite restored to health.

LICENCE

HITHERTO we have understood that the function of the Licensing Officer in Natal was to decide, according to law, upon the issue or refusal of licences to trade, and that this function ceased when the decision had been come to. It would, however, appear that they include the peripatetic addressing of meetings, in circumstances that are as obscure as they are suspicious, with the avowed object of inducing Indians to contribute to a "fund" that has, so far as we are aware, no official sanction, either from the Government or from the Indian community through its recognised representatives. He even uses Government stationery and the official franking-stamp for the purpose of conveying his requests to us through the post, in his capacity as treasurer of this "fund." We were not previously aware that this official had so much time upon his hands that he was able to spare some to travel from place to place on business unconnected with his department, or that he was privileged to deal with such business at the expense of the tax-payers of this country, and it would be interesting to know from what source his travelling-expenses for this purpose are derived. We trust that, during the next session of Parliament, an effort will be made either to fill up this energetic officer's spare official time with useful official work, or to secure the reduction of his salary to a figure commensurate with the value to the public of the work that he apparently can so easily perform in part of the time at his disposal.

We do not know in what way the situation has been represented to the Minister for the Defence. But our suspicions are very naturally aroused at finding the services of a local officer, such as one having powers to issue or refuse a licence to trade, sought after with the object of extracting contributions to a fund that has never received recognition from any responsible Indian source. We will not go so far as to say that, if this pressure had not been exerted, the contributors would not have sent in their donations to one or other of the recognised funds already in existence; but the whole procedure unpleasantly suggests possible hopes of favours to come, on the one part, and, on the other, a characteristic attempt on the part of a petty official, dressed in a little brief authority, to intrude upon the domestic affairs of a community occupying the peculiar position of the Indian population here. Why the Licensing Officer? Why not the Principal Immigration Officer or the head of the C.I.D.; or some other minor official? We deem it a matter of disgrace and humiliation that any members of the Indian community, even though not having a representative capacity, should lend themselves to the officialising of matters affecting the internal organisation of their own community. At the end of the Passive Resistance Struggle, South African Indians were able to hold their heads high; but it was reserved for some Natal Indians, unable for long to retain an upright position, to revert to their original posture of the bent back or the invertebrate. We again strongly urge, as a measure of communal self-respect, that Indians should have nothing whatever to do with this extraordinary "fund," or with any officer of Government, except on matters coming within the ordinary scope of his department.

Indians and the War

Their Majesties the King and Queen (says *India* of the 20th ultimo,) motored down to Brockenhurst, in the New Forest, on Tuesday, in order to inspect the Balmer Lawn, Forest Park and Morant War Hospitals, where some 1,050 Indian wounded are now being accommodated. Four hours were spent among the men. The King spoke in Hindustani to a number of the patients, and the Queen, who took much interest in the hospital arrangements, promised to send a further supply of warm clothing and "comforts."

More Troops

The *Times* correspondence at Marseilles announced the arrival there of a fresh contingent of Indian troops on November 7th. These included "Lancers, Hussars, Dragoon Guards, Royal Field Artillery, Bengal sowars, and Sikhs, with Jacob's Horse of the death's-head badge, and many more besides." It is added that "Saturday's and Sunday's landing represented the freight of 11 out of the 42 ships that steamed together out of Bombay in October," and that "17 more were due to arrive within the next 48 hours."

A Night Raid by the Pathans

In an undated despatch from "North-Eastern France," Mr. J. B. Hudson, of the Central News, tells the following story of a night raid by the Pathans:—

A considerable concentration of German forces was noticed on Thursday afternoon in front of the British trenches at a point south of Ypres. Later in the afternoon it began to rain heavily, and the rain continued to fall as the night darkened. British troops in the trenches, knowing of the massing of the enemy, were keenly on the alert amidst the most depressing circumstances, and none were allowed the comfort of a sleep.

But, all unknown to them, behind a thin line of trees some short distance to the rear, there silently gathered together many hundreds of figures, which by reason of their lithe, gliding movements and their practical invisibility might have passed for a mysterious aggregation of spirits from some other sphere. Not a word was uttered, and such orders as were issued seemed to pass down the long lines as the wind whispers through the grass.

Shortly afterwards a score of these grey figures detached themselves from the larger body and stealthily, like Red Indians on the trail in an enemy's country, moved up to and beyond the advanced line of the British trenches. Down these, under the breath, was passed the word, "The Indians are going out," and the already alert Tommies craned their heads forward into the misty night to watch events.

The score of ghostly figures suddenly disappeared from their view, and, python-like, crawled noiselessly to the first German trench. Here were the German look-out men. What happened there exactly is not known. There was no shout or sudden cry, but in a few minutes the British soldiers saw one of the score reappear like an apparition and go back to his comrades in the rear. Then the hundreds waiting there filed past the trenches just as silently as had the advanced party before them, and also disappeared in the direction of the German lines.

For five minutes there was perfect quiet. Then came a few shots, followed by a wild splutter of musketry, intermingled with cries and groans. Three or four light-balls were thrown in the air, and by their means the British troops could see, some 600 yards to their front, a mass of wild and struggling men, the gleam of steel, and the whirling rush of the rifle-butt. It was the Pathans at their deadly work. For ten minutes they hacked and slew amongst the half-awake and wholly bewildered Germans, who had lain down in serried ranks to await the order for the night assault on the British trenches.

The score of Pathans who had gone out in advance had silently slain the German pickets, and the main body had thus been enabled to get right amidst the sleeping foe unchallenged. The slaughter was terrible, and only ended when the Germans, thoroughly aroused to their peril, bolted and ran. Then their swarthy assailants, glutted with their night's work, came back briskly, but just as silently, to their original post.

The threatened German attack had been turned into a bloody defeat. For hours afterwards the furious Germans poured a hail of shrapnel and shell into our trenches, in the hope of obtaining some revenge for their terrible punishment, but without dispelling from the British soldiers' faces the contented smile as they remembered the fleeting scene of bloodshed lit up by the German fire-balls.

In the Centre of a Furnace

Writing from Paris, a correspondent of the *Daily Telegraph* says:—

The Indian troops have not been the least severely tried, nor have they proved the least indomitable. They were thrown into the centre of a furnace, as it were. During eight days of battle they suffered, without flinching, losses that were sometimes enormous. There was a company of engineers, too, which in the very first engagement lost all its officers and 60 per cent. of its effectives. This was no doubt an exceptional case, but their trial was no less severe than that of other sections of the Army, and not for an instant did their commander fear the least flinching on their part. If our Allies, in sending to the front these Indian troops, wished to make an experiment, that experiment has already given decisive results.

"The Ubiquitous Indian Soldier"

Under the above heading *India* of the 20th ultimo has the following editorial:—

Telegrams and casualty lists during the week have alike borne eloquent testimony to the good work that is being done by the Indian soldier in almost every quarter of the globe. Although that personal note, for which all India is calling, is still lacking from the official communications, we have been enabled to catch a glimpse or two of his prowess in France, in East Africa, in the Persian Gulf. Eye-witnesses have spoken of the intrepidity of the British and the Sikhs at the storming of Tsing-tau: "They were always ready to undertake the severest work." We have it also from Mr. Roberts that they are in Egypt, waiting for the opportunity, which cannot be long in coming, of rendering as excellent an account of themselves there.

It is a fine addition that is being made to the glorious records of the past: and we are especially glad to find that the old Madras and Bombay Armies are being called upon to do their share, and are doing it well. From the two lists of casualties in East Africa which have been published, we learn that three, if not four, Madras regiments and two Bombay regiments have been engaged. The 61st Pioneers, the 63rd Palamcottah Light Infantry, the 81st Pioneers, and the 83rd Wallajahbad Light Infantry are all historic regiments and are still recruited in the Madras Presidency. Self-sufficient critics in Northern India have from time to time discovered a sorry kind of amusement in depreciating the martial spirit of the South. Clive and Coote and Stringer Lawrence knew better; and their judgment stands confirmed by the history that is being written to-day. Nor does Western India lag behind. The 10th Grenadiers is one of the most famous units of the old Bombay Army. It is in East Africa, along with the 98th Infantry, which once formed part of the Hyderabad contingent, and is striving in generous emulation with the 13th Rajputs. In this field of warfare also we come across the first traces of participation by the Imperial Service troops. The Indian colonel of the 3rd Kashmir Rifles has been wounded; and still more significant, the casualty list records the name of Second Lieutenant

Kunwar Savai Sinhji, of the 13th Rajputs, among the wounded. This is the first occasion upon which an Indian holding a British commission has figured in the roll of honour.

If we turn to the Persian Gulf, and study the India Office communiqué on the subject of the capture of Fao, we shall find the 117th Mahrattas fighting side by side with the 20th Punjabis. On the Red Sea littoral equally good work has been done by Indian soldiers. Three battalions, of which we should like to know more, have carried out, with the help of H.M.S. *Duke of Edinburgh*, a successful coup against the Turkish fort on the Shaikh Said peninsula which stands opposite the island of Perim and commands the narrow straits of Bab-El-Mandeb.

Of the troops in France, we continue to hear that all men have combined to praise them. A French officer has written in terms of unstinted admiration of their striking devotion to their British officers and their utter contempt for death. They have had to be told not to expose their lives uselessly by walking out of the trenches; but their spirit, like that of the brave Belgians, is unconquerable. "Never mind the number of killed," they say, "so long as the honour of the regiment is safe."

In a message to the Viceroy, which was issued as a communiqué from Simla on October 15th, Lord Crewe pays a well-deserved tribute to the work that has been accomplished. The Indian soldier of to-day, he says, while retaining every whit of the primitive warlike virtue and simple devotion which carried our arms from Kabul to Kandahar, is a man of the world and very much a soldier of the Empire. He has amply made good that claim during the past few weeks, and intends to give still further proofs of the right of his people to full and free comradeship with all other subjects of the King-Emperor.

Lord Crewe's Message to the Viceroy

The following is the text of a message received by the Viceroy from the Secretary of State for India and issued in a communiqué from Simla on October 15th. Lord Crewe telegraphed:—

For obvious reasons it is impossible to give any details of the number of Indian troops who have already landed in France or of their subsequent movements. It must be sufficient for the present to record the fact that they have had a more than cordial welcome from the impressionable and warm-blooded population who have evidenced unbounded interest in this magnificent portion of the fighting strength of the British Empire, of whom they have hitherto practically known nothing.

The troops received an ovation on marching through the city *en route* to various well-situated camps, where the arrangements which have been made in conjunction with the French authorities have conduced to the comfort and efficiency of the men in every respect. Both men and animals appear fit and in good, hard condition after their voyage. Casualties *en route* were limited to a few animals.

To judge from the comments of the local Press, the whole appearance, bearing, and especially the equipment of our Indian troops is a revelation to the French. While having every reason to believe implicitly in the courage and efficiency of their African troops, of whom there are constant drafts to be seen here, our Allies are ready to admit that, in view of their other immense military preoccupations, they have not succeeded in evolving from their African resources so formidable and impressive an engine of war as that which they now see arriving here from India.

The behaviour of the men has been excellent. Those who are not acquainted with them comment on their not evincing wonder or even consternation at their novel surroundings. This is, of course, ignorance of the leaven that has been working among our men since the days when China and South Africa threw open to

them the comradeship in arms of the Empire overseas. The Indian soldier of to-day, while retaining every whit of the primitive warlike virtue and simple soldierly devotion that carried our arms to Kabul and Kandahar, is a man of the world and very much a soldier of the Empire.

The Man Who Disobeyed

A corporal in the King's Own Scottish Borderers, who is in hospital at Dublin, pays fine tribute to the Indian troops:—

For all their colour (he says), the Indians are as "white" as they make them in this world. It is an honour to fight with them.

After their first fight some of their wounded were lying out under heavy fire. It was a critical moment for us, and there were strict orders that no man was to leave the trenches. In spite of that, one of the Indians collected some chupatties and rushed out under fire to give them to wounded men of his own village who were there. He came back without a scratch, although he was under fire all the time. The queer thing was that the man, who had faced death from German bullets and shells without quailing, was frightened out of his life at the thought of what would happen to him for disobeying orders on the field of battle. I suppose they will have to do something for him, but if the men who saw the deed had to decide he would get a Victoria Cross.

A Visit to Netley Hospital

I had the interesting experience a few days ago (writes the London correspondent of the *Amrita Bazar Patrika*) of paying a visit to Netley Hospital to see the wounded Indian soldiers. I found them particularly cheerful and evidently pleased with their surroundings and the care that is being bestowed upon them. It was very pleasant, on arrival, to see so many of them enjoying the sunshine out of doors and amusing themselves in the beautiful grounds of the Hospital, which lead down to the water's edge—the great highway by which the ships pass up to Southampton. The great majority of the 470 Indian soldiers in hospital are suffering from more or less serious wounds to the left hand and arm, as, lifting their rifles higher above the trenches than do their companions in arms, they have been hit by bullets and shrapnel. Some now have lost several fingers, others the entire hand, but those who have recovered were eager to show how well they were able to use their hands. A few were wounded by shrapnel in the leg, and one told me that he was almost buried under the earth which a bursting shell scattered in all directions; his leg was strained in the process of setting him free. He was most cheerful and hopeful as to speedy recovery. The worst cases were in bed, and perhaps the worst of all those we saw was a Gurkha, who had been nearly shattered by shell fire. The patience and fortitude of all impressed me very deeply. Life is made as cheerful as possible for them; in the wards are large fires; those who are able to be up sit round and play cards, or read the newspapers—if they understand English—and make tea in their special way. All wear the long coat and trousers in blue flannel of the British military hospitals, and are grateful for warm garments. No one complained of hardships at the front, but their sufferings from the intense cold must have been severe.

The Indian Volunteers are doing splendid service in nursing these men; they are appointed to the different wards and are responsible for the condition of the ward as well as of the patients. They are kept very busy during the long hours of duty, but the cheerfulness with which the young men have taken up this unaccustomed work is beyond all praise; they are winning praise, too, for the way in which they discharge their duties.

The Indian Soldiers Fund

The total of the Indian Soldiers Fund organised by the Order of St. John of Jerusalem to provide medical attendance, warm clothing and comforts for the Indian troops at the front had risen on Tuesday last (November 17) to £86,829 : and yesterday (Thursday) it stood at £88,853 (says *India* of the 20th ultimo.)

Subscriptions are coming in from all quarters. An officer on H.M. submarine C12 has sent £10 : and the following letter, written in a child's large round characters between ruled lines, has come from Dean House, Triangle, near Halifax :—"Dear Lord Roberts. —I am sending some of my pocket-money for the Indians, half-a-crown. I do like hearing about them. I think they are so brave.—From URSULA CROSSLEY."

Among the latest donations of money are the following :—£300 from Sir H. Seymour King (for a motor ambulance); £262 10s. from the Irrawaddy Flotilla Company, £250 from Lloyds Bank and Messrs. Whiteaway, Laidlaw and Co., £210 from the Drapers' Company; £200 from Mr. H. G. Tetley and Messrs. James Finlay and Co., £105 from the East India Coal Company, the Bengal and North-Western Railway Company, and Messrs. Taylor Brothers and Co., £100 from the Countess of Suffolk, Sir Robert Laidlaw, and the Marylebone Cricket Club, and £52 10s. from the Rohilkhand and Kumaon Railway Company.

The National Indian Association has sent to the fund's warehouse parcels containing 363 garments, following upon an earlier consignment of 1,001 garments. Other gifts received have been 530 garments collected by Mrs. F. Manners Smith for the 3rd Gurkha Rifles; two consignments of 670 and 317 garments from Lady Willcocks: 271 garments from Lady Swayne; 3,922 garments in successive consignments from Lady Londesborough; five parcels containing 277 garments, cigarettes, and chocolates from the Eastern Work League; and 140 flannel belts, the gift of women readers of the *Sheffield Daily Independent*.

Handloom Weaving in India

Commissioner Booth Tucker, of the Salvation Army, writing in *India* on "England's Duty to India's 'Untouchables,'" says :—

Perhaps the most difficult task is that of finding remunerative work for thousands of people, and of marketing the goods when they have been produced. With this in view the following amongst other industries have been successfully established.

One of our officers has invented a fast hand-loom, of which about a thousand have been sold in all parts of India. Numerous gold and silver medals have been won at exhibitions in competition with every other kind of hand-loom. European, Japanese and Indian. About twenty weaveries and weaving schools have been established, where weavers and others are taught the best and most up-to-date methods of hand-loom weaving and warping in cotton, wool and silk. Looms, weaving masters and accessories have been supplied to Government schools, missions, private individuals and jails. Where so desired we have helped the weavers to market the goods they produce, besides obtaining for them considerable orders. The looms and warping machines have been manufactured by ourselves, so as to ensure good materials and uniformity of design, constant improvements being introduced as the result of our experience. By such methods a new impetus has been given to the hand-loom industry, which had languished for years simply through lack of leadership and guidance. For the skilled staff of weaving masters whom we have trained positions have been obtained at salaries ranging from Rs. 15 to 150. Looms have been supplied to Ceylon, Straits Settlements, British East Africa, Rhodesia, and England. We are now supplying a weaving and silk instructor to Rhodesia.

Mr. Gandhi Sails for India

We have received a cablegram stating that Mr. and Mrs. Gandhi were to sail for India on Saturday last.

London, December 18th.—Mr. Gandhi is sailing for India to-morrow.

In the course of an interview with Reuter, the Indian leader emphasised that the settlement made in South Africa was a most happy thing for the Indians, who were rallying to the Government in the time of the great crisis. He had, he said, the most pleasant recollections of his last interviews with General Botha and General Smuts.

Mr. Gandhi paid a tribute to the Union Government for taking into account Indian feelings, even in small matters, and he was glad to be able to announce this in India.

A farewell reception in honour of Mr. Gandhi was given to-night, when he and his family were garlanded and cheered.

Mr. C. H. Roberts, Parliamentary Under-Secretary for the India Office, congratulated Mr. Gandhi upon his great work in South Africa and also his ambulance movement.

Miss Olive Schreiner paid a tribute to Mr. Gandhi, referring to him as one of the teachers of our age in the fight for political freedom.

Mr. Gandhi replied that he hoped to be able to return to England when his health was restored, and continue his ambulance work.—Reuter

The Secretaries of the Natal Indian Association inform us that Mr. Jogi Fakir, of Johannesburg, sent five shillings for the relief of the Indian, named Nanhay, and his family, about whom we appealed to our readers for assistance some time ago. This was the only subscription received. The Protector gave the man £2 from the funds in his possession and his employer contributed £1.

We are glad to learn that Mr. C. F. Andrews, who has been very ill, is now out and about again. He had a break-down in September owing to the great mental strain he has been through. We are thankful to say that, under the care of Sir James Roberts, I.M.S., surgeon to the Viceroy, he has now recovered.

We learn from the Bombay papers that the Hon. Mr. Gokhale arrived there from England on the 13th November. He stayed for a few hours in Bombay, the guest of Mr. Petit, and left for Poona the same evening. Mr. Gokhale's health seems to have much improved, but he had to leave England owing to the severe weather. He will stay in Poona till the end of December and will return to London for a short time in April in connection with the Indian Civil Service Commission which will then conclude its sittings.

Some months ago a case was brought to our notice (says the *Indian Social Reformer*) of the hard case of a labourer, his wife and son, residents of Sholapur, being induced to go to Ceylon by an emigration agent, and being unable to get away from there when they found the conditions were not what they had been led to expect. The Government of India have now issued an Order which is reprinted in the last Bombay Government *Gazette* restricting recruitment for the Ceylon Government Indentured Labour Force to the districts of Trichinopoly, Tanjore, Madura, Tinnevely, Salem and Ramnad. The Order lays down stringent rules for the inspection of the recruits before emigration, which we trust will reduce fraud to a minimum. But why permit the continuance of the discredited system of indentured labour?