

Indian Opinion

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TRANSVAAL EDUCATED INDIANS & NATAL

WE have pleasure in publishing the following correspondence, commented upon in our leading columns last week, between Mr. Polak and the Department of the Interior:—

13th August 1915

The Principal Immigration Officer,
The Point, Port Natal.

Sir,—I am informed by Mr. Mohanlal Khanderia, that upon his passing through Volksrust recently he applied to the Immigration Officer there to be allowed to pass the education test, stating that he had already done so on three previous occasions, and that he had proceeded to Natal either by passing the test or without molestation, on at least fourteen different occasions. He was informed by the Immigration Officer, however, that his instructions from you were that there was no longer any education test as between the Transvaal and Natal. On arriving in Durban he informs me that he saw you, and you then, I understand, informed him in similar terms. Your attention, however, does not appear to have been drawn to sub-section 2 of section 4 of Act 22 of 1913, which states that nothing in sub-section 1 (a) contained shall be construed as enabling a person to be deemed a prohibited immigrant in Natal if being at the commencement of this Act lawfully entitled to reside in any Province, he shows or has shown that he is able to comply with the requirements of section 5 (a) of Act No. 30 of 1903 of Natal. Among the requirements of that section are the ability to pass an education test in the European language to the satisfaction of the Minister. Mr. Khanderia had already fulfilled that requirement on three occasions, and he had acquired full rights of residence in Natal by virtue thereof, and even if he had not, it was still competent for him to demand to be put to the education test.

In view of the fact that a highly important principle is involved by your alleged action, implying a breach on your part, not only of the law, but of the understanding with the Government in regard to the maintenance of rights existing at the time of coming into force, and also having regard to the fact that within the next two or three days, two clients named Ladha Singh Maini, the holder of Education Certificate No. 41 and Kandhar Singh, the holder of Education Certificate No. 61, will be passing through Volksrust on their way through Natal, I shall be glad if you would immediately give this matter your consideration with a view to avoiding the raising of a very important question in this connection. I beg to refer you to paragraph 5 of Mr. Gorges' letter to Mr. Gandhi, dated the 30th June 1914, which I am sending to you under separate cover.

I have, etc.,

(Sd.) Hy. S. L. POLAK.

23rd August, 1915.

From Mr. G. W. Dick, Principal Immigration Officer,
Province of Natal, to Mr. Polak:—

"I duly received your communication of the 13th

instant, with reference to the case of Mr. Mohanlal Manekchand Khanderia, and have now to inform you that as this case is the subject of correspondence with the Department of the Interior it would appear desirable that I should defer replying to your communication for a few days."

25th August 1915.

From Mr. Polak to The Principal Immigration Officer,
Natal:—

"I am in receipt of your letter herein of the 23rd inst., for which I am obliged, and the contents of which I note. I shall hope to hear further from you so soon as the correspondence between you and the Department of the Interior is concluded. Meanwhile, however, I would say, that it was at the suggestion of that Department that I communicated with you direct in this matter."

A letter from the Acting Secretary for the Interior dated the 1st ulto., was addressed to Mr. Polak informing him that a further communication regarding Mr. Khanderia's case would be addressed to him, and on the 4th ulto., the following letter was accordingly written:—

"In continuation of my letter to you of the 1st inst., (No. 3/A/274), I have to inform you that, with regard to Mohanlal Manekchand Khanderia, I have made enquiries and find that the attitude taken up by this man made it impossible for the Principal Immigration Officer to deal with his case satisfactorily."

7th September 1915.

From Mr. Polak to the Acting Secretary for the
Interior:—

"With reference to your letter No. 2/A/275 of the 4th inst., duly received, it does not appear that the point raised by me with reference to Mr. M. M. Khanderia has been dealt with. The complaint made to me is that the Immigration Officer at Volksrust informed Mr. Khanderia that his instructions were that the education test no longer applied as between the Transvaal and Natal, and in consequence Mr. Khanderia was obliged to take out a Temporary or a Visiting Permit. Mr. Khanderia informed me also that he had received the same reply from the Principal Immigration Officer at Durban. I do not know, of course, what transpired between Mr. Khanderia and the Principal Immigration Officer apart from this, but I know Mr. Khanderia well, and he gave me this information personally when I was in Durban. The point raised by me was that if it be a fact that Natal Immigration Officers refuse to admit Transvaal Indians desiring to pass it, to the education test, in such case the provisions of section 4 sub-section 2 (a) of Act 22 of 1913, are not being complied with."

"I will, therefore, enquire whether or not it be a fact that the Natal Immigration Officers refuse to admit Transvaal Indians to the education test upon request. "Thanking you for the courtesy of a reply to this point in due course."

20th September, 1915.

From the Acting Secretary for Interior to Mr. Polak:—

"With reference to your letter of the 7th inst., I have to state that the provisions of section 4 (2) of Act 22 of 1913, have been carefully followed by the Natal Immigration Officers.

"Presumably it is realized by you that the education test must be to the personal satisfaction of the Minister and that applications must come before the Minister personally.

"With regard to Mr. Khanderia, I am to state for your information that whilst he was required to lodge at Volksrust the deposit and fee for a temporary permit, such permit was not issued and the deposit and fee were returned to him without any deduction when he called on the Principal Immigration Officer in connection with his case and when it was found that he had, under the repealed Act of Natal, secured former admission to Natal by virtue of his ability to pass the educational test then prescribed and applied—a fact which the officer at Volksrust was not and could not be aware of and on the question of identity could not satisfy himself."

From Mr. Polak to The Acting Secretary for the Interior:—

23rd September, 1915.

"I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 4/A/275 of the 20th inst., for which I thank you, and the contents of which I have carefully noted. I am glad to know that in Mr. Khanderia's case the deposit and fee were returned without deduction by the Principal Immigration Officer at Durban. I quite appreciate that the Officer at Volksrust would not ordinarily be able to satisfy himself as to identity, but I think that it would possibly save some trouble if you could let me know, for public information, what steps should be taken by persons desirous of availing themselves of the provisions of section 4 (2) of Act 22 of 1913, in order to save themselves trouble and inconvenience at the border. It would also be a matter of convenience if a document could be issued to persons who are able to pass the education test to the satisfaction of the Minister. I should be grateful if you would be good enough to give this matter consideration, as the question involved may have to be dealt with at any time."

11th October, 1915.

From the Acting Secretary for the Interior to Mr. Polak:—

"With reference to your letter of the 23rd ultimo, relative to the steps which should be taken by persons desirous of availing themselves of the provisions of section 4 (2) of Act 22 of 1913; in order to save themselves trouble and inconvenience at the Natal border, I have the honour to inform you that such persons should present themselves to the Immigration Officer stationed there, and, if they are in possession of their registration certificates proving that at the commencement of Act 22 of 1913, they were lawfully entitled to reside in the Transvaal Province, the education test will immediately be applied. If such test conforms to the principles laid down by the Minister of the Interior there will be no delay or inconvenience to the person concerned.

"It is regretted that it is not possible to issue any standing document to persons able to pass the education test but you can rest assured that this particular section of the Act will be administered in a sympathetic manner and that no hardship is likely to be experienced."

22th October, 1915.

From Mr. Polak to the Acting Secretary for the Interior:—

"I am in receipt of your letter No. 6/A/275 of the 11th inst., for which I am very much obliged, and the contents of which I note. I observe that in the opinion of the Minister it is not possible to issue any standing document to persons able to pass the education test, but I am obliged to you for the assurance contained in the last paragraph of your letter under reply."

Indians and the Contingent Fund

A committee representing the Indian stall-holders and husbandmen of the Indian Market, Durban, working on its own independent lines, has been very active for some time in collecting subscriptions for the Overseas Contingent Fund. As briefly reported in our last issue, it has, so far, collected from the stall-holders a sum of £75 7s. 6d., which has been handed to the Town Clerk. This sum represents the first monthly contribution from the stall-holders at the Market. A further collection is being made from the agriculturist section, and it is expected—withstanding the drought they are experiencing—that a fair sum will be forthcoming from them. Each man who was approached not only paid up willingly his quota in accordance with his means, but promised to readily bear his share of the burden so long as the war lasts. The Indians doing business at the Indian Market have never been backward in playing their part in connection with any of the funds that have been raised since the commencement of the war. During the collection of the Mayor's War Relief Fund and the Prince of Wales' Fund the Indian traders and farmers were first among the Indian community to take the initiative, and so collected a substantial sum amounting to almost £100. At the recent Red Cross sale in the Town Hall a material portion of the articles disposed of came from the Indian Market.

As an illustration of the enthusiastic spirit in which contributions are made by the Indians, it may be mentioned that even the Indian women who carry on a petty green-grocers' trade in the market, and whose earnings' cannot average more than 6d. per day, willingly contribute their proportion towards the funds.

The officials of the Committee in charge of the collection of subscriptions are Messrs. Dalia Mia (chairman), and Dawley and Lazarus (joint hon. secretaries), and they are assisted by Mr. L. Donnelly, superintendent of the Indian Market, and Mr. Suchitt Maharaj, of the market staff.

Indian Subscriptions

The Finance Committee of the Overseas Contingent Fund wish to acknowledge, with thanks, the following subscriptions, received from the Indian community:—

Indian Community of Umzinto, £25; Indian Community of Tongaat, £1 14s.; collected by Durban Indian Committee, £135 19s.

Monthly Contributions

The following monthly contributions from Indians are also acknowledged with thanks:—

Collected by Indian Market Committee, £15 7s. 6d. Indian Community of Tongaat, £1 19s. 9d.

"Our Day" Indian Collections

In connection with the Trafalgar Day collections in Durban, in aid of sick and wounded soldiers, the members of the Overseas Contingent Fund Indian Committee were not slow in responding to the Mayor's appeal for co-operation with the result that Messrs. Parsee Rustumjee, V. Lawrence, L. Gabriel, G. D. Hansraj, H. I. Joshi, Rampersad Maraj, B. A. Magraj,

C. Borden, G. and S. Hoosen, Chunden, D. Vinden, Sorabjee and A. Christopher, and the Misses Grace-Somarandrum, A. and M. Abrsham, M. David and Mrs. S. Jeevananthum were about Durban from early in the morning, button-holing their countrymen. The Mayor, graciously calling at Mr. Parsee Rustomjee's, was the first to fall a victim—the girls assisting in the sales besieging him. This was a good beginning. Indians evinced a great deal of spontaneity in doing their "little bit": a substantial sum was netted at the conclusion of the sales. Indians were also button-holed by Europeans selling in the main and other streets: some of them even invading the Indian Market and shops. Mr. Rustomjee, with his usual generosity, entertained the workers throughout the day.

The *Natal Mercury* mentions that Mr. Parsee Rustomjee brought in £30, and Mrs. Smith, between Umgeni and Mount Edgecombe, collected over £4 from Indians. Mr. Dawad Mahomed and a small committee were responsible for a sum of over £10.

The Indians of South Coast Junction did their bit nobly, says the *Mercury*, £1 15s. 6d. being handed in by the sirdar of the South African Refineries, as collected for the sale of button-holes to his compatriots. The Indian storekeepers responded willingly to the sirdar's appeal: "Buy some flowers to help our wounded soldiers."

From the Editor's Chair

AN IMPROPER DISTINCTION

We protested strongly, in a recent issue, against the unfair distinction made against Indian volunteers desirous of joining the Boer Company, for which recruits are now being called for, on the ground that Indian volunteers should be recruited on the same terms as recruits of European descent. Force is lent to our argument by the fact that the conditions published for recruitment of the Coloured Battalion provide that the Coloured volunteers are to receive the Imperial rate of pay; in other words, they are to be treated on the same basis as European recruits from South Africa, although even they are discriminated against when it comes to a question of pensions for partial or total disablement. We feel more and more that an injustice is being done to the South African Indian community. We know that many would willingly join the Boer Company provided they were given equal treatment with Europeans, but in existing conditions they feel it a point of honour to refrain from offering their services. We must accord them our utmost sympathy, and trust that even at the eleventh hour, the authorities will find that, with all their willingness, the class of recruits that are at present volunteering their services, could be much improved, with credit alike to themselves and to South Africa, if ordinary even-handed justice be dealt out to the Indian community in this matter.

Capetown, Oct. 25 (Reuter).—At a meeting of the Madras Indian community of Capetown was passed a resolution recording horror at the dastardly act of the Germans and their allies in executing Miss Cavell, in defiance of humanity and its laws, and further denouncing their brutal disregard of justice and respect towards God. The resolution also urged all brother Hindus, as well as Mahomedans, to put their loyalty into practice by joining the fighting forces in answer to the King's message to his people. The meeting authorised the secretary to forward the resolution to the Home Secretary, for transmission to the family of the late Miss Cavell. The meeting terminated with cheers for the British Raj, and with the usual prayers for the success of British arms.

Cape Coloured Regiment

Pretoria, Oct. 21 (Reuter).—The following has been officially communicated to the Press by the Defence Headquarters:—The Infantry Battalion of Cape Coloured men for Imperial service in East Africa.—One infantry battalion of four companies, officered by Europeans, is to be recruited by what is known as the Cape Coloured community, and will be called the Cape Corps. For this regiment men are now wanted, but applications will only be accepted from single men without dependents of any description, and who comply with the following conditions of service:—The engagement as an Imperial soldier under the Army Act for the period of the war, and for six months after the termination of the war should services so long be required, or until legally discharged. (a) Pay at Imperial Army rates. (3) Pensions and gratuities as for the West Indian Imperial Service Contingent. The scale of disablement pensions is appended. (4) Height minimum, 5ft. 3in. (5) Chest measurement minimum 33½ inches. (6) Age from 20 to 30 years, both inclusive. (7) Medical examination: There will be two medical examinations—(a) on provisional enrolment; (b) on final attestation at the mobilisation camp at Simonstown. It is expected, in regard to the men enrolled at Capetown, owing to the proximity of the Mobilisation Camp, it will suffice to proceed at once to the final medical examination. District staff officers and other officers concerned have been especially asked to see that only men who are physically fit in every way are recruited, and that every care is taken so that men who pass the first examination are not likely to be rejected on medical grounds later on. District staff officers and magistrates have been instructed to issue likely applicants with railway warrants to the nearest recruiting centre, and to recruits provisionally enrolled railway warrants to Simonstown, where, when necessary, an allowance of 1s. 6d. per diem to cover the duration of the railway journey may be given in lieu of rations.

Pensions for injuries, &c., received whilst on service are:—Partial disablement above the rank of corporal, 1s. to 3s. per diem; corporals, 9d. to 2s.; privates, 6d. to 1s. 6d. Total disablement above rank of corporal, 2s. 6d. to 3s. 6d. per diem; corporals, 2s. to 3s. per diem; privates, 1s. 6d. to 2s. 6d.

Capetown, Oct. 25 (Reuter).—Recruiting opened to-day for the Cape Coloured Corps. Only single men without dependents will be accepted. So great was the rush when the doors were thrown open that barricades had to be erected, and a squad of police requisitioned to keep the entrances passable. By noon about 200, a large percentage of whom had seen service in the Boer and German-West campaigns, had presented themselves.

Lieut.-Col. G. A. Morris is to command the battalion, with Major Hoy, who came to South Africa with the Canadian Dragoons, second in command; and Capt. Cunningham, late of the Native Affairs Department of the Transvaal, adjutant.

Training will be carried out at Simonstown. Non-commissioned officers will be drawn from the ranks.

Capetown, Oct. 25 (Reuter).—Of the Coloured men who presented themselves for enlistment this morning, over a hundred were handed over to the medical authorities, but of that number only a small percentage succeeded in satisfying the requirements, the chief reason for rejection being under-development in the chest and under-height.

A meeting of Coloured men was held on the Parade later in the morning, when, it is understood, the question of separation allowance was discussed and freely commented on. As a result, there was a noticeable slackening off, only a few men subsequently presenting themselves at the recruiting office.

A total of 33 were enlisted during the day, and despatched to Simonstown.

News in Brief

By way of thanksgiving at the birth of a son to him, Mr. C. Appavoo, of De Aar, Cape Province, sent £1 to us with instructions to use it for the benefit of school children. We handed the amount to the Secretary of the School Committee, Hindu Tamil Institute, Durban, to be used as the Committee decides.

Mr. Merriman, in returning thanks for his election as member for Stellenbosch, declared that the coloured electors, by their votes, had done more good to themselves than they realised. They had justified their right to the franchise. They had shown they could not be bought nor misled.—

At a meeting at Potchefstroom at which General Botha spoke, the Premier pointed out that a coloured contingent would go to German East, where the Germans used coloured troops, but there was no question of giving the coloured men the franchise or any further rights. As a matter of fact, the coloured men already had a vote in the Cape, but there was no question of extending this franchise.

The tenth anniversary celebration of the Hindu Young Men's Association was held in the Association Hall, Maritzburg, on Sunday, the 17th inst. In the course of his presidential speech, Mr. R. N. Moodley said that the opening of a Tamil School in their midst was of great importance, because no nation was respected which had no love for its literature. It was more than eight years since the school was opened, and the results, from the point of view of elementary education, had been satisfactory. There were 130 children studying in the school now, and religious instruction was being given. It was hoped that when sufficient funds were available to bring out Indian teachers from India, they would then be able to give higher education. The Association property, however, was still in debt, and he appealed to all to assist by donations so that the debt might be paid off. He expressed his thanks to friends and sympathisers in Maritzburg, Durban, and elsewhere, for having assisted with money to a great extent in the purchase of the property.

Capetown, Oct. 25 (Reuter).—After an animated debate the Dutch Reformed Church Synod to-day adopted, by 183 to 22, a motion that the Synod, being convinced of the evil consequences of marriages between white and coloured, urges the different Kerke-raads to do their utmost to prevent such marriages; further, that a Committee be appointed to approach the Government to bring in legislation on the subject. An amendment that a white person marrying a coloured spouse should be regarded as coloured by the Church was withdrawn.

London, Oct. 20 —Mr. Austen Chamberlain, Secretary of State for India, amid enthusiastic applause, read long lists of additional officers and men giving services from India. He said that a vast number of gifts had been made by the princes and people of India; indeed, the princes had made munificent gifts continuously during the war. They also had striking proof of the friendship of the Amcer of Afghanistan. The House would see in these gifts conclusive evidence of the unshaken solidarity of the princes and people of India in the defence of the vital principles of the Empire.—Reuter.

Since the first contingent of the Bengal Volunteer Field Ambulance Corps left Calcutta for the front, over seven hundred fresh applications for enlistment (says *India*) have been received by Dr. S. P. Sarbadhicari, Joint Honorary Secretary. Most of the applicants express their willingness to do without pay, so long as they can go into training at once. The question as to whether this number of men shall be employed for active service is under consideration.

અઠવાડીક પંચાંગ

વાર	શ્રીસ્તી અકટો. નવેમ.	હિંદુ ૧૯૭૧ આસો	મુસલમાન ૧૩૩૩ શુલહજ	પારસી ૧૨૮૫	સુર્યોદય ક. મી.	સુર્યાસ્ત ક. મી.
શુક્ર	૨૬	૧૬	૧૬	૧૮	૫-૬	૬-૧૬
શનિ	૩૦	"	૨૦	૧૯	૫-૮	૬-૧૬
રવિ	૩૧	"	૨૧	૨૦	૫-૭	૬-૧૭
સોમ	૧	"	૨૨	૨૧	૫-૬	૬-૧૮
મંગળ	૨	"	૨૩	૨૨	૫-૬	૬-૧૯
બુધ	૩	"	૨૪	૨૩	૫-૫	૬-૧૯
ગુરુ	૪	"	૨૫	૨૪	૫-૪	૬-૨૦

દીવાળી - લક્ષ્મી પુજન તા. ૬ નવેમ્બર શનિવારે છે.
ગોવર્ધન પુજા રવીવારે અને નવું વરસ સોમવારે છે.
તા. ૬ નવેમ્બરે મહોરમ માસ અને હિજરી ૧૩૩૪ નવું વરસ શરૂ થાય છે. તા. ૧૭ શુક્રવારે હજરત ઇમામ હુસેનની શહીદની રાત.

Indian Opinion

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ગ્રાહકોને વિનંતિ

હવેથી ઇ. ઓપીનીઅનનું લવાજમ ૬. આફ્રીકાના યુનીઅનને માટે એક વરસના પોસ્ટેજ સાથે ૦-૫-૬ રાખ્યું છે. યુનીઅન બહારનું લવાજમ પોસ્ટેજ સાથે ૦-૬-૬ છે. જેમનું લવાજમ અમારી પાસે જમા છે તેમને આ નવા લવાજમના દર પ્રમાણે મુદતમાં વધારો કરી આપવામાં આવશે. આ જાહેર નોંધરથી અમારા ગ્રાહકો કે જેનું લવાજમ અમારી પાસે જમા હશે તેમણે સમજી લેવું કે અમે તેમને મુદતમાં વધારો કરી આપ્યો છે.

છુટક નકલ એક પેની, પોસ્ટેજ અરધી પેની.

હિંદુસ્તાનની સ્ટીમરો અને ટપાલ

સ્ટી. પાલમકોટા - તા. ૩૦ અકટોબરના અરસામાં જંગ ખાર રસ્તે મુંબઈ જવા ઉપડશે.

સ્ટી. કાઠીઆવાડ - તા. ૧૦ અકટોબરે કાલંબોથી ઉપડી છે. મેરા તા. ૪ નવેમ્બરે ડેલાગોઆ બે તા. ૬ અને ડરબન તા. ૮ નવેમ્બરે આવવા વડી છે.

સ્ટી.અમરુલી-કલકત્તાથી તા. ૫ નવેમ્બરના અરસામાં ઉપડશે.

સંવત ૧૯૭૨ નું પંચાંગ

આવતી સાલ સંવત ૧૯૭૨ ના પંચાંગ અમારી પાસે આવેલાં છે. કીમત શી. ૧ ટપાલ ખર્ચ બે પેની.