

Indian Opinion

PUBLISHED WEEKLY IN ENGLISH AND GUJARATI

No. 47—VOL. XIII.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 3RD, 1915.

Registered at the G. P. O. as a Newspaper
PRICE ONE PENNY

A FAREWELL GATHERING

SOUTH AFRICA is poorer to-day by the departure for India of two staunch public workers in the persons of Messrs. Imam Abdul Kadir Bawazeer and Sorabji Rustomji, who sailed for Bombay by the British India steamer *Pundua* on Friday last. The former was accompanied by his wife and two daughters, and he is paying his first visit to India after a stay in this country of over twenty years. Mr. Sorabji was born in Durban and goes to India on a brief visit. Both these gentlemen have shown great zeal in the affairs of the community and have suffered imprisonment as passive resisters.

The Durban community held a farewell gathering, under the auspices of the Natal Indian Association, at the Durban Tamil Institute, Prince Edward Street, on the 25th ultimo. Mr. Hajee Dawad Mahomed presided over a large gathering. Amongst those present were Messrs. Omar H. A. Jhaveri, A. H. Moosa, Abdul Hack Kaji, A. M. Shaikh, Parsee Rustomjee, L. Gabriel, A. Christopher, H. L. Paul, R. P. Bhatt, D. A. Desai, M. B. Naik, J. B. Mehta, G. Tipnis, Sanghavee, Ambaram Maharaj, C. K. Gandhi, P. K. Desai, Miss West and others.

The Chairman, in opening the proceedings, eulogised the innumerable services rendered by Mr. Bawazeer during the great and long campaign of Passive Resistance. He had stuck to his leader, Mr. Gandhi, through thick and thin, from beginning to end. He had sacrificed everything for this great cause. Mr. Dawad also spoke in high terms of the services rendered by Mr. Sorabji Rustomji in the cause, especially during the time of the strike. He advised him to walk in his father's footsteps.

Mr. L. Gabriel, at the request of the chairman, then read the following address, which was afterwards presented with the usual floral honours:—

"To Mr. Imam Abdool Kader Bawazeer, Durban.

"Dear Sir,

"We, the undersigned, on behalf of the Indian community desire to place on record our high appreciation of the many valuable services rendered by you to our brethren during your sojourn of 20 years in the Cape, Transvaal, and Natal Provinces of South Africa.

"Your close association with the Passive Resistance movement since its inception, and the assistance rendered by you to our venerable patriot, Mr. M. K. Gandhi, during your tenure of office as Chairman of the Hamidia Islamic Society, and your many acts of self-sacrifice in abandoning your personal comforts for prison life for the cause of the community, will be gratefully remembered by your compatriots throughout South Africa.

"Your quiet and unostentatious life as a settler in Phoenix during the past two years has further endeared you to us.

"On the eve of your visit to India, we take the opportunity to bid you bon voyage and God-speed and

hope that your sojourn will be a short and happy one, and that you will safely return to continue to give the best of your endeavours for the welfare of the Indian Community."

The above was signed by Mr. Hajee Dawad Mahomed, chairman, Messrs. Omar Hajee Amod Jhaveri and L. Gabriel, joint hon. secretaries, and E. M. Paruk, treasurer, Natal Indian Association.

An address was also presented to Mr. Bawazeer by the Hindu community which was signed by Messrs. R. P. Bhatt, J. B. Mehta, R. K. Pather, A. G. Tipnis, D. A. Desai, and R. Dehloo.

Mr. H. I. Joshi read the address and several speeches followed. Mr. Sheikh Mehtab sang songs of his own composition suited to the occasion.

The Natal Indian Association also presented an address to Mr. Sorabji Rustomji in which reference was made to his sterling qualities as a foundation member, and admiration was expressed of the services rendered by him during the Passive Resistance campaign in the Transvaal and Natal.

The chairman received a letter from Mr. A. H. West, who was unable to be present on account of the illness of his son. The chairman requested Miss West to read the letter, after which she, on her own behalf, wished God-speed to the guests of the evening.

After the proceedings, refreshments were served to all present. A vote of thanks to the chairman brought the meeting to a close.

A Farewell Letter

Mr. Imam Saheb writes the following letter of thanks for publication:—

To my Countrymen in South Africa,

Dear Friends,—I take this opportunity of writing a few words before I sail for India after a stay of 20 years in this country. First of all I wish, through the columns of INDIAN OPINION, to thank all those who have sent their good wishes by telegrams and letters. I also thank my Durban friends who have extended their hospitality to me and my family.

In this country we are a part of the South African nation and are constantly in contact with Europeans. We know too well that restrictions and difficulties are placed in our way in the self-governing colonies of the British Empire. We have had to undergo enormous difficulties and sufferings in order to live with self-respect in this country. It seems but yesterday that we were engaged in the Passive Resistance struggle. In the part I took in that great movement I feel that I did nothing more than my duty. I acted according to the dictates of my conscience and tried to do what was right and proper. On several occasions I have been called upon to speak in public and occasionally I have felt obliged to say some very bitter words, and I had also to hear from others the same. There may have

been differences with my Mahomedan brethren in public matters, and through these differences, if I have hurt the feelings of any Mahomedans or Hindus, knowingly or unknowingly, I hope they will forgive me.

There is one thing I should particularly like to mention. We are all *Indians* in the eyes of Europeans in this country. We have never drawn distinctions between Mahomedans and Hindus in public matters. If we can forget the differences of Hindus and Mahomedans for ever and work together, we shall be able to make good our position in this land. We Mahomedans, like the Hindus, look upon India as our Motherland, and so it is as a matter of fact, and when it is a question of serving India, we must set aside any differences and be united. If we work with this ideal in our minds, I am sure we shall make progress and be able to live with other races with respect and dignity.

It is my earnest prayer that God may guide both Hindus and Mahomedans. I once more thank the many friends who have wished me "bon voyage and God-speed."

Yours sincerely,

IMAM A. K. BAWAZER.

Capetown Trading Licences

At last month's meeting of the Capetown City Council a discussion took place on the committee's report on the granting of new trading licences to Indians, which reads as follows: "That on economic grounds it is not desirable that an undue proportion of licences be issued to Asiatics; that the number of licences over which the Council has control already issued to Asiatics exceeds one-third of the total Asiatic population of men, women and children, whereas the number issued to other persons is only one in every 81 persons, and that, therefore, no additional licences should at present be issued to Asiatics, except under special circumstances; when an existing licence is given up and cancelled."

Mr. Spracklen said he was sorry that the question of dealing with these licences was not settled in committee. He was not ready to grant licences indiscriminately, but whether European or Indian, each case should be taken on its merits and get a fair hearing. He would therefore propose the following amendment: "That all new licences be considered by the Special Committee on Trade Licences, who shall recommend the granting or refusing each case, on the following basis: How long the applicant has been resident in the Peninsula prior to application; whether the locality is satisfactory; police and health reports satisfactory; and the application of the licence to the particular localities for which it is asked, as there are localities which do not require more shops."

Continuing, he said if his amendment was carried, it would not mean that every application would be granted, but each case would be decided on its merits. He thought it was a disgrace to treat British subjects in the way they had been treated, as there was no doubt that Indian traders served a useful purpose in certain districts where small quantities were required. There was no objection against Malays obtaining licences; that was because they had not the same competitive spirit as the Indian, or he, too, would have the same objections lodged against him. He thought the white young men should take up the business, and enter into competition with the Asiatics.

Sir John Graham seconded. He thought there should be a more exhaustive inquiry than that on which the committee's report was based. The trouble first arose in regard to these licences when it used to be possible for anybody to go on the Parade and buy a few pounds' worth of South African products, and then open any ramshackle place in which to sell them. The Council had been able to put a stop to that on the authority of the new Ordinance. He thought they want-

ed a higher hygienic standard and that would go a long way to correct the prejudice against Indian traders which was complained of, and quite legitimately complained of. A member of the deputation which interviewed the committee admitted that he was prepared to grant Indians who had resided here for twenty years, a licence. Once that was admitted it surely established grounds for saying that a question like that should be dealt with as suggested in Mr. Spracklen's amendment. He (the speaker) thought they should not decide the matter at once, but refer it to committee for further inquiry, in order to see if they could not adopt some *modus vivendi* which would not do an injustice to the Indian or be prejudicial to the European trader.

Mr. Gentry agreed that as 30 per cent. of Indians in the Peninsula had licences no injustice was being done to those who were refused. He had lived in India, and he challenged Dr. Abdurahman to prove that more than 30 per cent. of Englishmen in that country had trading licences. He thought the Council should abide by its decision that the present number of licence holders was sufficient. He regretted that Dr. Abdurahman had dragged in the question of Indians who were fighting in Europe, because three-fourths of the Indians in South Africa had never been in India and would never see that country. He respected them, but he did not think many of the Indians in Flanders would care to shake hands with those living in the Peninsula. It stood to reason that an Indian could always undersell the European, because he lived on rice, but the European trader could not do it, and was it fair that every European should be squeezed out of the trade? They ought to stop at the present number of licences. The Indians as represented in the Cape Peninsula were not what he termed representatives of the Indians. The Council ought to look at the question from the point of view of the Indians as members of the British Empire. They must also look at it from the point of view of the white people resident in this country. He trusted that they would approach the subject from a commonsense point of view. If the Indians had had such a proportion of the licences issued to them as had been stated, he thought they had a fair and just proportion.

An Alternative Suggestion

Dr. Abdurahman said he thought it would be wise if they referred this matter back to Committee of the whole Council. He had no desire to exploit the Indian cause in public, but he felt that they had a genuine grievance and he would really prefer to express his views in committee. He felt that there should be no difficulty in arriving at some sort of working basis. He would not go over the extraordinary remarks made by the last speaker—most amusing and most inconsistent remarks. He moved that the whole question of trading licences be referred back to the whole Council in Committee.

Mr. Drake, in seconding Dr. Abdurahman's motion, said that he was not averse to fair argument and criticism. He claimed that the advent of the Indian traders had not been for the benefit of the city and the population amongst whom these people traded. He thought localities and streets had depreciated owing very largely to the low class of Indians and the low character of their trading.

Mr. Barton urged that if 621 licences had been issued to Indians it was quite enough. He hoped the policy which the Council had hitherto adopted of not granting further licences to Indians would be maintained, and that no more licences would be granted to Indians on any consideration.

Not a Municipal Question

Mr. Parker said that he had framed in his own mind a method of dealing with this matter of licences on the basis of population, but he must confess that the facts put forward by the committee knocked a hole into his ideas. When they were told that one in three among

the Indians had a licence and only one individual out of 81 in the rest of the community had a licence, they were bound to confess that, numerically at least, the Indians were represented by far more traders than they ought to have. (Hear hear.) To his mind, this was a question that ought not to be debated on the floor of the Council chamber. It was not a municipal question at all; it should not come within the sphere of municipal affairs. This question, if it were going to be solved, would have to be solved in Parliament, or the Provincial Council. (Hear, hear.) After referring to the history of the legislation on the subject, Mr. Parker expressed the opinion that the members of the Council were wasting their time in discussing the issue of these licences, because he was sure that a three-fourths majority of the Council would, no matter what facts or principles were laid before them, steadily refuse to grant licences to Indians.

Sir Frederick Smith said he agreed with the last speaker. He (Sir Frederick) had invariably maintained when they discussed this question in the Council that it was an unfair thing for the Legislature to have handed over to local bodies such a thorny subject. He was bound to say that as a Council they were not carrying out the administration of this question as they ought to do. The question was, were these men British subjects? If they were, then why did they attempt to legislate differently for them. He admitted the white man could not compete with the Indian, but that was the ground on which they should discuss the question. If the white trader could not live where the Indian competed, then an appeal should be made to the Legislature to alter matters. Two great Indian patriots had been out to this country to settle that question, and they left with the understanding that Indians at present resident in South Africa would be fairly treated. But were they being fairly treated? He thought not. When an application was made by an Indian no account was taken of the man's character or that the premises were not suitable. All the Council said was, "refused" because he was an Indian. He thought an opportunity should be given to discuss the question thoroughly before they turned a part of the community who were British subjects like themselves.

Mr. Van der Byl said it was all very well to talk about competing with the Indians, but to do that they would have to bring down the standard of living. That could not be done without abandoning the attempt to uplift the coloured races of South Africa. Was it in the interests of the coloured or white people to come down to that standard? The point was not whether they were British subjects, because if there were other British subjects whose standard of living was the same, they would meet with the same refusal. As he had said, it was not that the man was an Indian, but that his standard of living was the objection. He agreed with what had been said, that out of 2,374 Indians, 65 licences was not unfair proportion. Nor could the question of a favourable locality be taken into consideration, because once a licence was granted they could not prevent its removal to any other street in which an Indian shop was existent. He did not think there would be any objection to Indians engaging in other classes of business, as there were plenty to be acquired.

Mr. Goodwin said he could not support the recommendation of the committee because it closed the door entirely on the question. He hoped the question would be referred back to committee.

It was then resolved to refer the question of trade licences to a committee of the whole Council.—*Cape Times*)

We hope to publish some of the correspondence on the above subject that has appeared in the columns of our Capetown contemporary.

From the Editor's Chair

A FAITHFUL SERVANT

THE Indian community of South Africa has, for the time being, lost one of the truest-hearted men that ever set foot in this country. We refer to Mr. Imam Abdul Kader Bawazeer, familiarly known as Imam Sahib. As Chairman of the Hamidia Islamic Society of the Transvaal, he wielded a powerful influence for harmony in the community, and there was no stronger advocate of the people's rights than he. Whilst being, perhaps, the best informed among his co-religionists as regards the questions immediately affecting them, he was just as keen in upholding the claims of the other sections of the community. There is less of personal or religious selfishness in Imam Sahib than we have observed in most men. We have been in daily contact with him during the last two years and it has been a real pleasure to associate with him. We feel that we have been the gainers. In all matters requiring tact and a clear insight into public questions, we have invariably found his advice to be sound, and for this reason, especially, we shall greatly miss his presence from amongst us. His public career has been most honourable, and everyone knows how he suffered imprisonment, again and again, during the long struggle with the Government. It is also well known that he allowed his business to go to rack and ruin rather than fail to support his countrymen in the great effort they were making to establish their rights as free citizens of the Empire. We wish Imam Sahib a pleasant sojourn in the Motherland and a speedy return to this country which cannot afford to lose permanently one who has shown himself to be such a devoted and faithful servant of the Indian community.

(INDIAN LICENCES AT THE CAPE

We reproduce elsewhere in this issue the report from the *Cape Times* of an interesting meeting of the Capetown Town Council on the subject of Indian licences. It is evident therefrom that there are two schools of thought at the Cape. One, of those members who, endeavouring to uphold the Imperial idea, will not tolerate differentiation between British subjects, especially at such a time as the present; the other, of those who cannot rise superior to race and colour prejudice which, in the long run, is nothing more than an appeal to the principle of pocket-interest. We are glad that the matter of issuing trade licences to Indians has been reserved for the further consideration that it deserves, and hope that commonsense and a regard for the Imperial decencies will win the day, though we are not too sanguine of this. The insults levelled against South African Indians by some of the Councillors we are glad to notice had been treated with dignity and self-restraint by members of the Indian community who have sent correspondence to our contemporary on this sudden and reckless revival of a somewhat unsavoury controversy; but we cannot let the insults pass so easily as this. It is intolerable that men in a privileged position, and vested with certain responsibilities, should have been allowed to go out of their way to hold up to obloquy a community that is to-day being asked by the Imperial Government to contribute a Bearer Company for service with the Imperial forces, and that is also contributing large sums of money for the purposes of public relief, and in appreciation of the Imperial obligation that lies upon them. We do not suppose that such considerations as those will be allowed to weigh by men blinded by prejudice of race and pocket, but it is necessary and desirable that the public should understand exactly who the people are that are being held up to ridicule and opprobrium by persons falsely alleging any real knowledge of the people of India or their representatives in Europe or South Africa.)

FORM D.I. 91.

We refer our readers to the report, published in another column of this issue, from our special correspondent in Pretoria, in respect of a certain appeal heard by the Board on the 23rd ulto. It would appear that the appellant, a minor, filed form D.I.91, containing the Certificate of age and parentage. The Acting Principal Immigration Officer, after the filing of this document, actually, upon his own admission, took certain statements from the appellant and his father prior to the case coming before the Board, upon a postponement granted on the 22nd March last. Fortunately, the Board refused to allow any interference with the proceedings pending before the Board, on the part of the Immigration Officer, and declined to admit the statements. It would seem that Mr. Cousins is constituting himself the head of a detective bureau, and that he deems it part of his duty to manufacture evidence against an appellant, without warning him previously that any statement that he might make would be used against him. We have never expected Mr. Cousins to appreciate any of the ordinary forms of law or any of the proprieties of a Court of Justice, but we did hope that he would not have been quite so hasty in indicating to the Immigration Appeal Board the manner in which he conducts his duties. We are glad, at any rate, that the Board has not failed to make Mr. Cousins realise that he cannot override the law, and that he is not the controller either of the Board's procedure, or of the rights of an appellant. There is, however, an even more important issue in this matter, for Mr. Cousins appears to have done what the Government have definitely undertaken not to do. He has questioned a form D.I.91, which, upon his own statement on another occasion, is the one document that the Government has bound itself to accept unquestioningly. The Indian community cannot possibly permit form D.I.91, to be questioned in this way, otherwise it is clear that the magistrate's certificate on this form is on no better a basis than any other form of magistrate's certificate, and therefore the community will be absolved from any obligation—we mean of course moral obligation, for there is no legal obligation—to procure these documents. If the Government wish to stultify themselves in this way, it is not our business or that of the Indian community, but they must be prepared to take the necessary consequences of their rash action.

A Form D.I.91 Case

[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT]

Pretoria, Nov. 23.

The appeal of Ismail, son of Goolam Rassool, vs. The Acting Principal Immigration Officer, which had been postponed, on the 22nd March last, to enable the appellant to produce further proof of parentage and age, was heard before the Immigration Board to-day.

Mr. de Beer appeared for the appellant and Mr. Cousins appeared in person.

The appellant filed a D.I.91 form, which had been completed in India, and which furnished the necessary particulars. Mr. Cousins said that this did not remove the doubt that he entertained in regard to this case. He stated that he had taken certain statements from the appellant and his father, since they had furnished him with the D.I.91 form, and he wished to submit these statements to the Board. Mr. de Beer objected, and said that the Immigration Officer had no right to interfere with proceedings pending before the Board, and submitted that the statements were inadmissible.

The Board agreed with this latter contention.

Mr. Cousins proceeded to oppose the application and stated that he required further proof. He reviewed the evidence that had been given at the last hearing of the case, and referred to what he considered certain inconsistencies.

Mr. de Beer, in reply, argued that the Department had given an undertaking to the Indian community that it would accept the D.I.91 form as conclusive evidence when it arrived. "The first case of this kind which comes before the Board," he said "is immediately attacked by the Immigration Officer." He contended that the appellant had done all that had been required of him, and was therefore entitled to the decision of the Board. Upon the motion of Mr. Cousins the chairman suggested that photographs be sent to India. Mr. de Beer said that he emphatically objected to this course. In the first place, he pointed out that a procedure of this kind was opposed to the religious tenets of his client, and that this fact had been brought to the notice of the Immigration Department by the British Indian Association. Moreover, he contended that, at the last sitting, no mention of photographs was made. His client was told what evidence was required of him, and he now produced that evidence, and the Board was bound to take notice of it. A further postponement of the case would mean more expense, and he therefore insisted that the case be now disposed of.

Mr. Cousins again addressed the Board and drew its attention to the footnote appearing on the D.I.91 form, showing that that form should be produced before the Magistrate in India by the person wishing to enter the Union.

The chairman said that this course was impossible in the present instance, for the boy was in South Africa.

After deliberation, the Board unanimously came to the conclusion that they were bound to recognise the D.I.91 form as signed by two Magistrates in India and since this was the evidence asked for by the Department, they were bound to uphold the appellant's contention.

The appeal was therefore upheld.

An Important Conference

We are asked by Messrs. Yusuf Patel and S. D. Bobert, the conveners, to publish the following notice:—

A private Conference of representative members of the Transvaal Indian community will be held in Johannesburg, at the West End Bioscope Hall, on Sunday December 12th, 1915, at 2 p.m. sharp, for the purpose of re-organising and strengthening the Transvaal British Indian Association, in view of the present very serious position of affairs and the necessity to make representations thereon to the Government at an early date.

Amongst other business will be the appointment of a new Executive of the Association.

Your community is earnestly requested to appoint representatives to attend this Conference, with full powers to act on your behalf, and you are further requested to forward to the chairman of the Conference a copy of the resolution whereby such appointment is made. Communications may be addressed c/o P.O. Box 2941, Johannesburg.

It is further requested that, in the absence of the appointment of representatives, you will telegraph or write, supporting the objects of the Conference and accepting its decisions. In the absence of communication to the contrary, it will be assumed that the Conference will have your support.

Enclosed herewith please find cards of admission for duly appointed representatives. Each card will admit one person only, whose name should be inserted thereon before presentation.

Mr. Rustomjee sent, a month ago, two dozen Sticks for the Red Cross Hospital, Ships Comforts Fund. More sticks were sent during this week, to the above fund by Messrs. Parsee Rustomjee (1 dozen), Sorabjee Rustomjee (1 dozen), Dawad Mahomed (1 dozen), A. M. Shaikh (½ dozen), Amod Haffiji (½ dozen).

Indian Opinion

PUBLISHED WEEKLY IN ENGLISH AND GUJARATI

No. 48—VOL. XIII. FRIDAY, DECEMBER 10TH, 1915.

Registered at the G. P. O. as a Newspaper
PRICE ONE PENNY

ANOTHER BEARER COMPANY

We understand that it has been decided by the authorities to recruit a second Indian Bearer Company. The conditions of service are the same as for the first company, already completed. Men desiring to enroll should apply to the O.C., Stamford Hill Camp, at any time. It is hoped that the employers of those wishing to enlist will co-operate and assist as far as possible, more especially in not insisting on the notice to leave being fully worked out. This is desirable in view of the short period remaining for training.

A Recruiting Meeting at Dundee

Capt. Dunning, who is recruiting for the Indian Bearer Company, is at present in Dundee (says the *Natal Mercury* Correspondent) and a meeting was held on Sunday afternoon. There was a good attendance, mostly of town Indians, though the mines in the district were also represented. The Mayor presided, and the meeting was addressed by Capt. Dunning and the Magistrate (Mr. Leslie). Interpretations into Hindustani and Tamil were done by Messrs. Godfrey and Naidoo. The Indians present seemed much interested, and asked for a little time to talk things over amongst themselves. Several present seemed inclined to join, and there is little doubt that Capt. Dunning will obtain some recruits from this town and district.

Donations Acknowledged

The Officer Commanding the Indian Bearer Company desires to thank the following for gifts gratefully received by the company: Messrs. R. Somasundaram, books; M. C. Anglia & Co., 1 box cigarettes; Shaik Himed, 1 tin Ramie biscuits; J. W. Price, Red Hill, periodicals; Parsee Rustomjee, 1 box milk, 1 box soap, 1 box candles, 1 gross matches; Rajkomar, milk daily; Mrs. Anama, 1 bag potatoes; Mrs. A. Francis, Greyville, 1 dozen tins of milk and half-dozen tins of jam; Messrs. A. F. Peters and Samidos, and the Indian staff of the Atheneum Tea-rooms, Maritzburg, 10 boxes of plums; the Merrivale Dairy, 10 gallons curdled milk; the proprietors of the *Natal Mercury* and of the *Natal Witness* papers daily; the proprietors of *Indian Opinion* and of *The Vveka Bhano*, papers weekly.

Proposed Flower Sale

We are informed (says the *Natal Witness*) by Mr. A. H. Peters that Messrs. Paul Devadossan and I. M. David have left their situations, and travelled by last night's midnight train to join the Indian Bearer Company at Durban.

A committee of local Indians will shortly be formed for the purpose of raising funds to purchase necessary comforts for the members of the Indian Bearer Company. It is proposed to hold a street flower sale shortly. Many prominent City Indians are not only identifying themselves whole-heartedly with the movement, but are willing to send their daughters to assist at the

sale. It is to be hoped that the Maritzburg public will contribute to the movement to assist in a noble and just cause.

Mr. Peters informs us that the Mayor is in sympathy with the movement, and will do everything to make the sale a success. Mrs. P. Davis (organising secretary, Patriotic League) and other ladies have also offered their help.

Comforts Committee Formed

A fairly well attended meeting, convened by the comforts committee, was held on Wednesday night in the Union Theatre, kindly lent for the occasion by Messrs. Rawat and Co.,

Mr. Robert Somasundram presided, and was supported by Messrs. Parsee Rustomjee, B. M. Singh, V. Lawrence, A. Christopher, Rev. and Mrs. Bone, and the secretaries (L. Gabriel and R. N. Sullaphen). A number of ladies representative of those who are working in the making up of comforts for the men, and also large numbers of the members of the Bearer Company were also present.

Mr. Somasundram spoke of the formation of the committee, pointing out briefly the necessity and the urgency, and that it was the wish of that committee to give every Indian who chose the opportunity to "do his bit" towards the cause in which they were all interested. He emphasised the sacrifices the men were voluntarily making, and risking, as they would do in some way or other, their lives in carrying out their duty. He asked those who were not going to the front to come forward and sacrifice a little, and they could do so either by subscribing towards the Overseas Contingent Fund, or by contributing towards the comforts of the men of the Bearer Company, or they could devote their time to carrying on the work of the Comforts Committee; whichever it was, it must involve some sacrifice on their part. He asked them to confirm the provisional committee that had been formed, and called for volunteer workers to carry on the movement.

Mr. Parsee Rustomjee, in moving the confirmation of the committee as now constituted, said that volunteer workers must not give in their names as mere ornaments, but must be honest workers, and remarked that a committee of which he was chairman had 100 members but only four constant workers.

The gentlemen present who gave in their names were Messrs. M. C. Anglia, Rev. Mr. Bone, Sookdeo, Washington, Harris, Emmamally, Tajmoon, Ernest, and others.

The Rev. Mr. Bone was elected treasurer.

The following gentlemen offered comforts and material for the making up of garments:—Mr. Parsee Rustomjee, 1 case soap, 1 case candles, 1 case milk, 1 gross matches, and any other necessities that may be required from time to time; Mr. B. M. Singh, 1 piece flannelette; Messrs. M. Rawat and Co., proceeds of one night's bio entertainment; Mr. M. C. Anglia,