

Indian Opinion

No. 7—VOL. XVIII. FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 13TH, 1920.

Registered at the G.P.O. as a Newspaper
PRICE THREEPENCE

NOTES AND NEWS

HEARTY congratulations to Mr. C. F. Andrews on the occasion of his birthday which took place yesterday. We present our readers with a portrait in honour of the occasion and in appreciation of his splendid services to India and the people of India scattered throughout the world, but especially of his self-sacrificing labours on behalf of our countrymen in South Africa.

The reception given by Durban Indians to Mr. Andrews was a great success. The Mayor humourously remarked that he "had listened to all the speeches with great interest although he could not understand a word." Seeing that so little time was left for Mr. Andrews, after the very long list of speakers had had their say, the guest of the evening, in deciding to speak in Hindustani, pleased the large majority present. But it is a pity that the organisers of the meeting did not insist upon allowing Mr. Andrews a full hour when he could have spoken in English also.

We would certainly suggest to communities elsewhere that it would be a good plan to dispense with all speeches, except the chairman's brief introduction, until after Mr. Andrews has spoken. After all, people attend such gatherings in order to hear Mr. Andrews and not the local celebrities. And besides European members of the audience and press reporters, many Tamil and Telugu speaking Indians cannot follow a speech in Hindustani.

Senator Theo. Schreiner passed away from this life on the 23rd ulto. after an illness. His life has been devoted to the cause of coloured races and he was appointed to the Senate as one of the Government nominees in the interests of the natives. He was an ardent temperance advocate, and was brother to Olive Schreiner and the late Hon. W. P. Schreiner. The Indian community could always count upon Mr. Theo. Schreiner to uphold their just cause, and we feel that we have lost another good friend.

The rice question has reached serious proportions and the position of the poorest Indians is pitiable. We understand that Mr. Andrews, after full inquiry, has made cabled representations to the Government of India, requesting the release of a large quantity of rice for shipment to South Africa.

The Roodepoort-Maitland Town Council having been asked by the South African League to make representations as to the undesirability of Asiatics in the towns, decided to leave the matter in abeyance. There was an interesting debate (says the Johannesburg correspondent of the *Natal Advertiser*) during which several Labour members urged that there was a tendency on the part of the Asiatics to cut down the price of food stuffs which helped the poor people. On the other hand it was pointed out that they paid much smaller salaries to their assistants than the white firms.

The British Indian Defence Association, Pretoria,

held a public reception in honour of Mr. Andrews on the occasion of his brief visit to that city on the 2nd inst.

As anticipated, the Asiatic Commission will sit after the elections which take place on the 10th March, and it will be a new Parliament which will receive its report. One never knows what may happen. Instead of General Smuts, either Sir Thomas Smartt, General Hertzog or Col. Cresswell may be at the head of the Government.

THE COMING COMMISSION

THE Union Government have at last published the names of members of the Asiatic Commission.

The chairman (Sir John Large) is a Judge of the Supreme Court of South Africa (Cape Provincial Division); Col. Scott Wylie is a well-known solicitor in Durban and was a member of the Solomon Commission appointed in 1914; Mr. Harry Hofmeyer is a moderate Dutchman, at one time Mayor of Johannesburg; and Mr. Duncan Baxter, M.L.A., is a retired merchant of Capetown. We understand that the Government have been at considerable pains to select suitable men to sit on this Commission. The selection may not be ideal, but we are assured by well-informed and friendly non-officials that it is as fair to all parties as could be made at the present time. We note with satisfaction that the reactionary Orange Free State Province is not represented directly on the Commission. By selecting the members from the Cape, Transvaal and Natal only the Government have acted wisely. Whilst we know that there is a strong opinion against the Commission, the feeling being that the terms of reference are too narrow, we feel that it would be a mistake to boycott the Commission as has been suggested. After all we must understand that the Commission was appointed at the request of those members of the House of Assembly who were dissatisfied with the Land and Trading Act. We cannot forget the fact. The Indian community did not ask for a Commission and it is not for them to quarrel with the personnel or the terms of reference at this late hour. It is quite certain that the anti-Asiatics will endeavour to bring before the Commission as strongly as they can, the black side of Asiatic trading, residence and land ownership. If, on the other hand, there is nothing in the evidence, which will afterwards be published, in regard to the rights of Indians, the Commission's findings will be a foregone conclusion. Another reason why the Indian community should present their case is that the Indian Government are sending, as representatives of the Government and people of India, Sir Benjamin Robertson and Mr. Srinivasa Sastri. The former has already obtained a

personal knowledge of South African affairs by a former official visit in 1914. Mr. Sastri is a member of the Viceroy's Council, President of the Servants of India Society and a trusted leader of the people. Mr. Andrews assures us that no abler man could be found in the whole of India to represent India and the Indians of South Africa before the Commission. We regret that Mr. Andrews will not also be present when the Commission sits. But that, we are assured, is impossible. We have, however, the satisfaction of knowing that Mr. Andrews will before leaving, be in a position to give to Mr. Sastri the result of his most careful investigation into the position here. In all the circumstances, we feel that the wisest course is to present the Indian case before the Commission in the best light possible. To refrain from appearing before the Commission would not only allow damaging statements to go unrefuted, but such action on our part would not be understood or appreciated by the Government of India or our friends and well-wishers both here and in India. We should not forget also that the Indian Overseas Association in London, of which Mr. Polak is the Hon. Secretary, will depend upon the record of the Commission, no matter what its findings may be, to present our case directly before the Imperial Government and, if necessary, the British public.

MR. ANDREWS IN DURBAN

A GREAT GATHERING

It is estimated that 4,000 Indians and Europeans assembled in the Royal Picture Palace on the evening of the 5th instant to welcome Mr. C. F. Andrews. The gathering was representative of all sections of the Indian community. On the platform were a number of Indian and European bodies. The Mayor, Mr. T. Butman presided. Mr. Brandon (Acting Magistrate) was also present and occupied a seat on the platform.

The Mayor in a few words expressed his great pleasure at being asked to preside that night, and in associating himself with the Indians of the town in extending a welcome to Mr. Andrews. He thought they had every right to be proud of Mr. Andrews, and of what he had done for them, and he also referred to another countryman of his, of whom the speaker was proud, and of whom he thought the Indian community ought to be proud. He referred to the Rev. Mr. French—(Applause)—who had died a glorious death in trying to save some of their fellow-countrymen. (Applause).

The Mayor and Mr. Andrews were then garlanded and presented with bouquets of flowers amid loud applause.

The chairman of the Reception Committee (Mr. Omar Hajee Amod Jhaveri) spoke in Gujarati, his speech being afterwards read in English by Mr. A. Christopher:—They were happy to have in their midst Mr. Andrews, who came to-day as he did in 1913, when they were in communal distress. Then they were suffering, led by their revered Mahatmajee Gandhi, for redress of the ills consequent upon the Immigration Restriction Act, the iniquitous £3 tax, and other acts of the authorities in this country, and now they were threatened by the anti-Asiatics in a manner in respect to land and trading rights, which, if made law, would virtually make them less than men. But the immediate object of this gathering was to welcome their brother, Mr. Andrews. He was well known to them by his work in India, but they knew him more intimately in connection with his advocacy for the abolition of the indentured labour system in the Colonies, and, therefore, it would be unnecessary for him to introduce at length their distinguished guest or to speak of his many

qualifications. He was a sturdy example of what they understand a Britisher to be at his best, and it was men such as he who inspired in nations under the British sovereignty, faith in the British sense of fair play and justice, which, alas! in these days was so rare. The cause of human happiness was Mr. Andrews' life work, and they saw him striving for it in India in endeavouring to bring about a fuller and deeper understanding between the British and their countrymen. He had chosen the method to accomplish his purpose which was so simple and yet so difficult to practice—to win by love, affection, and understanding what others sought to do by arms or diplomacy. It was the method of their forefathers; it was the method of their great and revered Mahatmajee Gandhi; and who could tell that in the world that was in the re-making this method might not prevail? But, howsoever it might be, let us hope that in that world India, may not be forgotten by the powers under whom it had pleased God to place it. Mr. Andrews' love for their Motherland was so great that neither physical pain nor distance deterred him in the pursuit of what he considered would make for the happiness of their people and others, who might be the subject of circumstances over which they had no control. His presence among them was proof of the great and self-sacrificing love he had for them, which was ready at a moment's suggestion from that greater love, Mahatmajee Gandhi, to journey thousands of miles by land and seek to do for them what that Mahatmajee would have been glad to do had his ill-health not prevented his coming to them in person. They were sure that Mr. Andrews' personality and sincerity of purpose would be an abiding inspiration to them in the hour of their trial, if the dark clouds which threatened them were to break over them. But they were not without hope that the British sun would disperse those clouds, even as he did on the battlefields of Flanders in the cause of a weaker nation and humanity. He continued: "We are, Brother Andrews, glad to receive you in the name of the Indian community. We find words are inadequate to give expression to our innermost feelings for you and your selfless and ideal work. Our hearts are with you. We pray that you may speedily recover your health in this sunny land of ours, which to most of us is our home. We are grateful to you for the message you bring to us from our Motherland and her children, particularly from Imperial Citizenship Association in India and our Mahatmajee Gandhi, whose spirit, we feel, is with us. And as he suffered and succeeded on our behalf, we have faith and hope that when the occasion demands it we shall have Gandhis and Andrews among us, who will endeavour to emulate our Mahatmajee and you. (Loud applause.)

Mr. Andrews, on rising to reply, was received with great cheering, and in the course of a few prefatory remarks made in English, said that one thing he had been looking forward to in coming to Durban was that he would be able to meet his old friend, Mr. French, with whom he had been associated for many years in India—in Delhi and Bombay—and had heard of his work in Natal; but, to his sorrow, he saw in the papers the account of his death by drowning. From what he knew of Mr. French, that was the very sort of death he would have chosen to die, in, like his Master, laying down his life for his friends. (Applause). In India they knew what that meant, and gave him the deepest honour and love from the bottom of their hearts. At his request the whole gathering rose and stood for a moment in silence in token of their honour and respect for the memory of Mr. French.

The remainder of Mr. Andrews' address was in Hindi, which fact was greatly appreciated by the majority present. Mr. Andrews gave a graphic description of the recent happenings in the Punjab and the wonderful popular demonstrations in Mr. Gandhi's honour.

At the close of Mr. Andrews' address the proceedings were brought to an end by a vote of thanks, proposed by Mr. A. Christopher, to the Mayor for presiding.

INDIAN COMMISSION APPOINTED

The following appears in the *Government Gazette* of the 6th February 1920:—

By His Excellency THE RIGHT HONOURABLE VIS-COUNT BUXTON, A MEMBER OF HIS MAJESTY'S MOST HONOURABLE PRIVY COUNCIL, KNIGHT GRAND CROSS OF THE MOST DISTINGUISHED ORDER OF ST. MICHAEL AND ST. GEORGE, HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR SOUTH AFRICA, GOVERNOR-GENERAL AND COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF IN AND OVER THE UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA.

To:

The Honourable Sir Johannes Lange, Kt.
Colonel James Scott Wylie, K.C., M.V.O.
William Duncan Baxter, Esquire, M.L.A.
Henry John Hofmeyr, Esquire.

Greeting:

Whereas it is expedient to appoint a Commission to inquire into matters concerning the Asiatic Community as more specially detailed hereunder.

Know ye that I, the Governor-General aforesaid, reposing great trust and confidence in your knowledge, discretion, and ability have authorized and appointed and do by these presents authorize and appoint you the said

Sir Johannes Lange, Kt.,
Colonel James Scott Wylie,
William Duncan Baxter,
Henry John Hofmeyr,

to be my Commissioners, with you the said

Sir Johannes Lange, Kt.,
as Chairman to inquire into and report on the provisions of the Law affecting—

- (a) the acquisition of land and rights affecting land in the Union by Asiatics and persons of Asiatic descent for trading and other purposes;
- (b) the trading or carrying on of business by such persons generally, or in specified localities, and whether it is in the public interest to alter the law in any respect;
- (c) to make recommendations with regard to any difficulties and grievances which have arisen in regard to matters (a) and (b).

And I do further by this Commission give and grant you, any one of you, authority to call before you, or any one of you, such persons as you shall judge necessary, by whom you shall be better informed in the subject herein submitted for your consideration, or whom, in your judgment it may seem desirable to summon for the purpose of obtaining information on the subject of this inquiry and any matter connected therewith, with power and authority to call and to have access to all official books, papers, documents, and things which you may think proper to obtain; and I do hereby charge and enjoin all public officers in all the Provinces of the Unions, and all others who may be called upon by you for information, to afford the same upon all questions relevant to or connected with the inquiry which you are to institute so far as such public officers or other persons may be able to impart the information so required.

And I do hereby authorize and instruct you to report to me under your hand with as little delay as may be consistent with a due discharge of the duties hereby imposed upon you upon the matters now referred to you, and also to certify to me as may be necessary your several proceedings in respect to any of the matters aforesaid.

And I do further will and command, and by these presents ordain, that this my Commission shall continue in full force and virtue until you, or any majority of you, shall have finally reported upon the several matters aforesaid, or otherwise until this my Commission shall be by me revoked; and that you, or any one of you, may from time to time proceed in the execution thereof, although the same may be not continued from time to time by adjournment, and that you, or any,

majority of you shall have liberty to report to me your several proceedings from time to time as the same or any part thereof may respectively be completed and perfected.

Given under my Hand and the Great Seal of the Union of South Africa, at Johannesburg, this the Third day of February, One thousand Nine hundred and Twenty.

BUXTON,

Governor-General.

By Command of His Excellency the
Governor-General-in-Council.

T. ORR.

THE DANGER IN EAST AFRICA

By C. F. ANDREWS.

I

When I landed in Mombasa, intending to stay there for about 12 days between two steamers, I quickly discovered that my journey to South Africa could not be so speedily undertaken. Documents were placed in my hands, which for the most part had not reached India, disclosing a state of affairs which foreboded an even graver attack on Indian rights and liberties than that which was being made in South Africa itself. Some years ago, a large number of Dutch settlers from the Free State and the Transvaal had arrived in East Africa, and since their arrival the racial spirit had rapidly become acute. The policy of exclusion and segregation was openly advocated, and the British settlers, who had before lived peaceably side by side with the Indian colonists, became infected, one by one, with the virus of the plague from South Africa and the plague of racial discrimination. The whole history of South Africa is now being transcribed afresh in British East Africa, and the danger is great that the plague will pass on to the Uganda and Tanganyika and Nyassa Territories also and to Zanzibar.

As the danger is so imminent, affecting many thousands of our Indian fellow-countrymen, and as the problems, that are being misad, are so similar to those of the South African provinces, it appears to me to be of the utmost importance that they should be studied by South African Indians. The study of them will not only create sympathy and sacrifice for our Indian fellow-countrymen, but will also help to set out in a clear light the principles which underlie the great struggle for freedom, which we have undertaken, whether in the South or in the East of Africa. The problems will be seen in a new light; the underlying principles of the struggle are exactly the same.

The first document that I shall bring forward and quote in full, in its Indian sections, is the Report of the Economic Commission of the Government of British East Africa. This Commission was appointed during the war at the request of the Imperial War Conference. It took over two years to accomplish its task, namely from March 1917 to March 1919. It was one of the most responsible and far-reaching Commissions ever appointed by the East African Government. Some were official members of high standing in Government circles; others were non-official members, of equally high standing among the European settlers,—men of reputation for their independent character and judgment. The outstanding personalities were the Chairman, The Hon. Francis William Major, C.M.G., the Chief Commissioner of Customs; Lord Delamere, a representative of the Legislative Council; and Major Grogan, an Irish settler who has won great fame as an orator. The two non-official members will come before us in subsequent articles and their theories will be discussed.

Here, at this point, it is sufficient to advise, that the Economic Commission was a body which represented

the Government of East Africa itself, in its judicial capacity. It took all its evidence on oath. It was, therefore, as I have said, a highly responsible body and its conclusions were eagerly looked forward to by the whole East African Community and also by the Imperial Government who had asked for the Enquiry to be made.

With this introduction it will now be well to give in full without any abbreviation the findings of the Commission on the Indian Question. They read as follows:—

We have left to the end what is perhaps the factor which more directly than any other affects the welfare of the Native—that is, the influence of the Asiatic.

It is hoped that the frank discussion of this subject will not cause offence, but it is one which calls for plain speaking.

Before the advent of the Imperial B.E.A. Company, Indians were established on the Coast, where they seized the opportunity afforded them by the abolition of slavery to oust by loan and foreclosure the ancient Arab trade and civilisation of which Zanzibar was the centre. But except for occasional incursions by half-caste Baluchis, the interior was untouched by Indian influence till British control was effected. The introduction of the coolies employed on the construction of the Uganda Railway was the first connection of Indians with the interior. The employment of Indian labour for this work was due, it is believed, purely to considerations of convenience, and here it is instructive to note that not only did the capital cost of the Indian-built Railway work out excessively high—more than double the sum for which a reputable firm of British Contractors had offered to execute the task with African labour, but that the working costs per train mile of the Uganda Railway are higher than those of the railways of the South African Union, though the percentage of white men employed on the latter is more than twenty times as great.

DECADENT CIVILISATION OF INDIA

It may be permitted to question whether the authorities of the time realised the immense Imperial significance, for good or evil, of their action in promoting contact between the natives of East Africa and the decadent civilisation of India. The inevitable effect of the intervention of an intermediate race between European and African is that the race absorbs most of the occasions of personal contact with the African. Hence such intimate influences as the African of this country is at present receiving are mainly imparted to him by the Asiatic, and are predominantly Indian rather than British.

East Africa is in a somewhat different position from any other countries of Africa in respect of this problem.

The self-governing states of the Union, together with the Rhodesias, control Indian immigration, with a view to ultimate exclusion. In Natal, Indian labour was at one time introduced, but its introduction was subsequently agreed to have been a mistake, and drastic steps have been taken to limit and localise its effects. In the African Protectorates under the Colonial Office, Indian immigration is not prohibited, with the result that in East Africa the immigrants have not been confined to the trading class, but have included coolies, clerks, artisans and mechanics. German East Africa was for long protected from this invasion, but latterly, for political reasons, considerable encouragement was given to Indians there.

It is the distinguishing peculiarity of this country that here the Indian plays the parts of clerk, artisan, carpenter, mechanic, etc., functions which the African is capable, with training, of performing, and does elsewhere perform, satisfactorily. The presence of the Indians, organised as they are to keep the African out of every position which an Indian could fill, deprives the African of all incentives to ambition and opportunities of advancement.

It may be admitted that the Indian has played and still plays a useful part in opening up trade, stimulating the wants of the natives and inducing them to part with

their products for purposes of export. For this service he is entitled to credit, but the essential point is that the same service might, with due encouragement, have been performed by the Native peoples.

In every direction, the sphere of the Indian in this country is not complementary but competitive with those of the European and African. Even in the minor sphere the European, if the Indian would submit to the civic, moral and commercial obligations current in the European Society, has nothing to fear from Indian competition, the contrary theory, which formerly found favour in local governing circles, having been completely exploded by the history of the past thirteen years. But with the African, the case is different. He is not strong enough anywhere to stand against the competition of a more crafty race. So long as that race is organised to keep him in servitude, by shouldering him out of all the posts which lie in the path of his advancement, he must be content to remain a mere hewer of wood and drawer of water.

There are, therefore, strong economic reasons against the free admission of certain classes of Indians into the country.

There are unfortunately other reasons of even greater weight against all Indian immigration into this, or indeed any part of Africa.

(To be continued)

DURBAN INDIAN MARKET

At the meeting of the Markets Committee on the 9th December, 1919, a Deputation from the Indian Market Stallholders' and Squatters' Association was received, and certain recommendations submitted for approval to the Council on the 5th January, 1920, were referred back for consideration by this Committee.

The Committee received a further Deputation from the Indian Market Stallholders' and Squatters' Association who submitted for the consideration of Committee the question of the increases in the proposed rentals which the Market Committee were forwarding to the Council on the 6th February for adoption, and while not objecting to pay an increased rental, they considered the proposed increase far too excessive. It was urged that a certain number of stalls should be set aside for returned soldiers.

After further consideration the Committee decided:—

INDIAN MARKET STALLS RENTAL

In connection with this matter, which was referred back at the meeting of the Council on the 5th January, 1920, consideration has been again given to the matter of the tenancies and we are of opinion that the Indian Market Stallholders should be treated in the same manner as the Borough Market Stallholders. Accordingly we have decided:

(a) That the Superintendent, Indian Market, give all the Stallholders and Squatters at the Market one month's notice that as from the 1st March, 1920, the rentals of the stalls and stands held by them will be increased in accordance with the Schedule hereunder, viz:

Green Grocery and Produce	... £ 3. 10. 0 per month.
Haberdashery, Curios, Books	... 6. 0. 0 " "
Grocery and Outfitting, &c.	... 6. 0. 0 " "
Tea Room	... 5. 0. 0 " "
Butchers...	... 5. 0. 0 " "
Poultry	... 2. 10. 0 " "
Fish (single)	... 1. 0. 0 " "
Offal	... 3. 0. 0 " "
All Squatters' Stalls	... 1. 0. 0 " "

(b) That, in the event of any of the Stallholders and Squatters declining to pay the increased rent, they be given one month's notice of termination of their tenancies, and that such stalls be then put up to public competition.

(c) That in future all stalls on becoming vacant shall be put up to public competition.

The several matters raised by the Indian Market Stallholders' and Squatters' Association received careful consideration and it was decided:

ALLOTMENT OF STALLS TO RETURNED SOLDIERS

That ten stalls be set aside for Returned Soldiers only, it being a condition that these stalls be occupied by Returned Soldiers themselves.

PROVISION OF GRILLES TO ENABLE THE RENTERS TO LEAVE THEIR GOODS UNDER LOCK AND KEY

That the Borough Engineer be instructed to provide an estimate of cost of providing such Grilles, and that these grilles be supplied on applicants undertaking to pay a fair monthly rental to cover the expenditure.

MARKET REGULATIONS

That the Town Clerk be instructed to see that the Association is supplied with a copy of any Proposed New Market Bye-Laws and Regulations before such are published.

FARMERS' DEPUTATION

The Committee received a further Deputation from the Indian Agricultural Association with regard to the Indian Market, and the following points were put forward: Provision of water trough for watering horses; Indian Police; Carts; Extension of time until 12 noon; Ringing of Bell; Controlling of traffic in Victoria and Queen Streets; Women to be separated from Carts; and setting aside new stalls for the Farmers.

In connection with these questions the Committee agreed to provide a suitable water trough.

CARTS: EXTENSION OF TIME UNTIL 12 NOON

It is not possible to agree to this, but we propose to those Indians who are unable to sell their produce before 9 a.m. be permitted to rent tables inside the Market for the purpose of disposing of any of their produce which may not have been sold.

We also gather that the Borough Engineer has been instructed to prepare necessary plans and specifications with estimate of cost for the extension of the Indian Market to the corner for the purpose of Fish and Meat Trade.

RECRUITING METHODS IN INDIA

HOW THE WAR LOAN WAS SUBSCRIBED

Giving evidence before the Punjab Commission into the causes of the disturbances last year, Mr. Amar Singh, a Lahore lawyer, gave very reluctantly some details within his knowledge regarding recruiting methods during the war in the villages.

The first thing, he said, was that police subinspectors were asked to send up all able-bodied young Jats from villages, under section 107 and 108, the Criminal Procedure Code. He wanted to avoid saying who gave the order. After his Honour's visit to Kasur, there was a private meeting of officials, and a few days after that, people who were never challenged under those sections were challenged, and put up before the magistrate in the court of the S. D. O., Khan Sahib Ahmedshah. There were about 100 cases of that kind. Those who were challenged were forced to recruit. Some were brought handcuffed. Rich people did not want to go on eleven rupees. Those who were poor said, "All right, They would give some relative or so, as a recruit." If they failed, then they were themselves recruited.

"OBSTINATE" MEN KEPT IN LOCK-UP

In obstinate cases the man would be kept in the lockup for some days, in the hope that he would come round. Generally two or three chances of making up his mind were given him. After his Honour's visit in August 1917, the cases under section 325 of the Penal Code were on a substantially large scale. The magistrates threatened parties with imposing heavier sentences, and sending them to jail for longer periods

than they could. If the men were recruited, proceedings were withdrawn. This happened in all the magisterial courts. Witness was present in a large number of cases, either as counsel, or as chance visitor, and he had personal knowledge of these matters. Besides they were on record.

SOME RECRUITING TACTICS

Mr. Fyson succeeded the Khan Sahib. He adopted what were known as the Ferozepore methods to keep up recruiting. When an appeal to people failed to bring recruits, he resorted to those methods. If a man was indebted to some-body, pressure would be brought on the creditors to forego their interest or part of the principal. Where a man wanted to marry a girl, and was unable to do so for lack of means, influence would be brought to bear on the girl's parents, to marry their girl to the man if he recruited, or where a man's land was mortgaged, redemption would be granted.

FORCIBLE RECRUITING OF 19 MEN

In one case from Rajajung, the village *panchayat* under the Honorary Magistrate, recruited forcibly nineteen men to make up the balance of the village quota, and brought them to Kasur under custody. Some were weeping and crying. They were taken to Lahore. Their mothers and relatives followed them there, crying and weeping. Witness on meeting them at Kasur station, had spoken to them words of encouragement. They were unwilling to go. The men said they were brought by force, and they were unwilling to recruit. When Mr. Tollington the Deputy Commissioner came to know of it, he released them afterwards. Instructions were issued not to recruit people against their wish.

INDIRECT PRESSURE TO SUBSCRIBE TO WAR LOAN

Regarding the war loan also witness spoke very guardedly. In this country they were willing to do things against their personal inclinations, to please the officials. The poor people were made to pay against their wish. A register was kept of all people who gave recruits, and subscribed to the war loans, and to gain the goodwill of the officers, people had to take up loans or find recruits. He gave the bare facts. It was for their Lordships to judge, said witness. One officer commanding was placed in charge of the war loan. The income tax of some of those who had not subscribed to the loan was enhanced. Complaints had been made to witness by the people affected.

ANTI-ASIATICS BUSY

ANOTHER CONGRESS AT POTCHEFSTROOM

Potchefstroom, July 4 (Reuter).—The second Congress of the South African League opened this morning, under the chairmanship of Mr. L. V. Phillips, of Krugersdorp, Sir Abe Bailey being unable to attend. The Mayor of Potchefstroom, Mr. J. P. Nel, welcomed the delegates, numbering about 50, on behalf of the town-people.

Mr. Phillips, in the course of a masterly address, which is to be printed and circulated, broadcast throughout the Transvaal, reviewed the whole problem of the Asiatic menace in all its manifold phases. He said that if the South African people were more united they would have strength as a nation to state their aspirations, with the determination and resolution which characterised Australia and Canada. They would have strength to say that the future of South Africa as a country was for white men and women, which was the one consideration before which all else must give way. He believed that loyalty to Great Britain could not flow from disloyalty to South Africa. He believed it would be the greatest act of disloyalty to South Africa

if they sacrificed the high ideals they cherished, as white men, of the status of white men, and, worst of all, if, by their weakness and cowardice, they betrayed posterity and allowed South Africa to become an expansion ground of India.

THE VICEROY'S SPEECH

POSITION IN SOUTH AFRICA

Delhi, Feb. 4.—The Viceroy, in opening the Legislative Council, paid a high tribute to Mr. E. S. Montagu, Secretary for India, and others associated with the passage of the Reform Act and matters incident thereto. He outlined the elaborate preliminary steps which had begun as regards the introduction of the Act, and said that the economic situation, which was critical last year, had immensely improved. He pleaded for further calmness in regard to the position of the Indians in South Africa, and said that Mr. Montagu had been asked to see that Indian interests were fully represented at the forthcoming discussion in London between Lord Milner and the Governor of East Africa.

The Viceroy suggested that a committee of non-official Indian members should meet a deputation from the Fiji Islands and British Guiana, and that the Government be guided by their finding.

The Viceroy alluded to the appointment of a committee of the Council to study the very complex and difficult question of Imperial preference, and arrive at a conclusion as to whether or not the adoption of a system of preferential tariffs was likely to be to the advantage of the country as a whole.

While not wishing to minimise the dangers arising from the situation in the Middle East, and the Bolshevik movement, he felt confident that things were not so bad as represented. The real danger of Bolshevism in India was penetration by propaganda and secret agitation. This development was being carefully watched, and a special staff had been appointed to deal with the matter.

Referring to the turmoil in Russia, the Viceroy stated that he was confident that the people of India would never open their hearts to the abhorrent doctrines of murder, anarchy, and atheism. He saw no ground for pessimism in India.

In conclusion, he stated, with reference to the forthcoming visit of the Prince of Wales, that his reception in India would equal that accorded him in any other country, and that his gracious presence would forge a new link of Empire. (Cheers.)

"Indian Opinion" Supplements

We have the following supplements on art paper for sale at one shilling per dozen, post free.

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Mr. M. H. Nazar, Shri Gopal Lal Hindu Temple Verulam, The Late Miss Valliamah Moodaliam, Sons of the Empire (Indian Soldiers), The 60 Indians Deported to India by the Transvaal Government, The Indian Monument in Johannesburg, The Late Mr. Hajee Hoosen Dawad, Indian Merchants who suffered imprisonment at Standerton, Babu Rabindranath Tagore, The Late Hon. G. K. Gokhale, C.I.E., Right Hon. Syed Ameer Ali, C.I.E., Sir Benjamin Robertson and Staff, Some of the Addresses presented to The Hon. Mr. Gokhale, Vrededorp Properties, The Late Mr. Abdoolah Lodi Adam, Indian Strikers in Durban, (Three Pictures).

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