

Indian Opinion

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NOTES AND NEWS

THE following resolution concerning the treatment of Indian emigrants in the colonies was passed unanimously by the fourth Gujarat Political Conference recently held in Ahmedabad :—

(1) This Conference apprehends that the South African Government's attitude towards the Indians in South Africa is getting more and more unjust every day and that as appears from intelligence received from South Africa various devices are being planned to expell the Indians from South Africa under the cover of voluntary repatriation scheme.

(2) For the benefit of Europeans very recently settled in East Africa, the East African Government is heaping wrong on wrong on the adventitious and innocent Indians long settled in East Africa which has been colonised by means of Indian labour, Indian blood and Indian capital; Indians have been robbed of their political rights and right of possessing landed property, and this act has received the full approval of the Colonial Secretary, Lord Milner, and Secretary of State for India.

(3) Though the Government of India have failed to investigate into the acts of oppression committed by the Fiji Government on the Fiji Indians on the pretext of keeping peace in Fiji, they appear to countenance sending Indian labour to Fiji with a view to helping Fiji.

This Conference is of opinion that this prolonged ill-treatment of Indian emigrants in the Colonies is intolerable, and that it is one more strong reason for adopting non-co-operation.

The above Conference has also passed the following resolution referring to the proposed visit to India of H. R. H. the Duke of Connaught :—

This Conference humbly holds that the people should be no party to the arrangements that might be made by the Indians and Provincial Governments for the reception of H. R. H. the Duke of Connaught:

Sir Benjamin Roberts in a letter to the Secretary of the Transvaal British Indian Association says that the conditions in the recently concurred German East Africa is anything but promising for the contemplated settlement of Indian cultivator there and that he is wholly opposed to the idea as he is sure that it would meet with no success. Tse-tse flies are prevalent, he says, and cattle cannot be kept. The proposition appears to him to be impracticable, at any rate until the country is more opened out. He also assures that the rights of Indians there are safeguarded by the terms of the mandate, but speaks despairingly of the Indians in British East Africa whose lot it appears, is worse than one could imagine.

A series of strikes affecting the public services in Bombay is causing much inconvenience to the public. Postmen and telegraph employes (says Reuter), have been out for eighteen days, but voluntary assistance and the aid of Boy Scouts is more or less coping with the situation. The gasworkers are also out on strike, and consequently people have been forced to resort

to primitive oil lamps, while in the street hand-lamps are suspended from the lamp-posts at night-time. Fifty per cent. of the tram service only it carried on, through a strike of tram drivers.

SOUTH AFRICANS' LEAGUE

ANTI-ASIATICS MEET IN DURBAN

A meeting of the Durban and Coast branch of the South Africans' League was held in the Town Hall basement last Monday with Mr. J. Johnston in the chair.

COMMITTEE'S REPORT

The Provincial Committee presented the following report, which was read by Mr. Leo Macgregor.

"From time to time during the past 30 years there have been outbursts of public feeling against the encroachments of Indians, even when the menace was confined almost entirely to the indentured agricultural workers imported for the sugar and tea estates. These demonstrations soon died down and nothing practical was done until shortly before the war, when the Government of the Union at last took action, and legislation was passed which not only absolutely prohibits further indentured Asiatic labour, but bars the way to any immigrants or newcomers who, by reason of their economic standards or other reasons are not desirable. We have cause for satisfaction in the knowledge that the Act is firmly administered by the Chief Immigration Officer and his staff at Port Natal, so that the gate is effectively shut against undesirable immigration from overseas. There is, however, reason to believe that a number of Asiatics manage to enter the Union from other directions, and there are probably thousands who have no legal right to remain. These people are experts in falsity and fraudulent evasions of the laws. In Natal nothing whatever has been done to control the greatest menace to the future of the white races—the very large and rapidly increasing number of Asiatics—chiefly Indians—who are now in unfair competition with Europeans in practically every branch of trade, industry, and occupation suitable for white people, owing to the apathy and lack of unity amongst the various classes of white workers, and the selfish indifference to anything except their own enrichment on the part of the majority of the employing classes. A natural result of this "peaceful penetration" of the Asiatics has been the very large amount of landed property acquired by these people in commercial and residential areas formerly owned and occupied by Europeans. Indians often pay far more than the market value for such properties, feeling secure in the knowledge that the depreciation in value of the adjacent land and buildings which naturally follows Asiatic occupation will handsomely recoup them for the outlay by enabling them to extend their holdings at a lower figure. The Asiatics have also been favoured by the fact that in the towns the by-laws are not firmly enforced, as can be seen every day even in the principal roads of Durban, and in suburbs and rural districts there is practically no control. We have permitted them to impose their dirty and objectionable customs on us, instead of compelling

them to adopt even approximately the standards necessary for the people living in the midst of a European civilised community. In the Transvaal, although the laws inherited from the wise old Voortrekkers of the Dutch Republic have placed obstacles in the way of the Asiatic, these people have found means to acquire a huge amount of landed property, and commercial influence by crafty evasions of the laws, a policy in which they have been aided by unscrupulous Europeans. Their encroachments have never been sanctioned by law or condoned by public opinion, but there, as well as in Natal, the Asiatics have taken advantage of the political and economic differences of opinion and self-interest among the white races, and utilised the opportunity given by our serious pre-occupation and difficulties during the Great War. In the Transvaal the numbers of the Indians are estimated at not more than 14,000 to 16,000, whilst in Natal we have at least 170,000, a very large proportion of whom are born in South Africa, or resident here so long that it is impossible to consider compulsory repatriation from either the standpoint of fairplay or practicability. We have the right, however, to demand that where the Asiatics come into competition with the Europeans, as they have done for many years past in South Africa, it shall only be on terms which equalise as far as possible the conditions under which that competition is carried on. We can no longer tolerate a policy compelling the Europeans to come down to the level of the Asiatic. From now onward it is for the white races of this land to insist that white standards shall prevail as the only condition on which the Asiatic and other non-Europeans can be permitted to take part in commerce, industry or any occupation desirable for white people. That can be assured by legislation, if only the traders, commercial and industrial workers unite in demanding this urgently-needed measure of self-preservation. Happily there are signs that Parliament and people are awakening to the magnitude of this menace. To the Transvaal, however, belongs the credit for the first properly organised effort, though the need has always been far greater in Natal. Only 13 months ago a congress was convened in the Town Hall at Pretoria, which was attended by delegates from Parliament and Provincial Councils, 26 Municipalities, 30 Chambers of Commerce, the Churches, legal profession, and practically every body of organised workers in the Transvaal. The object was to discuss what steps were necessary to combat the Asiatic encroachments in trade and European residential areas. After the fullest discussion, lasting over two days, a series of weighty resolutions were adopted calling upon Government to take action to deal with the problem by suitable legislation. At that Congress the South Africans' League was founded. It has branches in every centre of any importance in the Transvaal Province, and has already exercised powerful influence in the direction of the objects for which it stands. Those objects may be summed up in a sentence: "The upholding of white standards of civilisation and safeguarding of South Africa from the social economic and national menace of Asiatics." Within the past three months a few Europeans decided that an effort must be made to demonstrate that Natal was no longer indifferent, and provisional committees in Durban and Maritzburg undertook the formation of two branches of the South Africans' League. In Durban we have received no encouragement from the large commercial houses, wholesale and retail; in fact, it must be recognised that our position is more difficult and different from the Transvaal. The strength of the movement here must come chiefly from the ranks of all classes of white workers, whose battle the League is fighting. The Provisional Committee is now in a position to say that considerable support has been given, especially by the industrial section of the community, and there is evidence the efforts of the League will very shortly command approval and co-operation from the majority of Europeans who are

loyal to the standards and traditions of their race, and determined to successfully oppose the powerful influences and hostility of those who stand in the pathway of necessary reform. Whatever the cost in money and personal sacrifice, we must make a firm demand for prompt legislation, the cumulative effect of which will make this land safe for Europeans who wish to develop it as the home of a happy, patriotic and truly great nation—an ideal that has never yet been seen in any land where the Asiatic exercised his blighting influence. In conclusion, the Provisional Committee thank heartily all who have contributed in any way to the success of the movement now inaugurated, and appeal to those who have hitherto held aloof to demonstrate that the vast majority of Natalians are at length united in a desire and determination to support the principles for which the South Africans' League stands, so that the fair name of this Province may be no longer degraded by surrender to the standards of Asia and the forces of capitalistic greed.

The report was adopted.

The constitution of the branch, which was read, was adopted, as were also the amended objects of the local branch of the South Africans' League.

RESOLUTIONS PASSED

A number of resolutions were moved and adopted by the meeting.

The first of these, which was proposed by the Hon. Secretary, and seconded by Mr. G. R. Ward, was as follows: "This meeting of members of the South Africans' League strongly protests against the encroachments and unfair competition of Asiatics in trade, industries, and many spheres of European employment, and calls upon Government to introduce early in next session of Parliament legislation effectively controlling what is a serious handicap to thousands of Europeans in the Union, and a dangerous menace to the development and social, economic, and national welfare of South Africa."

The second was proposed by the Chairman, and seconded by Mr. R. I. Darby. The wording was as follows: "This meeting urges all representatives of the people in Parliament, Provincial Councils, and Municipal Councils to use their utmost influence and authority—irrespective of political party considerations—to uphold white standards desirable for a civilised nation, in accordance with the objects advocated by the South Africans' League."

The third, the mover and the seconder of which were Mr. H. H. Dougherty and A. H. McGee, respectively, was as follows: "Whereas the Asiatics are undoubtedly aided in their unfair competition and encroachments by Europeans who in various ways support them, this meeting appeals for more loyalty to the ideals and standards of the white nations, by (a) supporting only European traders who comply with the principles of the League; (b) declining to sell land or buildings to Asiatics or to accept them as tenants in European trading or residential areas; (c) employing Europeans in all skilled work or occupations desirable for white workers."

The fourth motion was as follows: "The creation of State-aided occupational training of adult and juvenile Europeans is desirable, so that in the future it shall not be necessary for any white persons to compete with low-paid coloured labour in unskilled work, this vocational training to form an effective part of the educational system for all European boys and girls throughout the Union, at centres to be established for the purpose." This was proposed by Mr. Albert G. Salmon, and seconded by Mr. Edward Parry.

The final motion was moved by Mr. Wm. Nicholson, and seconded by Mr. W. J. Ashford. It reads as follows: "This meeting approves the holding of a Congress in Natal, of all branches of the South Africans' League, at such time and place as may be decided by the committee, for the purpose of mutual co-operation, propaganda, and thus developing a really

national movement to safeguard the interests of the people of South Africa, in the manner advocated by the League."

OFFICERS

The following officials were elected for the ensuing year: Chairman, Mr. Jas. Johnston; hon. secretary, Mr. Leo. Macgregor; hon. treasurer, Mr. Fletcher; committee, Messrs. J. Johnston, Ashby, A. Tomlinson, A. G. Salmon, McLeod, Wm. Nicholson, A. H. McGee, A. T. Lawley, R. I. Darby, G. R. Ward, F. J. Allen, Hamilton Kerr, G. E. Lines, E. Parry, J. Scott, E. C. Male, W. J. Ashford, Jas Keenan McCullough.

PUNJAB ATROCITIES AND KHILAFAT

MRS. SARAJINI NAIDU RENOUNCES DECORATION

Mrs. Sarajini Naidu has addressed the following letter to the Viceroy:—

To His Excellency Lord Chelmsford, Viceroy and Governor-General of India, Simla.

Sir,—I have ventured to depute the Indian Khilafat Delegation to convey back to your Excellency the Kaiser-i-Hind Decoration which I was once wont to cherish with pride, but have long felt impelled to renounce as one more proof and token of my profound indignation and sorrow at the bitter wrongs and sufferings to which my country and my countrymen have been subjected.

The history of recent years has been an almost unbroken record of pledges wantonly violated, repressions cruelly enforced, and humiliations ruthlessly inflicted on a helpless nation, and has now reached its climax in the dual crime of perjury towards the Indian Mussulmans and blood-guiltiness towards the martyred people of the Punjab.

It is therefore incompatible with my conception of honour and humanity alike to countenance the actions and policies of a Government that has set its heel upon the heart of India, and brought into mockery the high traditions of British justice and liberty.

I remain,

Yours faithfully,

(Signed) SARAJINI NAIDU.

8, Grosvenor Place, S.W. 1. August 31st, 1920.

Mrs. Naidu has also addressed the following letter to the Members of the Khilafat Delegation:—

Dear Friends,—Now that the Khilafat Delegation has ended its mission in Europe, and is homeward bound, allow me to wish you all God speed, and to thank you for extending to me—a Hindu woman—the privilege of sharing your brave and onerous task.

May I beg you to complete your kindness towards me by returning to His Excellency the Viceroy in my behalf the Kaiser-i-Hind Decoration, which I wore with pride for many years, but which, as you are aware, I have long been anxious to renounce in token of my profound indignation and grief at the gross betrayal of Islam and the tragic sufferings of the Punjab at the hands of a Government lost to all sense of justice, honour and humanity, striving to rear its supremacy on a pyramid of broken pledges and bleeding hearts.

Will you convey to the Mussulmans of India the assurance of my loyal devotion that has not faltered through good or evil report; and charge them to remember that the sword of Islam can never be sheathed in aught save the scabbard of victorious sacrifice.

And bid my beautiful stricken Punjab, for whose sorrows I have wept my eyes almost blind, lift up her head and rejoice, for surely from the blood of her heroic martyrdom shall spring the full harvest of our national freedom.

Farewell. Yours has indeed been a difficult and delicate embassy, but you have proved yourselves devout and fearless ambassadors of your Faith.

Believe me,

Your sincere friend and comrade,
(Signed) SARAJINI NAIDU.

REPATRIATION OR CALCULATED ATTRITION?

Commenting on the question of repatriation *The Hindu*, Madras, writes:—

It would appear that the Viceroy's frank, but cautiously courteous statement of his views on the problem of Indians in South Africa and in the Kenya Colony has offended the jingoistic susceptibilities of the whites in South Africa. "The leading South African paper says," telegraph of the South African Correspondent of the *Times of India* to his paper, "that it is impossible to conceive that the solution of the problem of the status of Indians in the Dominions will be brought nearer or made easier by the speech in which the Viceroy took up a political attitude with reference to the South African inquiry." The speech conveys, we are told by this organ of the South African whites, the implication of pre-judging the case. Even those South African's who agree with Lord Chelmsford's estimate of the Anti-Asiatic agitation must recognise that his statement is wholly out of place in a Viceroy's speech. Lord Chelmsford, adds the paper, has been guilty of a grave abuse of his position. The Viceroy should not have permitted himself to refer to the doubts entertained by the Indian Government regarding the good faith of the Union authorities regarding repatriation. Lord Chelmsford and Mr. Montagu have, it continues, in the opinion of many responsible people, been playing into the hands of the Empire's enemies in India. They might refrain from making things easier for the enemies of the Empire in South Africa. The Viceroy, concludes the paper, has been guilty of another flagrant indiscretion in expressing his personal opinion regarding the policy of the Government of Kenya Colony. We are not surprised at this outburst of uncalled-for and violent indignation on the part of the monopolists against Lord Chelmsford's references to the subject which were as just and pertinent as they were necessary and dutiful; for, we have not forgotten—how can we forget it?—that these self-same men made a similar grievance of Lord Hardinge's memorable speech in which he dutifully espoused the cause of the oppressed Indian subjects of His Majesty in South Africa less than seven years ago. On that occasion, the late General Botha joined this unholy opposition and went to the length of saying that Lord Hardinge's references on the question were in the nature of a constitutional impropriety on the part of a representative of the Crown and of his Majesty's Government. The attempt made by the Union Government as well as by the whites of South Africa to get Lord Hardinge censured by His Majesty's Government, fortunately for the latter, egregiously and deservedly failed; and we do not doubt but that only a similar reception awaits the present clamour in South Africa regarding Lord Chelmsford's clear, but deliberately modest statement of the Indian problem in South Africa.

To realise the hollowness of this clamorous accusation against the Indian Government, one has only to study the South African question a little closely. In the first place, this farce of voluntary repatriation, it transpires from what Lord Chelmsford said, was decided on and was undertaken by the Union Government behind the back of the Indian Government and without consulting them. We are afraid that, when Lord Chelmsford passed by this insidious indifference to Indian feelings in the matter, he was too charitable to the Union Government's designs. Lord Chelmsford held that the Government were within their rights in bringing into full operation the Indian Relief Ordinance as a solution of the problem. We thoroughly disagree from his Lordship in this view. In considering this question, it is the intention of the Union Government that we have to take into consideration. The Indian Relief Ordinance was passed to help Indians in distress, home-sick people left stranded on the African soil without the wherewithal to gain a

passage home. In that sense, it was a humanitarian measure. It is nothing short of the monstrous insidiously to employ this humanitarian measure to deprive the rights of Indians domiciled in South Africa, but it is to such use or abuse that the Union Government are now putting that legislative measure. The intention of the Union Government in utilising this measure to secure voluntary repatriation is clearly to eject as many Indians and with as little ceremony as possible from the country. This, to say the least, appears to contain on the face of it the essential elements of a cruel fraud. If the Union Government were just, should they not have consulted this country before insidiously utilising a statute which, when it was framed, was intended as a measure beneficial to Indians? The irony involved in this strange act of converting what was framed and meant to be a beneficial measure into one whose most sinister aspect is but thinly veiled, is to us too bitter for words.

To our mind, voluntary repatriation is nothing better than a cruel fraud, calculated or otherwise, practised on the innocent credulity of an afflicted people. A little thinking will reveal the sinister purport of this seemingly innocent device of solving a problem whose sole difficulty lies in the unwillingness of a people not only to redeem their most solemn pledges, but also to respect the honestly and honourably acquired rights of others. The strength of the Indians in South Africa lies in the strength of their numbers. It is in fact the numerical volume of the Indians there that has created the Indian problem. That problem will therefore last till this unassailable numerical strength lasts or in the alternative, which to the whites is unthinkable, till the whites cease to arrogate superiority to themselves. Anything that will strike a blow at this numerical strength will help to solve the problem. Pucca frontal attacks have failed to shake it: they only strengthen the enemy's resources against the attacking party. The latter have had therefore to fall back upon such other alternative methods of attack as persistent sniping, periodical raids and guerilla warfare. Voluntary repatriation, which, as experience has begun to show abundantly, is but compulsory ejection, is one of these alternative methods. The other methods such as stringent, cruel, discriminatory laws prepare the ground for the former when they are not directly effective in harassing Indians in packing them off bag and baggage. The objective in all these insidious attacks, whether by means of voluntary repatriation or by cruel discriminatory laws, is the same—that of thinking the ranks of Indians in South Africa to such dangerous proportions as to make it possible safely to treat them as helots. The South African whites have simply enthroned attrition where regular field warfare failed. What is India's answer to this renewed challenge?

NON-CO-OPERATION IN INDIA

THE DECISION OF THE CONGRESS

As was anticipated by all those who have been closely in touch with the movement of public opinion in India, the Indian National Congress, at its special sessions called to consider the situation arising out of the Hunter Report and the Government's action thereon and the Turkish Treaty, (says *India*), has decided by an overwhelming majority to adopt Mr. Gandhi's programme of non-co-operation. We have never had any doubt that, if Mr. Gandhi stood to his guns and refused to compromise with the well-meaning but mistaken caution that is always to the fore on the Congress platform, the rank and file would rally round him. Much is made in some of the telegrams coming from India of the opposition of many well-known and respected leaders, of the strength of the minority that voted against the Gandhi programme, and the fact that many of the delegates did not record their votes. All this determines, really, once and for all, the overwhelming strength of the popular feeling in favour of

non-co-operation. The amendment to exclude the Councils from the programme and to secure a postponement of the adoption of the rest of it, was moved in a Congress held in Calcutta by Mr. B. C. Pal, one of the most popular Bengal leaders, and supported by another, Mr. C. R. Das, even more popular. It was also supported by Pundit Madan Mohan Malaviya and Mr. A. M. Jinnah. But it was rejected by such an overwhelming majority that the President declared the results without taking the votes. The absentions, when the vote was formally taken the next day, are explained by the fact that the Congress had already been in session several days and the natural desire of many of the delegates to return home. That they thought it safe to do so is an indication of their confidence in the strength of Mr. Gandhi's position. We emphasise all this in order to discount attempts that are being made to minimise the effect of the decision and the strength of the movement behind it. Frankly, we do not believe that the two Bengal leaders mentioned above represent the generality of opinion in Bengal on this great question, any more than Mr. Jinnah represent the opinion of Bombay or the Moslem League, the two constituencies for which he came to speak. Bombay, we know, is solidly behind Mr. Gandhi, and the Moslem League is solidly in the van of the Non-Co-operation movement, as was shown by its anticipation by some days of the Congress resolution. The League has been wont to wait upon the decision of the Congress, and sometimes to tread haltingly in its wake. But those days are gone. Those who attempt to minimise the importance of the decision or to predict want of popular support delude themselves and render a poor service both to India and this country.

Nor have we any doubts as to the wisdom of the decision. We described last week as plainly as possible the position in which the people of India have been placed by what Mrs. Naidu has described not too severely as the Government's "perjury towards the Indian Mussulmans and blood-guiltiness towards the martyred people of the Punjab." Nobody would expect Lord Chelmsford to understand the Indian people and their feelings but even might have been expected to display a little more discernment than is exhibited by his expectation that they can be asked, as he asked them in his recent speech in the Imperial Council, to regard the Punjab and Khilafat questions as sealed book. That is not how peoples can be governed in these days. They are open sores, which can only be healed by a process of medication which involves as the first step the removal of Lord Chelmsford himself, and as the next, the full recognition by the British Government that the wrongs done to the Indian people by the agony of the Punjab and the official condonation of crimes, and the betrayal of the Indian Mussulmans must be requited. They cannot be undone, but they can be requited, and if the Government, far from realising the need for requital, declares they are a closed book, there is nothing left for a despairing and defenceless people, determined to regain their self-respect and to guard themselves against injury, betrayal and humiliation in the future, but to resort to the world-old device of passive resistance or Non-Co-operation. It is at least left to them that they can say they will not associate with a Government which betrays the trust they confided in it and leaves them to the mercy of those who have been guilty of their blood.

But if the nation is prepared for Non-Co-operation it must be prepared to adopt it without compromise. We believe that Mr. Gandhi displayed the highest wisdom in refusing to accept the qualification suggested by Mr. Pal and those who supported him. You cannot adopt non-co-operation in compartments. The whole meaning of it in principle is that you intend to stand by yourself, that you will have nothing to do with a Government and a system in which you have lost faith, for which you have no respect, and which

you believe is intrinsically detrimental to the interests of the country and inimical to the welfare of the people. You cannot compromise with a position like that. You must take it all or leave it all, if you are going to be effective. It sounds plausible to say that it would be better "to storm the citadel from within." But that, for one thing, is in conflict with the principle which has been adopted. For another, it is suggesting something that is not feasible under the conditions which admit the people's representatives to the Councils, and regulate their proceedings when they are there. Even opposition inside the Councils implies co-operation in the system, and nobody can suppose that anything analogous to the storming of the citadel is feasible either from within or without. Nothing would please better those who are opposed to the genuine concession of their rights to the Indian people, than that they should divert themselves with the pseudo-parliamentary game to be provided in the Councils under the Reform scheme.

But just as success depends upon the adoption of the whole programme, so also it depends upon its adoption whole-heartedly by the whole of the people. The men and women who are to lead and act must have behind them the practical support of the masses. And to this end, it is the duty of every Congress-man to abide loyally by the decision of the Congress, to stand by the movement, to give it, not merely passive but active support, in every way possible. Let the Moderates and the creatures of officialdom fill the Councils if they like. But if the people are true to themselves, if they combine in one great endeavour to stand by themselves in this great movement, we see nothing strange in Mr. Gandhi's prophecy of early success.

THE I. I. CITIZENSHIP ASSOCIATION

The following is a copy of the telegrams addressed by the Imperial Indian Citizenship Association to Sir George Barnes, Member of Commerce, Government of India:

SOUTH AFRICA

My Committee, having carefully considered South African Union Government's Voluntary Repatriation Scheme, regard it as fraught with danger to rights and interests of Indians in South Africa. First, it involves relinquishment of right of domicile acquired and natural. Indian Relief Act 1914; no precedent and is inapplicable to present scheme as it referred to persons whose domicile was at least debatable. Secondly, the Scheme is viewed with gravest apprehension as thin end of wedge to drive out Indians from South Africa under guise of Voluntary Repatriation seeing that such schemes worked out by powerful majority interests of white races against Indians are sure to be used as engines of undue pressure to repatriate Indians from the country. Mr. Wynne-Cole's recent speech at Maritzburg and a Durban telegram stating that scheme is already being abused, confirm the view. Therefore though the relinquishment of domicile, whether natural or acquired, is voluntary under the scheme, yet dangers above pointed out render it imperative that a responsible Indian Committee appointed by Indian Association in South Africa should be immediately constituted to check each case of repatriation and secure that no Indian should sail unless the committee so appointed is satisfied that he is fully aware of the consequences of his acceptance of state aid for repatriation, and that no force, fraud, intimidation or pressure was used. My Committee earnestly urge upon Government to press upon the attention of the Colonial office the necessity of appointing Committee as suggested and of taking all measures to safeguard the rights and interests of Indians domiciled or born in South Africa.

EAST AFRICA

My Committee having carefully considered the statement recently made by Governor of Kenya Colony on several important points of Indian Policy, regard it as utterly disappointing and incapable of meeting the requirements of the Indian situation in East Africa. My Committee strongly object to the allotment of only two seats to the Indian population and earnestly press for a general franchise applicable equally to Indians and Europeans and adequate representation of Indian population both in the Legislative Council and the Municipalities in proportion to their number, and with due regard to their interests and their past and present services to the country my Committee strongly object to holding the uplands as a special preserve for Europeans involving prohibition even of sale to Indians of land in the upland districts. In this connection my Committee draw attention of Government to Lord Elgin's just and emphatic opinion that it was not consonant with the views of His Majesty's Government to impose restrictions on any particular section of the community in regard to acquisition of land, and submit that the argument now urged by Colonial Office for setting aside that view is absolutely unsound and untenable. With regard to right of Indians to acquire Agricultural lands, my Committee urge that Indian settlements should not be relegated to swampy marshes and uneconomic lands. My Committee emphatically object to segregation of races as tending to perpetuate and increase racial animosity and earnestly insist upon early withdrawal of that part of the reform scheme subject to rigid enforcement of sanitation within all residential areas whether occupied by Europeans or Indians. Referring to educational facilities my Committee trust that the principle of equality will be maintained. My Committee earnestly urge upon Government the urgency of immediately pressing upon the Colonial Office the necessity of making these alterations, as otherwise bitter disappointment, considerable ill-feeling and consequent unrest will prevail both here and among Indians in East Africa. My Committee while appreciating the efforts of Government for securing equality of rights and status for Indians in East Africa, think that there is need for further efforts still and hope that these will not be wanting.

INDIANS IN BRITISH COLONIES

The following letter appears in the *Challenge* (London):

Sir,—Anyone who knows anything of the situation in India at the present time must be extremely anxious concerning the problem of Indians in East Africa and in South Africa. The treatment of the Indian settlers in both these areas is causing a great deal of just resentment and bitterness in India. There seems to be a deliberate attempt to keep Indians in a position of servitude and to prevent them from acquiring equal rights with Britishers. It seems to be forgotten that both in South Africa and East Africa the Indians contribute a very great deal to the prosperity of the Colony. In fact it has been stated by responsible authorities that the Indians were amongst the very first settlers in East Africa.

The Convention of Associations of the white community in East Africa which met at Nairobi in January, 1919, went to the length of asking the Government of East Africa to refuse to give Indians anything like equality of status, to restrict their opportunities of obtaining land for purpose of business and residence, and of entering Government service and at once to restrict immigration in order that this stronghold of European colonisation in East Africa might stand beside her sister colonies in their Asiatic policy.

In South Africa there is a definite attempt on the part of Associations of Europeans to refuse to Indians all rights and privileges usually accorded to the

citizens of a state within the British Empire, and to turn them all out of the country. People in South Africa seem to forget it was they who brought the Indians there to help them to work sugar plantations, and now that there is a possibility of economic competition by Indian traders they want to get rid of them entirely.

This whole question of Indian disabilities within the Empire is not simply either a political or an economic question. It is a question which vitally concerns the application of Christianity to the problems of the British Empire. Christianity cannot stand by its mere exposition or even by its application in the lives of individuals. It must show itself applicable to the relationships of peoples. It was only last year, when the Premiers of the British Empire sent their New Year's message to the Empire, that leading Indian publicists sarcastically suggested that it would be better if the doctrines of the fatherhood of God and brotherhood of man were practised as well as preached within the Dominions of the Empire. This question, therefore, affects the very centre of the Christian Gospel. If Indians find that the doctrine of brotherhood is interpreted simply as meaning a white brotherhood, there is absolutely no hope of Christianity finding any large response in India. This is really a programme which affects every Christian throughout the Empire and it is very important that the accurate information should be available for all those who have anything to do with it. It is significant that an attempt to impose forced labour on the original population of East Africa has only been averted, and we hope defeated, by the pressure which some of Christian leaders have brought to bear upon the Government.

One recognises that these questions are of real difficulty, and it will not be easy to find a just solution to all concerned, but we hold that such a solution can be found, and that it is of vital importance to bring Christian principles to bear upon that solution. It is essential therefore, that Christians in Britain should be wide awake and should realise all the great issues involved. We cannot possibly build up a Commonwealth of nations upon principles of race discrimination involving the permanent subordination of the citizens of one of the biggest countries in the Commonwealth. This is neither Christian nor even statesmanlike.

I appeal, therefore, to you, Sir, to do all that you can to place before the wide public which is reached by your paper the serious issues involved. And I appeal to your readers to try and see these clearly, to understand sympathetically the position in which our Indian brothers are situated, and to insist unequivocally upon the application of the Christian principles of brotherhood to their solution.

Yours etc.,
H. A. POPLEY.

NOTICE

DURBAN AND DISTRICT RENT BOARD

In terms of Section 4 of Act 13, 1920, all Lessors of Property situated in that portion of the Borough of Durban, known as WARDS 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, and 9 are hereby called upon to supply the following information, which must be in possession of the Secretary by NOON 30th NOVEMBER 1920, and the Lessor shall verify by solemn declaration the correctness of the information given in the return.

Necessary forms may be obtained from

the Secretary at the Durban Rent Board Office, Indian Immigration Trust Board, Stanger Street. Returns may be declared at the Rent Board Office.

The information required is as follows:—

- (a) The Lessor's full name and address, together with the name and address of his agent (if any).
- (b) The situation of each property so let.
- (c) The name of, and the rent paid by, each Lessee set out opposite to the particulars aforesaid of each dwelling, and where any dwelling is let to more than one Lessee, the name of, and the particulars of the rent paid by, each Lessee, likewise set out.

N. B. Sub lessor comes under the heading of lessor. Dwelling means any room or place occupied as a human habitation if any money is stipulated to be paid to the lessor.

Lessor's attention is drawn to Section 5, WHICH PROVIDES A PENALTY FOR NON-COMPLIANCE WITH THIS NOTICE.

Forms may be declared at the Rent Board Office.

By Order of the Board,

JNO. L. FARREL,

Secretary.

Durban Rent Board

October 5th, 1920.

BOOKS FOR SALE

To be obtained from the *Indian Opinion Press*, Phoenix, Natal. Postal Orders to be made payable at Durban.

We have just received the following books from India. The prices given include cost of postage:—

Price post free s. d.

BIOGRAPHIES OF EMINENT INDIANS:—

Dadabhai Naoroji, Gopal Krishna Gokhale, Rabindranath Tagore, M. K. Gandhi, Babu Surendranath Banerjee, Budruddin Tyabji, Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya, The Right Hon. Sayed Amir Ali, H. H. Shri Sayaji Rao Gaekwar, Sir Sayed Ahmed Khan, H. H. the Aga Khan, Swami Rama Tirth, V. Krishnaswami Aiyar, Kristo Das Pal, Dewan C. Rangachari, W. C. Bonnerjee, A. M. Bose, Behramji M. Malabari, Ravi Varma, Lala Lajpat Rai, Kashinath Trimbak Telang, Swami Dayanand Saraswati, Mrs. Sarojini Naidu, Swami Vivekananda, Torn Dutt, Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar, Sir Salar Jung, V. P. Madhava Rao, D. E. Wacha, Sri Ramakrishna Paramahansa, Sir Pherozeshah Mehta, Rahimtulla Mohamed Sayani, Dr. Rash Behari Ghose, Nawab Mohsin-ul-Mulk, Sir C. Sankaran Nair, Lal Mohun Ghose, Raja Ram Mohan Roy.

FRIENDS OF INDIA SERIES:—Lord Morley, Sir Wm. Wedderburn, Rev. Dr. Miller, Sir Edwin Arnold, Chas. Bradlaugh, Edmund Burke, Lord Minto, Sister Nivedita, Henry Fawcett, John Bright, A. O. Hume, Sir Henry Cotton, Lord Macaulay, Lord Ripon, Ram Mrs. Annie Besant — A Sketch of her Life
Sri Ramanujacharya

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