

Indian ^{NY 7/17/24} Opinion

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NOTES AND NEWS

THE Hon. Secretary of the Natal Indian Congress has addressed the following letter to the Durban Town Clerk in connection with a sum of £200 voted by the Centenary Committee for separate Indian celebrations of the Centenary which is to be celebrated from the 26th to the 29th instant. The letter is for itself:—

"My Committee duly appreciates the Council's offer of £200, small as the amount is, to enable the Indian community to celebrate the Centenary, but my Committee feels that it cannot in any circumstances depart from the principle now long adopted by it, that in all matters of a public nature such as the proposed celebrations, the Indian community must participate if at all, upon equal terms with all other sections of the community, and where such recognition is in any manner denied the community represented by my committee must absolutely refrain from identifying itself with all such functions.

"My committee, therefore, while fully appreciating the desire of your Council that the Indian community should also join in the celebrations, cannot acquiesce in the conditions accompanying the money grant and in the circumstances can see no other alternative than to respectfully decline the offer.

"I need hardly observe that in the event of your Council being pleased to remove the differentiation now imposed, my committee would readily advise the community to fully participate in the celebrations."

The Congress could not have adopted a more honourable course and we hope the community will strictly adhere to the their decision. Reference has been made to previous such celebrations where a section of the community has deliberately acted against the advice of their leaders. No one is responsible for such irresponsible and unwise action but those who take such action and it reflects no credit to themselves nor to the community they are privileged to represent. We hope, therefore, that whatever decision is come to the decision will be a unanimous one and will be adhered to unanimously.

Since the above was in print we are informed by the Hon. Secretaries of the Congress that a letter has been received from the Town Clerk advising them that the amount voted for Indians for the Centenary celebrations has been deleted in view of our refusal to accept it.

In the course of an electioneering address at Stamford Hill Mr. F. J. Lenuox the South African Party Parliamentary candidate referring to the Asiatic question said that even his opponent, Mr. Eaton was reported to have said that the demand to clear the Indian out *holus bolus* was an impossible one. It was what he Mr. Lenuox also said. A great deal could be done, however, by way of legislation to restrict trading licences, and to enforce health and sanitary laws, as well as by preserving areas exclusively for Europeans. The Arab trader, to his mind, was the real menace. In that he was consistent, for he had not a single Arab trader on his books. He not only refused to do business with them, but he also refused to deal with them, and if everybody did likewise the Arabs would soon disappear.

The S.A. Labour Party candidate for the Umbilo Division Mr. G. Reyburn addressing a meeting at Sea View spoke on the Asiatic question expressing the opinion that the Class Areas Bill was almost useless. He pointed to the Free State as an example of how the Nationalists dealt with the Asiatic question, and urged that Natal would receive more benefit from a Nationalist Government than any other of the provinces.

Mr. A. Jemieson, Labour candidate for the Point at a public election meeting held in the Town Hall expressed the opinion that Wakkerstroom was not the real reason for the dissolution. The real reason was to be seen in the difficulties in which General Smuts found himself placed with regard to the Class Areas Bill.

Mr. Arthur Haycock M.P.O., the Labour candidate for the Berea Division at an election meeting in the Sydenham Hall, dealt with the Labour Party's policy of coping with the Asiatic menace in Natal. He is reported to have demonstrated that the present Government, by vetoing all the proposals unanimously arrived at by the Natal Provincial Council, had clearly shown that the South African Party had certainly not the same desire to find a solution of the problem as Labour had.

Councillor Geo. Reyburn the Labour candidate for the Umbilo Division is reported to have said dealing with the Asiatic question at an election meeting that he was convinced they could expect more sympathetic treatment on the Asiatic question from the Nationalists than the S.A.P., and felt sure a serious attempt would be made to deal with this question and thus get rid of one of their greatest dangers.

Mr. E. F. Hoare, the South African Party candidate for Umbilo at an election meeting dealt with the Asiatic question. Mr. Hoare was emphatic in his statement that he was as anxious as anyone else to safeguard European ideals and standards. The Government had got rid of a number of Indians by voluntary repatriation, and all the Natal members of the S. A. Party were agreed that the bonuses should be materially increased. Also, they wanted to stimulate the departure of the Indians by making it more uncomfortable for them to stay here.

Voice: Vote for Mr. Kemp for that.

Mr. Hoare: Perhaps there is a little of Mr. Kemp here in this respect. Proceeding, Mr. Hoare said there were various ways of achieving that object. The local authorities could tighten up the administration of the public health by-laws, and State Administration of industrial legislation and wages boards. Already Natal had taken a practical step by appointing licensing boards. He did not want to be egotistical, but he would like to remind them that before the Licensing Boards Ordinance was mooted in the Provincial Council he, as chairman of the Retailers Council, suggested that they should create these licensing boards, and he urged that merchants and traders should be prepared to discipline themselves with the object of making such a measure effective. The boards were now constituted on practically the same lines as those embodied in the resolution he moved at the Congress of the Associated Chambers of Commerce the year before

last, and the resolution was adopted by even such a conservative body as the Chamber. However, he did not regard the question as purely a matter of solving the Asiatic question. The whole essence of the problem in this country was that they had to defend their standards against uncivilised standards.

Mr. F. J. Lennox the S. A. P. candidate for Parliament for the Stamford Hill Division in his election manifesto expresses the following views on the Asiatic question :—

I favour measures being adopted, which will result in the disappearance of the Arab Trader from our midst, I question whether many of them are actually British Subjects. The case, however, is different with the Colonial Indian, born in this country. I believe that practical steps can be taken to minimise existing and future dangers in the following directions :—

- (1) Restriction of Trading Licences.
- (2) Drastic enforcement of Public Health and Sanitary Laws.
- (3) Preservation of Areas exclusively for Europeans.
- (4) Practical application of the principle "Don't trade with them."

I will support any reasonable proposal which will tend to hasten a solution of this important problem.

A general meeting of the Natal Indian Congress was held at Rawat's Bio Hall last Sunday when the revised rules were passed and the membership fee was decreased from 10s. 6d. to 2s. 6d.

The Indian Nationalist writes :—The Glass Areas Bill has been postponed owing to the exigencies of domestic politics in South Africa, and the Indian question so forcefully and painfully brought to the front by this intended legislation will for a time fall in the back ground unless the Nationalist party led by General Hertzog makes it a plank in their electoral propaganda, but we must be grateful to Mrs. Naidu for having considerably influenced the labour action in the Cape Parliament. Her work in South Africa has inspired courage amongst our countrymen over there and amongst those who though African born are still proud to call themselves Indians. She is said to have advised them that khaddar was hardly an important item in their national regeneration. Perhaps from the economic point of view of South Africa it might not be, even to her Indian citizens, but we shall be glad to learn that Mrs. Naidu did not fail to allude to the value of khaddar in escaping from the clutches of capitalist domination. The spinning wheel has its value from this aspect of economic freedom even in the most industrialised country. Mrs. Naidu has begun a work which we hope other Indian leaders will continue. It consists in taking the trouble to journey overseas to parts where little islands of Indians struggle to thrive amidst the sea of civilization alien to their spirit, and try to hold their own as self-respecting and cultured citizens. It is the duty of the Indian leaders to find out whether these conditions of self-respect and culture are denied to the Indians. If they are, they must expose these grievances, and bring the pressure of public opinion in India to operate in their removal.

The following is the text of an illuminated address presented to Mrs. Sarojini Naidu on behalf of the Stellenbosch Indians during her recent visit to that town, by a girl Miss Zulekha Bai aged 9 years, the daughter of Mr. Abdul Carim Noor Mahomed :—

Dear Mother,—“Our first duty is to welcome you on behalf of the Indian as well as the coloured community of Stellenbosch. To answer the call of the oppressed and exiled sons and daughters of India you came to this country at a great sacrifice. On the one hand you had your dear and beloved daughter seriously lying ill in Bombay calling you to her bedside whilst on the other hand one hundred and sixty-three thousand of your

countrymen were calling you to come out to South Africa and lead them to honour and glory. You answered the call of your countrymen who will never be able to repay you for the noble sacrifice for them. To-day you are the idol not alone of your own countrymen but of the whole coloured population of South Africa and we pray to the Almighty God to give you health and strength to carry on your noble work for the honour and glory of our Mother India.”

New India (Malaya) writes :—The South African Union Government is evidently determined to do all it can to undermine the Commonwealth, until it is able to break away. The old Boer ha'ral of England still survives, and we may yet see General Smuts and Hertzog joining hands to re-establish Boer supremacy and the tyranny over the coloured races that Great Britain went to war to break. Characteristically selfish is the omission of the Malays, wanted as servants by the white settlers. Mrs. Sarojini Naidu is doing most useful work, even if her success is confined—as we hope it will not be—to cheering the Indians by the assurance that their own people at home, helpless till they are self-governing, are full of sympathy with the struggle bravely carried on.

The Johannesburg correspondent of the *Natal Mercury* writes :—Despite the fact that the law prohibits Asiatics from holding property in the Transvaal, millions of pounds worth is nevertheless owned by Indians in Johannesburg. The procedure is simple. An Indian decides to buy a house. He approaches a European ally, gets the latter ostensibly to effect the purchase, and take transfer, and to safeguard himself, the Indian takes a bond over the property. He takes two risks, his trustee's dishonesty and the possibility of the man's insolvency, and the law recognises but one owner, the man in whose name the property is registered. Recently, there was a striking case illustrating the Indian's position. A sequestration order was granted in the local division of the Supreme Court, in which the assets appeared to be £1,000, and the liabilities £5,000, but when the provisional trustee came to examine the documents in his possession, he was amazed to find property registered in the insolvent's name to the total value of £250,000. No fewer than 300 houses were, in the eyes of the law, owned by the insolvent, and these the trustees promptly proceeded to attach. The next day his office was invaded by Indian deputations. They explained the position. The property was really theirs, and not the insolvent's, but the trustee refused to budge. He held that the houses belonged to the estate, and until creditors received 20s. in the £, he refused to remove the attachment.

A special message to the *Natal Mercury* states :—A Perth (Australia) deputation has urged upon the Western Australian Minister for Fisheries that unless Government action is taken to prevent white men holding licences as dummies for Asiatics, the pearling industry will fall into the hands of the Japanese, leading possibly to international complications. The Minister replied that the Government were alive to the danger, and would do everything possible to meet it.

During the debate in the House of Commons on the Lausanne Treaty initiated by Sir Edward Grigg who denounced the omission by the late Government in not inviting the Dominions to send separate plenipotentiaries to Lausanne, as a result of which the Lausanne Treaty was the only Peace Treaty not signed by the whole Empire Mr. Lloyd George made some remarks which were rightly declared by Mr. Ormsby Gore as very mischievous. Mr. Lloyd George is reported to have condemned the action of the late Government, and to have declared that all they did was to tell the Dominions that they agreed with the Allies that the Dominions should not be represented. He asked what the position would be in the event of trouble in the East? He pointed out that Russia would not abandon

her aspirations to Constantinople and the Straits, while he could not imagine that Italy would be always satisfied to see great derelict lands which were once prosperous under the Italian flag, and which languished under the Turkish flag without making some effort to regain them. Turkey might always be depended on to provide a quarrel, and trouble was inevitable in the East.

Earl Winterton delivered a sound retort to the above by saying that if Mr. Lloyd George's Turkish policy had been allowed to proceed it would have gone a long way towards making the problem of the Government of India impossible of solution. He declared that there was nobody more universally distrusted in India, or whose policy he believed to have been more disastrous to Britain's relations with India than Mr. Lloyd George.

IS IT NON-CO-OPERATION ?

(By MR. M. K. GANDHI IN "YOUNG INDIA")

The argument has been advanced that with the failure (in my opinion wrongly assumed) of the boycott of titles, schools, law-courts, and Councils, non-co-operation is dead. The critics see nothing of non-co-operation in the slow and unexciting Khaddar programme. They forget that the four-fold boycott is like a scaffolding which is absolutely necessary till the whole structure is ready. It does not matter that the institutions, which are the symbols of the authority we seek to destroy, continue to exist so long as we do not make use of them. The fact is that we cannot erect our structure without the scaffolding of the four-fold boycott. And we must succeed if we can work the Congress organisation without the aid of these institutions and even in spite of them. Moreover, let us not forget that our boycott is not four-fold, but five-fold. The fifth is by far the most important i. e. boycott of foreign (not merely British) cloth.

The boycott is the negative, though on that account none the less useful, part of our programme. Khaddar, national schools, panchayats, Hindu-Muslim unity, and uplift of the untouchable, the drunkard and the opium eater, is the positive part of our programme. The greater our progress in it, the greater will be the progress towards the boycott and therefore, towards Swaraj. Nature abhors a vacuum. Therefore, construction must keep pace with destruction. Even if all the titled friends gave up their titles, and if schools, courts and Councils were entirely deserted, and being thus embarrassed the Government abdicated in our favour, and if we had no constructive work to our credit, we could not conduct Swaraj. We should be entirely helpless. I often wonder whether it is sufficiently realised that our movement is not one for mere change of personnel but for change of the system and the methods. Full Khaddar programme is, therefore, to me full Swaraj. The English interest in India is selfish and in conflict with the national interest. It is anti-national, because of the illegitimate cotton interest. To boycott, therefore, foreign cloth, is to sterilise the English and all other foreign interests. Boycott merely of British cloth may harm the British, but can lead to no construction in India. Boycott of British cloth will be a jump out of the frying pan into fire. Not before the foreign piece-goods trade is entirely replaced by home-spun, will the bleeding process cease. Boycott of foreign cloth, therefore, is the centre of our boycott programme. This central boycott cannot succeed until we universalise Khaddar. In order to achieve the desirable end we will need employ all our resources to the fullest extent. We shall need men, money and machinery i. e. organisation. We cannot universalise Khaddar without Hindu-Muslim unity, without removing untouchability. To make Khaddar successful is to demonstrate our capacity for self-government. Khaddar is a people's programme, for success in which all, high and

low, rich and poor, Hindu and non-Hindu, must take part.

But say the sceptics, 'How can Khaddar bring Swaraj? Will Englishmen then retire in our favour?' My answer is,—yes and no. Yes, because Englishmen will then find that their interest must be coincident with that of India. They will then be content to remain in India as her servants, for they will have then found that they cannot impose their custom upon us. When, therefore, Khaddar becomes successful, Englishmen's hearts will have been changed. They will regard it then as an honour to be our allies instead of regarding it as they do now their right to be our masters. My answer is 'No,' if we intend to drive out Englishmen and ruin every English interest, legitimate or otherwise. Such is not the goal of the non-violent movement. Non-violence has its limits. It refuses to hate or generate hatred. Indeed by its very nature, it is incapable of so doing. 'But' the sceptics further argue, 'Suppose the English refuse to revise their system and insist upon holding India by the sword; what can universal use of Khaddar do?' In thus doubting the efficacy of Khaddar, they forget that Khaddar is an indispensable preparation for Civil Disobedience. And this, everyone admits, is an irresistible force. Without the universal adoption of Khaddar, I see no chance whatsoever of universal civil, i. e. non-violent, disobedience. Any single district that can be fully organised for Khaddar is, if it is also trained for suffering, ready for Civil Disobedience. And I have not a shadow of doubt that even one district thus organised can make itself irresistible even though the whole might of the Government may be matched against it.

'Who shall be the cat?' is the last question. That question is, however, irrelevant to the present inquiry. The question I set out to answer was whether constructive programme i. e. Khaddar could be considered part of Non-co-operation. I have attempted to prove that it is an integral part of Non-co-operation in its positive aspect.

DURBAN TOWN COUNCIL

DECIDES TO REPLACE INDIAN EMPLOYEES BY EUROPEAN BOYS

At a meeting of the Durban Town Council held Friday the 6th inst., the most interesting discussion was on consideration of a recommendation of the Joint Advisory Board to replace certain Indians in the service by European boys. Councillor Wadley pointed out that some of the Indians had been in the service for many years, and it would be unfair to throw them out on the streets. He therefore moved that effect be given to the recommendations as and when the positions became vacant.

Councillor Mrs. Knight, who seconded, said one of the Indians had rendered good service for 16 years another for 10, and it was an injustice to turn them out.

"People who try to solve the Indian problem by sacking a boy getting £3 per month make me laugh," remarked Councillor Smith, who declared he would support the amendment.

Councillor Buzzard said of the Indians they proposed to discharge some who were doing copy work, others who were running out stencils, while those in the general stores were taking notes round for quotations. If these Indians were dismissed there would be openings for a dozen European boys, and they would be given a chance of progressing in the service.

As a member of the sub-committee appointed to report on the question, Councillor Shearer supported Councillor Buzzard and so did Mrs. Fahey.

The Mayor expressed the opinion that Mr. Wadley's proposal was the fairest way of dealing with the question.

Councillor Mrs. Benson admitted that they were not taking the fairest course, but they could not close their

eyes to the position to-day owing to the unemployment of boys and girls in the town.

The recommendations were adopted, after Councillor Wudley's amendment was rejected.

MR. KEMP'S STUNT

Mr. H. H. Kemp, who is standing as an Independent for the Point Division, addressed a meeting in the Christ Church Hall, Addington. Referring to a leading article in the *Guardian* of Friday, which stated that Mr. Kemp had to find a "stunt," and had picked up the anti-Asiatic as the best he could work, but that his blossoming forth as an anti-Asiatic was a plant of very recent growth, he declared emphatically, however, that if consistency of policy on the Asiatic question for the last 20 years was "stunt" in the slang expression of the *Guardian*, they were quite welcome to call it so. He went back to the times just after the Boer War, and briefly outlined what he did in regard to Chinese labour and subsequently in regard to the Indian question since his coming to Natal in 1914 and right up to the present day when he had received a mandate from 478 Point electors to stand for the Point seat in Parliament on the anti-Asiatic question. If the Asiatic question was his weakest suit, "then," said Mr. Kemp, "my other suits must be mighty strong—(applause)—and if there is any other man in South Africa who has such a record on the Asiatic question, I would like to meet him."

He referred to the action of the Prime Minister in dissolving Parliament as having left all the parties in the country without any policies or programmes to put before the electors; and he contended that the only real and definite policy before the country was his. It meant a definite advance along the lines of real progress, and, what was more, the public safety of the European race within the Union. He was satisfied that had the election been three months later the friends who were associated with him in the anti-Asiatic party would have contested every constituency in Natal, and would have swept the board, and never have rested until they had got the Indian out of the Natal segregation camp of South Africa.

Mr. Kemp went on to examine the alleged policies of the various parties on the Asiatic question. The S.A.P. was out merely to restrict Asiatic licences and segregate them residentially, but this took no account of the Indian clerk, artisan, semi-skilled worker and others. Their policy was hopeless, and seemed to be affected by influences outside of South Africa. As for the Nationalists the elimination of the Asiatic was formerly one of their planks, but it had since been jettisoned, partly because they were afraid of the Cape coloured vote; and the Labour Party wanted a minimum Wage Act, which was impracticable. They were also out for segregation, but did not say whether it was voluntary or compulsory; and another solution they proposed was to raise the economic standard of the Asiatic, but they took care not to say whether the European taxpayer was to pay for the educating process. On the other hand, his proposal was to eliminate the Asiatic entirely, and he went on to outline his scheme, as he had done at previous meetings. He was only one man at present, but if returned to Parliament a party would soon be formed, and if they worked with confidence they would soon see the emancipation of the Indians from this land of their fathers, which would be for the best interests of the Indians themselves as well as of the European and also of the great Commonwealth to which they were all proud to belong. (Loud applause.)

One or two questions were asked, and eventually a hearty vote of confidence was passed in Mr. Kemp, with only one dissentient.

CLAIRWOOD INDIAN HOSPITAL

MR. B. L. E. SIGAMONEY'S SUGGESTIONS

Our colonial-born friends especially will be very pleased to read the following letter from Mr. B. L. E. Sigamoney who though being far away from us is still taking keen interest in our activities in this country. Mr. Sigamoney writes from St. Paul's College, Burgh, Lincolnshire:—

Dear Sir,—I read with great interest in one of the issues of the "Indian Opinion" of March number, that the Indians of Clairwood are contemplating the opening of an Indian Hospital. I think the idea is a most laudable one and I sincerely hope it will soon become an accomplished fact.

The need for one is very great indeed especially in that district where the Indian population is growing everday, and those who have made and are making their fortune at the expense of the poor Indian should show their gratitude by liberally supporting such a venture.

There are two main difficulties which present themselves to me. First is the securing of a suitable person who can take charge. Apart from being a capable nurse she must love the Indians and be very sympathetic towards them. The question arises: can one be got of that kind? Yes. In this land there are many noble-minded English nurses who will serve the Indian community faithfully.

The next is the most important and that is finance. No concern can be run without the good support of financial aid. May I humbly suggest that it be a free hospital with an option that those who can pay should pay.

I trust the prime movers will not think I want to dictate, but I want to help and therefore I venture to make this suggestion. Secure the services of about 7 or ten men whose heart and soul is in the work, and let them not be mere ornaments but real and live workers, and above all have a good and energetic secretary who can organize meetings for the purpose of raising funds for the maintenance of the place. Another important fact is that the support of doctors should be secured, and not be made one man's show, as that will prevent other doctors sending their patients.

I have been here over a year and I have been quietly studying the English race, and I must cordially confess that the one predominant feature of their many good qualities is their ardent love for charitable works. Many of the hospitals are conducted by the support of the public, their love for the fatherless and widows is beyond comparison. We have a lot to learn from them in this direction, and may I wish the convenors every success and if I can be of assistance in securing the services of a capable and sympathetic nurse I shall be only too pleased to serve my countrymen.

BERNARD L. E. SIGAMONEY.

A correspondent writes from Johannesburg:—A number of young Indians gathered at Mr. S. Royappa's residence, Johannesburg, recently for the purpose of forming a Debating Society. It was resolved that the name of the Society be known as 'The Young Indians' Debating Society and Recreation Club.' Mrs. Sarojini Naidu, our distinguished visitor, has kindly consented to be the Patron of the organisation. The following were elected as office-bearers for the ensuing year:—Vice-Patron, Mr. Mustapha Hassam; Vice-Presidents, Dr. W. Godfrey, Messrs. Ebrahim Jamal and I. I. Hazaree; Chairman, Mr. Ahmed Maal; Hon. Secretary, Mr. C. K. Garach; Hon. Treasurer, Mr. S. M. Nana.

SIR MICHAEL O'DWYER vs. SIR S. NAIR

PLAINTIFF AWARDED £500 AND COSTS

London, June 5. (Reuter.)—An important libel suit, the hearing of which occupied no fewer than 25 days, involving costs amounting to £20,000, ended to-day, when Sir Michael O'Dwyer, ex-Lieut.-Governor of the Punjab, was awarded a verdict against Sir Sankaran Nair, ex-member of the Government of India.

Damages agreed upon at £500 and costs. Sir Michael O'Dwyer complained that Sir Sankaran Nair, in a book "Gandhi and Anarchy" accused him of resorting to methods of terrorism to obtain recruits for the Indian Army during the War and be responsible for the alleged outrages at Amritsar and elsewhere in the Punjab.

Plaintiff's counsel contended that Sir Michael O'Dwyer was opposed to coercive measures in recruiting, that General Dyer's action in firing on the mob at Amritsar in April, 1919, was justified, and that Sir Michael O'Dwyer was not responsible as martial law had been proclaimed and the military had charge of the situation.

Mr. Justice McCardie, in summing up, expressed the opinion that General Dyer had acted rightly and had been wrongly punished by the Secretary of State for India.

The dramatic character of this vindication is enhanced by the fact that it was announced during the course of the trial that General Dyer is dying.

Concluding his seven hours' summing up of the O'Dwyer case, Mr. Justice McCardie asked the jury to consider what the effect would have been if General Dyer's force had been wiped out: "Rebellions lead to insurrections, and insurrections lead to civil war."

He declared that the jury had the right to disagree with him if they chose.

As regards the use of aeroplanes at Gujranwala, Mr. Justice McCardie referred to Sir Sankaran Nair's contention that it was wrong to fire if the lives of innocent people were endangered. He said that if the defendant's view was right, one child would make a mob assembled for burning and murder immune from attack.

He begged the jury to put aside party feelings and emotionalism and reserve a broad vision.

The jury deliberated for three hours and were unable to agree, but counsel agreed to accept the verdict of the majority, which was 11 to 1 in favour of the plaintiff.

RESOLUTIONS IN INDIAN ASSEMBLY

Simla, June 10 (Reuter.)—In the Assembly to-day Mr. Das introduced a motion that the Assembly should express disappointment and indignation at "Mr. Justice McCardie's judgment exonerating General O'Dwyer and General Dyer."

Mr. Neogy, the President, ruled the motion out of order.

Mr. Das also sent in a resolution in favour of the payment of damages and costs of the O'Dwyer case out of the Indian Exchequer.

INDIA AND THE USE OF LIQUOR

Mr. Frederick Grubb writes in *Abkari*:—

India has been for the most part, from immemorial times, a teetotal country. In British days the drinking of intoxicating liquors was confined to small sections of the population. Intemperance is a vice of modern growth, which has in recent years affected on increasing numbers of the inhabitants. Whereas under the old *regime* the sale of drink was irregular and unrecognised, it is to-day one of the most lucrative revenue-collecting agencies of the State.

In 1874-5 the Government of India derived only £1,561,000 from the sale of intoxicants. This figure had risen in 1901-2 to £4,015,000 and in 1922 to £13,428,000. The percentage on Excise revenue compared with the general revenue varies from 14.9 in the United Provinces to 41.3 in Madras, the average for the whole of India being about 25 per cent. The statistics of actual consumption are not issued in any complete or reliable form. Generally speaking it may be said that there was a steady increase until three years ago, when what is known as the Non-co-operation movement, led by Mr. M. K. Gandhi (which included an aggressive crusade against the liquor shops) resulted in a marked reduction of drinking. The picketing of licensed premises unfortunately led to disturbances in some parts of the country, and since Mr. Gandhi's imprisonment in 1922, liquor consumption has begun to advance once more.

Some reduction of drinking facilities has been effected in recent years through the medium of local advisory committees and licensing boards, but in nearly every case these bodies have been under official control, and their recommendations have not always been accepted. The liquor traffic is conducted practically as a Government monopoly, and the interests of the revenue are too often regarded as paramount.

HOW TO FREE THE NEGRO FROM OPPRESSION

We commend the following from *The Liberator* to the "whites" of South Africa and the high-caste Hindus of India:—

What does the Negro in America require in order to escape his condition as an oppressed race? He requires:

Abolition of restrictions upon his right of residence; that is, abolition of black-belt segregation.

Abolition of distinction between Coloured and White children in the school; which distinction, with segregation, results not only in perpetuating race-hatred, but also in the starvation of Negro schools.

Equal right to vote in the South.

The organisation of millions of unorganised Negro wage-labourers in industry, in the same union with white workers.

The organisation of the Negro tenant-farmers and share-farmers of the South to fight against peonage and other terrible hardships.

Abolition of laws in the Southern States which put the Negro on a sub-human plane, such as the laws against intermarriage.

Abolition of the Jim Crow system on the railroads, in the parks, theatres, hotels, restaurants, and other public conveniences.

Drastic measures against lynching.

Drastic measures against the Ku Klux Klan.

Organised solidarity with the other groups of his oppressed race in other countries for common relief.

NEW BOOKS FOR SALE

THE GREAT TRIAL OF MAHATMA GANDHI & MR. BANKER.

[This book is edited by Mr. K. P. Kesava Menon and contains a Foreward by Mrs. Sarojini Naidoo. It contains the full report of the Trial of Mahatma Gandhi including Mahatma Gandhi's statement, the Judgment and Mahatma Gandhi's reply. It also contains the offending articles for which Mahatma Gandhi was arrested and a description of the scene at the Asram when he was arrested and the interesting subjects which were discussed in the trial.]

THE LIFE OF LOKOMANYA TILAK

(By D. V. ATHAVLE, LATE HEADMASTER, M. J. HIGH SCHOOL VIRMANGAN (BOMBAY) WITH A FOREWORD BY MR. C. R. DAS.)

[This book is dedicated by the author to Mahatma Gandhi. This is the latest life sketch of the Lokomanya dealing with his the great leader's career from the beginning to the end of his life. Stiff Cover. 400 pages.]

BOOKS FOR SALE

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

The Hon. Mr. Gokhale and the Indenture System	2 0
Indian Home Rule, by M. K. Gandhi	1 6
A Book—and its Misnomer	1 0
Bagavad Gita. Mrs. Besant's Translation	2 6
Asiatic Registration Amendment Act (1908), in English and Gujarati	
Hindu Social Ideals, by P. J. Mehta	2 6
Rise and Growth of Bombay Municipal Govt.	4 6
Agricultural Industries in India	2 6
The Story of the Ramayana, the Epic of Rama	2 6
A Study in Indian Economics, by P. Banerjee	4 6
The Indians of South Africa, by H. S. L. Polak	2 0
Life of M. K. Gandhi (in Tam I)	2 6
The Golden Number of "Indian Opinion"	
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