

# Indian <sup>OP</sup> <sup>17/10/24</sup> Opinion

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## NOTES AND NEWS

THE *Rand Daily Mail* understands on good authority that the Prince of Wales will visit South Africa between the 15th and 25th April next year.

Last Wednesday, the 15th inst. at the Pursee Rustonjee Hall, a grand reception was accorded to that great leader of the A.P.O., Councillor Dr. A. Abdurrahman, M.P.C., by the Natal Indian Congress.

After an exciting debate in the House of Commons on Wednesday the 8th inst. the Liberal Amendment to the Conservative vote of censure was carried by 364 votes to 198. The Liberal Amendment, it will be remembered, proposed the appointment of a Select Committee to investigate, and report on, the circumstances leading to the withdrawal of the proceedings against Mr. Campbell, the editor of *The Workers' Weekly*, on allegations of inciting soldiers to mutiny.

In the course of the debate Mr. Macdonald said there was not a particle of evidence to show that Ministers had interfered improperly in the prosecution of the editor of *The Workers' Weekly*, and denied that the proceedings were dropped because of the Russian Treaty. He said the matter was left in the hands of the Attorney-General (Sir Patrick Hastings). Mr. Asquith denied that the Liberal amendment was unfair, and quoted the case of the Select Committee appointed to inquire into the Jameson Raid and also the Marconi affair.

The minority in the vital division was made up of 182 Labour members, two Conservatives, two Nationalists, and 12 Liberals. Great excitement prevailed while members were recording their votes, and the announcement of the figures was received with loud opposition cheers and counter-Ministerial cheers.

The dissolution of Parliament was announced by His Majesty the King on Thursday the 9th inst. at 11 a.m. It was also announced by the Prime Minister in the House of Commons on the same day that the general election would take place on Oct. 29.

Cofivaamba, Oct. 3 (Reuter).—The Transkeian African Native Congress assembled at Tora, has passed a very strong resolution against the action of the Government in dismissing Natives from their occupations and replacing them by Europeans. The Congress strongly denounced such a 'racial policy.'

Bloemfontein, Oct. 10 (Reuter).—A largely attended meeting of the Native and coloured people of Winburg Location, convened by the Free State African National Congress, has passed a resolution strongly protesting, in view of the alarming increase of killing of Natives in the Union, against the light sentence passed on white farmer at Standerton for

killing a Native girl, and calling the attention of the Government to such miscarriages of justice. The meeting also took a resolution against the compulsory medical examination of females as proposed by the Town Council of Bloemfontein.

Johannesburg, Oct. 10 (Reuter).—Interviewed today, Senator Givens, Australia, also predicted a bright future for South Africa. Touching on the Far Eastern question, he said, "with regard to the likelihood of a way being opened up for Japanese emigration to the Commonwealth; well, all I'll say to that is, give us another 12 years and Australia will defy the world. We are going to have no Japs. You can take that from me without the slightest doubt. Australia is the most purely British country in the world. Ninety-five per cent. of Australians are Britons, and as Britons we intend to keep our country white and out-and-out British."

Alluding to the South African census as an alarming document, (says Reuter.) the *Outlook* points out that the growing preponderance of blacks over whites is a factor not considered by the advocates of birth control. The paper says that the reduction of European populations and their stabilisation on the lines of the French social policy would leave white colonies in other parts of the world mere garrisons which must eventually be overwhelmed.

Mr. A. C. Chatterjee, Member for Industries and Labour in the Viceroy's Executive Council, has been appointed High Commissioner for India in London, in succession to the late Mr. Dabiba Merwanjee Dalal, says a Reuter's message from London.

Allahabad, Oct. 9.—The disturbances caused by the Hindus and Mahomedans continue. In to-day's fighting three were killed and 20 injured, making a total of nine killed and 70 injured since Monday.—Reuter.

A Reuter's message from Allahabad dated Oct. 8, states:—Rumours that the Mahomedans had beaten certain Hindus led to rioting between the two sects, in which three were killed and twenty injured. British and Indian troops were called out to quell the disorder, and the city is now quiet.

Delhi, Oct. 6 (Reuter).—The Angora Government has refused passports for the Indian Khilafat Delegation, thus creating serious disappointment to the leaders of the Khilafat movement who previously accused the British Government of standing in their way.

Poultry breeders in Britain are very interested in an experiment of using lucerne meal from South Africa, which has been found to be a most suitable poultry feed. The meal has attracted sufficient attention for considerable contracts to be placed for

BRITISH  
FASCISTS

the delivery of quantities in 1925, and it is believed that it will be possible, with care, eventually to develop a large export trade from the Union.

A mixed party numbering five was bathing near the Battery and was taken out by the backwash. After a long struggle they regained the beach, but one of them, Mrs. Johanna Louisa van der Walt, was so much overcome that it was necessary to remove her to hospital.

### INDIANS BRITISH SUBJECTS IN NAME ONLY

W E recently published the statement submitted by the Natal Indian Congress to the Secretary of State for the Colonies. It would be seen from that brief statement that the Indian community in Natal have gradually been deprived of the rights they enjoyed since their arrival to this country. The statement in question if read by the lovers of fairplay and justice, would, we are certain, make them feel rather ashamed of the much-talked-of British traditions and British fairplay. It would be seen that they have deprived the Indians not by fair and straightforward means, but by hitting below the belt, or when they have been on the ground. Now, we know that is not the British way and yet such course have been adopted in this British province of Natal. The Indians, there is no gainsaying, by such methods have been reduced to a position whereby they might nominally be called British subjects without the advantages and privileges which go to make one a British Subject. This brings us to the question, What is a British Subject? A British Subject is a person, as we understand, who enjoys and suffers the same treatment in a British country as other British subjects do. There never was and there should not be different codes of laws for the different British subjects who differ in colour. On such high and lofty traditions the British Empire has been built and on such traditions only the Empire might remain. The Empire has in the past suffered by the blunders of a few and lost that great country America. She, if she continues her suicidal policy might, because of the blunders of a few lose such countries as the Egypt, Ireland and even India. The treatment meted out to the Indians in the Colonies does not redound to the credit of the Imperial Government nor does it enhance the reputation of Britishers throughout the world; it simply brings down the fair name of the British people in the eyes of other nations and particularly in the eyes of those who are being ruled, to be despised. The days are gone when one with his chest expanded may declare with some dignity that he was a British Subject, to-day if one were to state that he was a British Subject and unless he was white, it would signify that he is the modern slave of the British Empire, hence one is not proud but ashamed to declare that he is a British Subject. All this is due to the neglect of the British Government and to the foolish and suicidal policy of the Colonial administrators. The Indians who are powerless and voiceless—powerless because India is weak and voiceless because they have been deprived of the franchise, are not strong enough to guard and protect their rights in this country. They, therefore, become an easy prey to

the white vultures who consider their own interest of paramount importance. Hence, they, backed up by the anti-Asiatic fanatics devise ways and means to reduce and crush the Indians in this country. They know it would be easier to crush them when once they are made impotent. The Indians on the other hand, it would seem are so dumbfounded that they will not even raise their voice against those who are out for their blood. Why? And echo replies, why? We know other powers in the past did exactly what the Britishers are doing towards the Indians to-day, but then, they paid heavily for their cruelties and oppression and therefore they are today reduced to second and third class powers of the world. Who knows a retribution will not eventually fall on the heads of the Britishers also for their cruelties and oppression towards the weak and the helpless; and when that day comes—history repeats itself—as it would inevitably come, could our readers imagine what reply they will make for their Satanic rule of the Indians? And are we going to sit still till that day comes, or are we going to strengthen the hands of the Congress. We hope our readers will give their thought to this question ere it is too late.

### REPATRIATION OF INDIANS

IN our issue of the 26th ulto., we reproduced a report from the *Natal Mercury* anent the working of the Repatriation Scheme about which we reserved our comment.

The matter of the increase of the bonus from £5 to £10 to a person and from £25 to £50 to a family of five, will give an impetus to the scheme which during the past year or so was dormant, but how far it would help the Government, remains to be seen. From the statistics quoted in the report, out of a total of 123,543 Indians irrespective of "Arab traders and others who followed Mr. Gandhi," 115,000 are Colonial born Indians who have no inducement to return to India, thus leaving only 4,500 adult Indians who may offer themselves and their children for repatriation. The report further states that "the Natal Indian Congress can hardly be said to represent the type of people who could take advantage of the bonuses. He has remained aloof from an organization which is more representative of the trading class." We do not know from what source this emanates as the Congress represents the trading class and the labourers of this country, as only about a year ago, the question of the legality of the Government repatriating Colonial born Indians was taken by the Congress as far as the Appellate Court of South Africa.

We have time and again pointed out that the repatriation of a class which is more fit in the development of a country is not beneficial as a whole and will not in any way solve the Indian problem. Moreover, it is a question that is worth testing in the courts whether the parent has the right to give away the birth-right of a child under the Repatriation scheme. We consider that the Indian leaders should bring pressure on the Government of India to take up this matter and refuse to accept those Indians who are born in the Union and return them to the place of their birth.

## ASIATIC POPULATION IN THE UNION

We give below the figures of the Asiatic population in the Union of South Africa as issued by the Director of Census, in the *White Paper* :—

In 1891 there were 42,842 Asiatics in the Union of South Africa; to-day the figure is 165,731, and of these 141,649 are resident in Natal. The big jump was made between 1891 and 1904. Between 1911 and 1921 the population increased by 8.89 per cent. or at a rate of less than one per cent. per annum. Of the 165,731 Asiatics in the Union, 161,339 are Indians.

In the Durban municipal area there is a white population of 47,258 and an Asiatic population of 16,893, or 365 Asiatics for every 1,000 Europeans. In Durban and suburbs the European population is 57,095 and an Asiatic population of 47,811, which works out at 837 Asiatics for every 1,000 Europeans.

The majority of Asiatics in this country are on the young side. Thus 52.16 per cent. are under 21 years.

The marital condition figures are curious, for while 97,336 males are returned as married, only 68,395 females are so returned. This is due to the fact that Indians maintain their wives in India. Polygamy, too, accounts for the discrepancy. It is reckoned that 561 Asiatics have two wives, while 590 have two or more, there being one gentleman resident in the Transvaal who claims to have six wives.

The number of Asiatics born in this country far exceeds the number born outside the Union. Thus 103,879 were born in South Africa and 61,569 were born outside, these figures representing 627 and 372 per 1,000 respectively.

Apart from Indians, the Asiatics in the Union comprise Burmese, Chinese, Japanese, Afghans and Syrians.

The predominating length of residence in this country is from 10 to 19 years for those Asiatics born outside the Union, and the occupation most favoured is that of agriculture, in which 19,478 Asiatics are engaged, 19,023 being in Natal.

## OCCUPATION

It should be noted, however, that 12,073 are engaged in commerce, finance, insurance occupations (not counting clerks), and of these 4,825 are in Natal. Over 6,000 Asiatics are engaged in personal service, and there are nearly 1,000 in the furniture trade; the majority of whom are in Natal. Transport and communication absorbs 3,500 Asiatics, and 2,000 participate in mining and quarrying. So much for the males, but the toll is not complete, for the females work also. There are 1,784 female agriculturists, and 600 engaged in commerce; 1,100 in personal service, and 63 as makers of food, drink and tobacco. Employed in industrial establishments throughout the Union there are 12,313 Asiatics, who draw in wages £362,126, and the Natal figures are 11,798 and £333,162 respectively.

Christian Asiatics number 8,716 compared with 157,015 non-Christian; the Hindus being in a big majority with 169,163. There are 26,917 Mahomedans and 12,472 Buddhists.

Birth of Asiatics in the Union between 1913 and 1923 have ranged from 6,000 to 7,883 in 1922. Deaths have ranged from 5,022 in 1918 to 1896 in 1923, the lowest figure during the decade.

During 1923 there were 509 new arrivals and 3,039 permanent departures.

## RATIO OF SEXES

So far as the Indian population is concerned between 1911 and 1921, there was a slight decrease in respect of males, but a much bigger increase in respect of females. Thus the male figure has dropped from 93,886 to 94,346, but the total figure has risen from 147,791 to 161,339. Natal's quota has risen from 133,031 in 1911 to 141,336 in 1921. Between 1911 and the end of August of this year

there have been repatriated: 17,734 men, 7,810 women, 5,029 boys and 5,023 girls, a total of 36,596.

Figures show that in 1923 there were 211 cases of insolvency with assets of £44,961, and liabilities of £593,725.

## MAYVILLE AND DURBAN'S INDIAN VILLAGE SCHEME

## PROTEST TO THE ADMINISTRATOR

Pentling learned counsel's opinion on the Corporation's power to purchase and administer land out of the Borough, the Durban Town Council has withdrawn its letter to the Provincial Secretary. But the Mayville District Association, which has all along opposed the Indian village scheme at Cato Manor, is not satisfied, and has addressed a strong protest to the Provincial Secretary.

The Town Council's statement of policy was published in the *Natal Mercury* on Sept. 25. On Oct. 1 the secretary of the Mayville Association addressed the Provincial Secretary, and in the course of his letter said:—

"My Executive find nothing in the report which would induce them to do otherwise than, more strenuously if possible, repeat their previous protest against the confirmation of the transfer of a section of the Mayville Public Health area to the Durban Corporation for the purpose of establishing an Indian village."

Declaring seriatim with the policy outlined by the Council, the letter proceeds:—

(1) The Council's statement in this paragraph is merely evasive. There is ample land within the Borough suitable for Indian occupation, and it would have been nearer the truth if it had been stated that there is no land within the Borough suitable for Indian occupation, which could be alienated without depreciation of its value if retained for European occupation.

(2) It is not apparent to my Executive what reason, other than a purely selfish reason, exists as to why a small Indian town or location cannot be as easily created within the Borough as outside.

(3) The selfish attitude of the Council is made perfectly plain in this paragraph. To enhance the value of their property upon the Ocean Beach frontage, they propose to take steps which will undoubtedly impair the value of Mayville European property owners' holdings.

(4) The occupation of the Eastern Vlei by Indians and the existing conditions are not of recent origin; the same state of affairs has existed for some years. Successive Town Councils have repeatedly evaded tackling the question, and apparently now the position is being forced upon the present Council, they have no better policy to formulate than to foist their undesirable residents upon a community which has repeatedly expressed its preparedness on reasonable terms to share the problems of the Durban Municipality, but which emphatically protests against shouldering them alone.

Eastern Vlei is not the only unalienated Durban Corporation land, and my Executive are satisfied the Medical Officer of Health can find no reason to condemn the Stella Bush, for example, the accessibility of which for Indians working in the Borough is considerably greater than the site of the proposed Indian village.

The Town Council admit in the second portion of this paragraph that their public health by-laws are not being carried out. They could probably with equal truth have asserted that they had been in abeyance for some years, and it has not been found advisable to enforce these by-laws in the Borough itself; residents in the Mayville area have even less guarantee that the expense of enforcing these by-

laws will be faced once the Indians have been dumped outside the Borough boundaries.

(5) My Executive admit that the Indian population probably predominates upon the Cato Manor Estate, but the European population is on the increase, and there is little doubt but that if events are allowed to pursue their natural course, the Indian will gradually give place to the European.

The Town Council's suggestion (in paragraph 8), that the establishment of the village will add materially to the District Association's revenue resources, leaves the Association sceptical.

"My Association may be entirely blind to their own interests," the secretary writes, "but they certainly view the scheme in the direct opposite to the rosy light placed thereon in this paragraph for their benefit, and will be perfectly content if the Durban Corporation retain within the Borough the revenue resources with the responsibilities which they propose so generously to hand over to the Mayville Public Health area."

After dealing with the other paragraphs in the Town Council's statement, the Association proceed to deal with aspects "apparently regarded as too trivial for the Town Council to refer to in their statement of policy." It is pointed out that the proposed purchase of land on the Feniscowles Estate will affect some of the residents of Manor Gardens, and they are entitled to know more about the Council's intentions.

"The Town Council maintain complete silence upon the form of control which it is intended should operate in the proposed village," the Association writes. "Being beyond the Borough boundary, the existing municipal by-laws presumably will not apply, and my Association has repeatedly represented circumstances which adversely affect closely settled rural areas and which no existing legislation covers."

#### SOME QUESTIONS FOR THE COUNCIL

"The extreme vagueness of the position if ever the village is established is indicated by the following queries:—

"Who will maintain law and order, the Borough or the Union Government Police?"

"Will all residents in the village be direct tenants of the Durban Corporation, without any right of subletting?"

"Will the village be reserved exclusively for Asiatic occupation?"

"If Asiatics may purchase property in the village, either in leasehold or freehold, will the deed of purchase include a personal occupation clause sufficiently stringent to ensure that no system of a private Indian landlordism, with all its attendant evils, can ever exist?"

"Is the village to be purely residential and agricultural, or will trading and manufacturing licences be granted therein?"

"Whilst it is presumed residents in the village will be entirely unrestricted in their movements from and to the village, will strangers of all races be able to enter and leave with the same facility, thus enabling trading and manufacturing licences, if any, to compete with licences outside the village, and, if so, will the conditions, control, and issue of licences within the village be identical with that existing outside, i.e., will all licences be Provincial as distinct from Municipal, and the grant of same be in the hands of the Rural Licensing Board?"

"What is the proposed main artery for traffic between the Borough and the village? If a present Provincial road or roads, are the Provincial authorities prepared to undertake the road improvements necessary to adequately meet the increased volume of traffic of all descriptions. If any other route is the selected one, do the Durban Municipality undertake to construct and maintain the road to the satisfaction of the Provincial authorities? In either

case, what form of traffic control is to be exercised, and by whom?"

"My Executive desires me to respectfully urge, in conclusion, that in view of the extremely vague statement of the Durban Town Council's policy and the many matters not dealt with therein, ample justification is afforded for a definite veto being placed upon the proposal to relieve Durban burgesses of the undesirable neighbours at the expense of European residents and property owners of Mayville."

### THE STANDERTON CASE

#### DEFINITE STATEMENT BY MINISTER

A correspondent of the *Natal Witness* writes from Pretoria on Oct. 7:—

The Minister of Justice, in an interview to-day on the subject of recent trials and sentences in cases as between Europeans and Natives, was asked whether it would not improve the likelihood of a fair result if such cases were taken wholly from juries and given to a judge.

It will be understood that the law, as modified a few days ago, disenables the jury only when the accused so demands.

The Minister replied very definitely, saying, "It is my opinion that we have already gone too far in taking trials out of the hands of juries."

Asked whether the law as it stands does not provide for the redress of Native injuries more than many suppose, whether, for instance, the Natives could not help themselves by instituting civil action for damages when they may have suffered assaults, and whether it would not be worth their while to organise societies of legal help and collect funds for the emment of counsel, he replied, "Yes, I had not thought upon those points, but the association suggested might prove very useful to the Natives. It should certainly help them much more than the non-co-operation we now hear of. No good can possibly come of that."

#### INDIGNATION MEETING AT THE CAPE

The following has been handed to Reuter at Capetown for publication:—"At a large gathering of Natives of the Cape, called on Sunday the 12th inst., under the auspices of the Industrial and Commercial Workers' Union, held at Ndabeni, and presided over by Mr. A. Ntisa, the following resolutions were moved by Mr. I. B. Nyombolo, general secretary, and seconded by the Rev. A. Mtinkulu, and carried unanimously:

"That this meeting of Natives of the Cape views with great alarm and deprecates the sentence given by Justice Van Pittus to a Dutch farmer who recently brutally murdered a Native girl. This meeting is of the opinion that while there seems to be no amelioration of miscarriage of the law in Courts of Justice in cases in which white and black are involved, the time has arrived that the jury system should be abolished, and substituted by either (a) the appointment of assessors, or (b) the inclusion of black juries in all cases in which the white and black races are involved.

"Further the meeting whole-heartedly supports the argument advanced and the resolutions introduced by Father Rand in the Synod on this question, and while it condemns the tone of the argument of the Dutch Reformed Church ministers, and deplors the statement made by the Minister of Justice (Mr. Tielman Roos) on the Standerton case, whose viewpoint is to perpetuate the existence of the spirit of looking upon the black race with suspicion, and the racialism between white and black, which situation will ultimately lead to lawlessness and reprisals being committed detrimental to the future of South Africa.

"Whereas it is evident that the Government is not

prepared to embark on its policy of complete segregation, whose object was to give the black man the opportunity to govern himself and develop his own civilisation without any connecting link in the Parliament of the Union, and whereas the introduction of partial segregation has as its object the creation of a huge reservoir of cheap black labour for the farming community, this meeting is of the opinion that the introduction of partial segregation will only be a policy of despair, and of passing on to posterity a more complicated and delicate problem to solve, and the meeting therefore implores the Union Government, in the best interests of white civilisation and of the future of the country, to embark on a policy of equality of opportunity to all men within the circles of its government."

### INSULT TO INDIAN WOMANHOOD

The following correspondence which passed between Dr. Tagore and Lord Lytton appears in the *Indian Social Reformer* :—

6, Dwarkanath Tagore Lane,  
Calcutta, 22nd August, 1924.

Your Excellency,

I am being urged by my countrymen to assist them in giving expression to their sense of indignation at the remark made by your Excellency in referring to the complaint regarding police outrages on Indian women.

There can be no room for doubt that the great majority of my countrymen, who have come across Your Excellency's reported words, have been profoundly hurt by what they have taken them to mean,—a meaning, so far as I am aware, which has up to now not been authoritatively stated to have been wrongly attributed to those words.

At the same time, knowing what I do of Your Excellency personally and of the traditions of chivalry which are your inheritance, I find it extremely difficult to believe that it could have been Your Excellency's intention to cast aspersions on the fair name of the women of our country, or even to hurt the feelings of my countrymen.

So I feel that I owe it to Your Excellency no less than to myself, frankly to write and ask what Your Excellency's real meaning was, before saying anything further about the matter.

Trusting Your Excellency will excuse any liberty which I may have unknowingly taken.

I am, Yours sincerely,

(Sd.) Rabindra Nath Tagore.

### ● LORD LYTTON'S REPLY

Government House,  
Calcutta, 23rd August, 1924.

Dear Dr. Tagore,

I gladly avail myself of the opportunity which your letter affords me of explaining to you the meaning of the words in my speech at the Police Parade, Dacca, which have given rise to so much controversy.

It appears from the comments on this speech that, in addition to much deliberate misinterpretation, there has been some genuine misunderstanding of the words which I used. This I am anxious to remove as I should be sorry if any one were to receive a false impression of what I actually said.

The misunderstanding is apparently due to the fact that some of the words which I used have a different meaning in English and in Bengali. I am told that in Bengali the equivalents of the words "Indian men" or "Indian women" convey the same meaning as the words "the men of India" or "the women of India." In English, of course, there is a great difference between the two phrases. The latter is no doubt synonymous with the manhood or

womanhood of India, but the former, in the context in which I used it, could only mean "certain men or women of Indian nationality," an entirely different thing.

It would be useless for me to try and deprive those who wish to think evil of me of the justification for their opinions, which they have found in my words, but I am anxious to remove from the minds of my friends the slightest ground for believing that I had said, or was capable of saying, anything disrespectful of Indian womanhood or Indian manhood. Such an action would be impossible on my part, for my respect for womanhood knows no bounds of race or country. I could no more insult the women of India than I could insult the women of my own country. But my remarks had nothing to do with the honour of Indian women in general nor with the chivalry of Indian men. They applied only to the action of certain individuals at whose conduct I confessed myself shocked. If an Indian who loved and respected England were to say that he had been distressed to learn of cases of disgraceful conduct of English men or English women, I should not be so foolish as to cry out that he had insulted the manhood or womanhood of England. Indeed, some of my critics, in the mistaken belief that they were thereby vindicating the honour of their own countrymen, have committed the very offence they were attributing to me by assigning a low standard of morality to English women in general. By such remarks they have not injured me or my countrymen, they have but done an injustice to themselves. Cannot they see that the honour of Indian womanhood rests on a pinnacle raised by its own inherent virtue far beyond the reach of any man to disparage and that if I had attempted to slander it, it would not be Indians but Englishmen who would have cause to cry shame?

What I said at Dacca had shocked me, was to learn of instances in Bengal where a man or group of men for political purposes had offered inducements to women of the poorest and lowest class to bring false charges against the police, involving the dishonour of themselves as well as of their own countrymen. My repetition of the word "Indian" in that sentence was intended to emphasise the fact that in such cases no race hatred was involved since all those concerned belonged to the same race.

In saying this I made no charge against the womanhood of India, none against its manhood, and I mentioned no case that was *sub-judice*. Instances of this kind I referred to are obviously rare, but they had attracted my notice soon after I arrived in the country and long before I had even heard of the particular incidents to which with remarkable unanimity a certain group of newspapers have fitted my remarks.

You know me well enough to understand that I could not willingly say anything to hurt the feelings or wound the susceptibilities of your countrymen. I hope, however, that I have now made it clear even to those who do not know me as well as you do that my words could not have the general application which has been attributed to them.

I am, Yours sincerely,

(Sd.) Lytton.

A New York cable states that the United States now has a virtual corner in the world's supply of wheat and rye, due to heavy rains in Europe and Canada. Foreigners are buying millions of bushels for cash, and speculators who were shrewd enough to foresee the present conditions are making fortunes. One speculator is credited with amassing £500,000.



## JAPAN'S RIGHT UNDER COVENANT

The London special correspondent of the *Natal Mercury* writes from London on Oct. 3:—

Japan has now the right to bring its immigration problems before the League of Nations. That briefly is the result of the compromise reached at Geneva on Tuesday.

The amendment finally adopted, subject to acceptance by the different Governments, provides that if the question is held by the Council to be a matter solely within the domestic jurisdiction of a State, such a decision shall not prevent consideration of the situation by the Council or Assembly under Article 2 of the Covenant.

The aggressor party is determined as one which refuses to submit to arbitration or comply with a judicial award carrying the unanimous recommendation of the Council, or failing to recognise a dispute as one of domestic jurisdiction. In the latter case, however, a State is only presumed to be an aggressor if it has not previously submitted the question to the Council or the Assembly under Article 2 of the Pact.

Following a settlement by the Council, then the Council is entitled only to make a recommendation which, however, will not be sanctioned if the State makes the question one of war. The conflict over these points was sharp while it lasted, and according to *The Times*, and brought into disagreeable relief the fact that the Home Government and the Dominions may have different points of view.

It must be clearly understood, adds the correspondent, that there was no friction, all working together unitedly at the recent meetings, but it was evident that whereas the principal preoccupation of the Dominions was to preserve the sovereignty of their jurisdiction, the chief preoccupation of the British delegation was to get the Protocol signed.

According to the *Morning Post's* Sydney correspondent, Mr. Bruce telegraphed Sir Littleton Groom, the Australian representative at Geneva, that the Commonwealth Government insists on the inclusion of Article 6 of the Protocol, which gives every country the right to settle its own domestic affairs.

A Reuter's message from Geneva dated Oct. 6, says that up to the present 11 States, including France and Belgium, but not Great Britain, have signed the Disarmament Protocol.

### VIEWS OF MR. PATRICK DUNCAN

Johannesburg, Oct. 3 (Reuter).—In the course of an interview to-day, Mr. Patrick Duncan, who was Minister of the Interior in the Smuts Administration, stated that in the absence of an opportunity to give the matter mature thought, he would not care to discuss dogmatically the implications of the amendments of Articles 5 and 6 of the Disarmament Protocol adopted by the League of Nations at Geneva.

At the first impression, he said, he thought the more important of the amendments was that affecting Article 6. He took it that the effect of this amendment was that if one nation had a quarrel with another on some matter which the other nations regarded as solely domestic, it could bring the questions before the League of Nations. Furthermore, a nation could only be adjudged an aggressor when it had failed so to bring the matter forward.

"This, I take it," he went on, "gives the League of Nations a right to take into consideration disputes between nations, notwithstanding the fact that the case is regarded as one coming within the domestic competence of the nation concerned."

Mr. Duncan said that without studying the matter a good deal, he would not like to say whether this was a commendable decision or not. The amendment certainly seemed to extend the jurisdiction of the League to matters not originally intended to come within its purview.

## News in Brief

The skeleton recently dug up near Moom is believed by experts to be about 15,000 to 20,000 years old. Two further skeletons have been discovered which are believed to date from the Bronze Age, chiefly on the evidence of rings which have been found near them.

The Federal Parliament has passed the Canadian Tariff Bill, which embodies the reciprocal trade agreement granting preference to the products of the respective countries.

The Australian Parliament has passed a Bill reducing the income taxes ten per cent.

The late Mr. J. R. Gamble, president of the Spiritualist Church of South Africa, was cremated on Oct. 5 at the Brixton Crematorium. The body was conveyed through the grounds of the Crematorium in a coffin draped in purple and white, and was followed by a long line of mourners. A service was held at the Crematorium, and the body in the coffin was then placed on a large track of fuel and thrust into the furnace.

Simla, Oct. 9.—Fifteen persons were killed and five injured and a number of buildings damaged as a result of an explosion of a magazine at Kotal, in Rajputana, when gunpowder was being distributed for the Dusserah festival.—Reuter.

Mr. James O'Grady, Labour member of Parliament for South-East Leeds, has been appointed Governor of Tasmania. It will be recalled that Mr. O'Grady, who was a furniture maker and former president of the Trade Union Congress, was freely mentioned as the probable first British Ambassador to the Soviet Republic.

The late Mr. William Royce, Labour member for Holland-with-Boston, was appointed Governor of Tasmania in June last, but died on the top of a 'bus on the way from the House of Commons a day or two later.

The second anniversary of the Saraswati Educational Institute of Port Elizabeth will be celebrated on the 26th inst. at 2, Rudolph Street. A special programme has been arranged. All are kindly invited.

## Free ! Free !!

On Tuesday, the 21st October at 7. p. m. at the Parsee Rustomjee Hall, Queen St. east, the Indian Community is kindly invited to a demonstration of wireless telephony enabling the people assembled to listen to Johannesburg and Capetown broadcasting stations received on a Burndept wireless receiving set.

All are kindly invited to attend. No charges. Don't miss this unique opportunity.

O. H. A. JHAVERI, (Chairman.)

V. LAWRENCE, (Hon. Secretary.)

M. K. Gandhi Library and Parsee Rustomjee Hall Committee.