

Indian Opinion

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NOTES AND NEWS

IN an interview Lord Sinha, who, as Under-Secretary of State for India, piloted the 'Government of India Act, of 1919' in its passage through the House of Lords is reported to have paid the following tribute to the late Mr. Montagu.

My relations with Mr. Montagu were personal and more intimate than those of any other Indian and I feel overwhelmed with grief at the news of his death. I know him not only as Secretary of State for India but also before he took office. Knowing him as I did all I can say is that I do not think any Indian loved India more passionately than Mr. Montagu did. Whatever might be said of the party which he got through Parliament I know that his one object throughout was the advancement of India in the way of self Government.

In the course of his speech at the opening of the Indian Legislature Lord Reading, referring to the less favourable position of Indians in South Africa, is reported to have dwelt on the serious implications of the Natal Boroughs Ordinance on the future of Indians, with special vocational training in connection with towns in South Africa. He said the situation created was engaging the most earnest attention of himself and the Government, and no time will be lost in making emphatic representations to the Imperial Government. Every endeavour would be made to discover a remedy, but in view of the powers of the Dominions in domestic affairs the position was delicate, and a solution would not be easy. Patience would again be necessary. He recalled that when the position in Kenya seemed very unfavourable, temperate arguments and full and frank discussion resulted in a better understanding of the Indian point of view, and a measure of relief of the Indian disabilities. He promised to receive a deputation on the question, and hoped later to discuss the question. In the light of further information he hoped to receive prospects of finding a solution of the present difficulties.

The Newcastle correspondent of the *Natal Mercury* reports a meeting held on Wednesday Jan. 21, to hear Mr. O. R. Nel, M. L. A., for the Newcastle Division, and Mr. W. Cox, M. P. C., Maritzburg on the Asiatic question. Mr. A. J. Ryder, chairman of the Chamber of Commerce took the chair and lengthy speeches were made on the usual lines by both the members, after which, the following resolution was passed to be forwarded to the Prime Minister and the Minister for the Interior:—

"That this meeting of the residents of Newcastle and district thanks the Government for increasing the repatriation bonus to Indians leaving South Africa, and for giving assent to the Natal Boroughs Ordinance, and respectfully urges the necessity for legislation to prohibit the purchase of land and house property by Asiatics, to prohibit the issue of new trading licences to Asiatics, and to take such other measures as may be necessary to solve this urgent problem."

A Reuter's message from Bombay dated January 25, states:—

In reply to an invitation from Sir Dinshaw Petit

to join a deputation from the Imperial Indian Citizenship Association, to the Viceroy, on the South African question, the Maharajah of Bikaner (the Chancellor of the Chamber of Princes) telegraphed regretting his inability to join the deputation owing to important engagements, but assuring the Association of the sympathy of the Indian Princes towards the efforts of the Indians to obtain an honoured position overseas.

Mr. T. Boydell (Minister of Posts and Telegraphs) in the course of an address at a public meeting in Port Elizabeth is reported to have referred to some Bills to be introduced in the Union Parliament. In making some references to the Press Mr. Boydell said that it was their intention in the Electoral Act, to pay a little attention to their friends of the fourth estate, the Press. They intended to lay it down that every article appearing in every paper during the course of an election campaign, be it a leading article, special article or letter, should be signed with the name and address of the writer. They were not singling out any section of the Press, and the *Pact* newspapers, the *Guardian* and *Burger* would be put on the same footing as the *Eastern Province Herald*. "It is a very dangerous thing to go against the Press—to muzzle the Press," declared Mr. John Bowen, who was one of those on the platform. "It is not against the Press, it is against the stab in the back, the stab in the dark," retorted Mr. Boydell. "What about the *Pact* pamphlets?" sang out a voice, but the interruption was ignored by the Minister, who quickly changed the subject.

The muzzling of the Press is a common thing in India under the British Rule. But it will be most interesting to see how it will work in South Africa where people are free to speak and to write and to act as they will, and where with all the freedom of a bird that they possess they are yet not satisfied.

In another reference to the Electoral Law the Minister is reported to have said that one important change to be made was that the Cape Province was to be brought into line with the other Provinces in making a man vote where he lived. "So far as we possibly can," declared Mr. Boydell, "we intend to put a stop to this manipulation of the black man's vote like a game on a chequer board. We are not going to deprive any man, black or white, of any power or privilege he has, but we think that this change will make for cleaner, purer, and more honest politics."

Lieut. Colonel Amery, Secretary of State for the Colonies, in opening an office and showroom established in Westminster by the Government of British Guiana is reported by Reuter to have said, there were few richer parts of the Empire than

Guiana, and few less developed owing to the lack of capital and population. He was glad to think that the Government and the people of India were becoming aware of the fact that British Guiana provided a favourable opening for Indians of all classes, free from the political difficulties and objections which stood in the way of emigration to other parts of the Empire. Lieut Colonel Amery said he understood that the Government of India were making a final investigation, through a Commissioner, into the prospects for Indians. He expressed the hope that the outcome would be a steady flow of settlers, and a marked stimulus in the development of the Colony, in which he anticipated a great development in sugar production and the rice crop. The developing of the remarkable diamond discoveries might lead to other developments.

In the Council of State Lord Rawlinson, Commander-in-Chief of the Indian Army, accepted an Indian motion urging the British Government to remove the bar against the admission of Indian students to the University Officer's Training Corps says a Reuter's message from Delhi. The bar was adopted by the Imperial Parliament recently on the recommendations of the Lytton Committee.

A prominent missionary in China has informed Reuter "that the military authorities in Fukien are compelling farmers to grow opium. One thousand five hundred Christian families refused, and 200 head of families have been beheaded." Who says barbaric days are over? They seem to us to be just beginning.

The *New Leader* (London) While referring to the work of the Labour Party in the New Parliament admits the fact "that the Labour Government did nothing effective for Indian Self-government or even for the protection of Indian workers" "Even if it were to mean," proceeds the journal, "a postponement of our return to office, we should dissipate the belief which our inaction may have fostered that we are sound imperialists as other parties are." The journal advises the Independent Labour Party to concentrate all its efforts on India, which it characterises as the "gravest of all our Imperial problems"

A Labour Women's Conference recently held in England passed the following resolution on India's claim to Home Rule —That the Conference expresses the hope that the Government will support any further legislation in order to secure for the people of India the same measure of self-Government which is in operation in Canada, Australia, and South Africa.

It is reported in the recent exchanges from India that Mr C. R. Das has made over all his properties including his present residence to a board of trustees. The whole estate is to be utilised for charitable and philanthropic purposes after paying off his debts secured and unsecured. Among the principal purposes for which the estate is to be used is included the establishment of a college for Indian women, religious education for Hindu boys, etc.

Every Indian cannot but view with the greatest admiration the great sacrifice Mr. C. R. Das has made for the sake of his country and his people. Few such examples as so nobly set by Mr. C. R. Das are to be seen in the present selfish world.

THE ASIATIC PROBLEM

WE reproduce in another column an article appearing in the *Natal Mercury* under the nom de plume "Townsmen" on the Asiatic question wherein the writer makes some suggestions as to the solution of this burning question. Everyone is anxious to see this problem solved once and for all and any suggestions towards that direction are naturally welcomed. Of course, a great deal of vituperation is indulged in by anti-Asiatics but they hardly come forward with some sensible suggestions which would be worth considering. The writer of the article in question seems to have made a study of the Asiatic question and he deserves credit for the attempt he has made at suggesting a solution. In our opinion, however, his suggestions are highly selfish and narrowminded.

The writer admits that the Indian labourer has played no inconsiderable part in the development of the various industries of this country. He has nothing against the Indian, "as a labourer pure and simple."

He is against the "Arab trader" who, he says, "had no part in the development of the industry, but simply came along and batted on it." Then he complains of the competition of the Indian with the European being unfair and "that because of his inferior scale of living, necessitating much lower expenditure, the Indian can sell his goods and labour at a much lower rate than his European competitor."

Now in suggesting a solution the writer says, "consideration of the question must be fair to all parties." The presence of the Indian labourer, he thinks, is still necessary but not so with the Asiatic trader, who, he suggests, should be reasonably compensated and "he must go at all costs."

The biggest stumbling block in the way of a settlement of this problem, however, appears to him in the question of the Natal-born Indian. He admits, he cannot be deported. But with regard to him he suggests, that he could be dealt with along economic lines by forcing him to adopt a higher standard of living; but this, he says, "is about as far as we can go" and suggests that if he wishes to be repatriated so much the better but that if he desires to stay in South Africa he must be compensated and then segregated.

This is the solution the writer of the article in question suggests and advises the legislators not to tinker with the subject any longer but to take this drastic measure and, "like all drastic measures," he says, "there must be some degree of unfairness, but with the reasonable compensation proposed the bitter pill will be made more palatable." If this step is not immediately taken, the writer sees war in the near future with the "yellow hords." He dreams of a white Sunny South Africa and asks his fellowmen to be up and doing towards the realisation of that dream.

Well, we do think this is but a poor solution of this great question. Sense of justice and equity does not come in it at all. The writer is not just even to those born in this country whose only home, he admits, is here; and yet he would keep even them in servile conditions. The complaint of the writer that the Indian trader had come and simply batted on the industry of this country is not at all

fair. The Indian trader had come here just as any other had done to seek a livelihood and, moreover, he being a British subject had a better right to be here than many aliens in this country who are left unmolested.

If the root of the whole question is, as it is declared to be, the unfair competition of the Indian with the European there can be but one solution and that is, to standardise the system of trade so that the same standard may apply to Indian as applies to European.

The talk of repatriation, segregation, deprivation of the right to trade and to own properties etc., although denied, is nevertheless worse than Bolshevism, for the latter brings instant death and is therefore less barbarous than slow poisoning by means of sugar-coated pills.

THE ASIATIC IN NATAL

A VEXED PROBLEM

SOME SUGGESTIONS BY "TOWNSMAN"

The following article appears in the *Natal Mercury* dated January 24, under the nom de plume "Townsmar" —

Apart from the question of the Municipal franchise, which only touches the fringe of the problem, there has lately been quite a lull in what is familiarly known as the Asiatic agitation, in fact there seems to be a disposition to relax efforts in the guidance of public opinion on this all absorbing topic. Why we should be quite content to leave this vital matter in the hands of the Government is not at all apparent in view of past experience. It will be remembered that at a certain S.A.P. Congress, held some time ago in Durban, delegates from all Natal came hot with resolutions galore on the Asiatic question, and went back to those who sent them—with little doses of soothing syrup labelled "Leave it to me, my boys!" In the end, the ill-fated Class Areas Bill was evolved, and we still are—as we were before. What seems to be urgently required is a little more ginger in the talk and actions of the European populace of Natal. The time for platitudes and inaction has gone, we must strengthen the hands of the Government—if they need strengthening—and we must tell them in no uncertain terms that the public of Natal now insist on immediate action, which will right the position once and for all. In the endeavour to bring a little sane reasoning to bear on the subject and thereby to find the logical solution of this difficult question, this article is written. Let us first assemble the known facts in some order before we examine them. We now:—

1. There are at present over 160,000 Asiatics in South Africa, of whom about 90 per cent. are domiciled in Natal.
2. The immigration of indentured Indians into Natal began in 1860, and continued off and on until 1911, when it was finally stopped.
3. The importation of Indian labourers took place owing to the insufficiency of local labour, which was largely handicapped the Natal planters and others. The Indian labourer has played no inconsiderable part in the development of the sugar, tea, and coal-mining industries of Natal.
4. The period of indenture was at first for a term of five years, at the end of which time the labourer became "free," and the majority were allowed to settle in the country—engaging in farming, market-gardening, hawking, etc.
5. The Indian labourer was followed into the country by what is known as the "Arab trader,"

who had no part in the development of industry, but simply came along and batted on it.

7. In addition to the Arab trader, there are quite a number of original "Free Indians" or their descendants who are engaged in trading.

8. Over two-fifths of the Indian population in Natal at the present moment were actually born in the Union.

9. The accumulated competition of the Indian with the European in every walk of life, be it commercial, industrial, or domestic, has now assumed such proportions that the matter has largely become a question of the survival of European civilisation in Natal.

10. The competition of the Indian with the European is unfair—the two races are on different planes and the Indian can live comfortably in his accustomed manner and habits on approximately one-fifth of the income which is necessary for the European.

11. That because of his inferior scale of living necessitating much lower expenditure, the Indian can sell his goods, if he is a trader, or his labour, if he is an artisan, at a much lower rate than his European competitor.

12. That the Indian, as a labourer pure and simple, may be still a necessity in Natal, but that

13. There is no necessity for the Indian or Arab trader at all.

14. That Natal is regularly denuded of capital in large amounts, by reason of the remittances regularly sent to India by Indian traders of all sorts.

As an example of the stranglehold which the Asiatic has on Natal, I may mention the following figures which have been courteously supplied by the officials of one borough:—

The town in question has a white population of about 2,500, and an Asiatic population of just on 1,000. Approximately 10 per cent. of the rateable value of this borough is owned, and mostly occupied by Asiatics. There are 71 trading licences in the hands of Europeans, of which 28 are retail dealers. There are 48 Asiatic trading licences, of which 17 are retail dealers. Thus about 60 per cent. of the retail dealers' licences in this town are in the hands of Asiatics.

Coming to the district in question—excluding the town—we find the position very much worse, for out of 57 retail dealers' licences there are no less than 39 in the hands of Asiatics.

Now these facts make formidable reading; they show the average for March and give one with the interests of a White South Africa at heart most indignantly to think, as the Frenchman eloquently puts it. What can be done to right this matter, for it is quite certain that although the figures given above only apply to one borough and district of Natal, yet they will be reflected in much the same proportion over the rest of the Province. Consideration of the question must be fair to all parties, and it must be admitted that there is much to be said for the Indian labourer. He was brought here by our forbears; he has much to do with the development of our industries, and it appears that in competition with the Native labourer his presence is still necessary. Not so, however, with the Asiatic trader, he came here of his own volition, no Government ever asked for him, and he was not expected—much less wanted. His presence in the country is not necessary for any economic reason; in fact economics demand his removal.

Then there is point number 8, which appears to be the biggest stumbling block in the way of a settlement of this problem. We cannot deport the Natal-born Indian, this is his only country, and if he has no right to remain in the country of his birth, then he has no right to live at all!

We may perhaps deal with the Natal-born Indian along economic lines by forcing him to adopt a higher standard of living, but this is about as far as

we can go. The segregation provided for in the Class Areas Bill may possibly be the only way out, but we must only segregate those born in the country; the others must go—there is no other course. Then there is the trader, what is to be done with him? He came into the country of his own free will by the open door in the first place. He now has vested interests which cannot lightly be interfered with, but in the wider interests of the country at large there must be interference coupled with just and fair treatment. Any seizure of the property or interests of any class of our population, without due compensation, would be reducing our scheme of government to a state of Bolshevism. Therefore, if the Indian trader is to lose his property, his licence, and his goodwill, it is a *sine qua non* that reasonable compensation must be paid to him. If he is a Colonial-born, then he should, after such compensation, be segregated with the others if he desires to stay in South Africa.

The compensation paid for goodwill, or the purchase price paid for the various properties and businesses would not be entire loss, as these businesses could in many instances be sold as going concerns to European traders. One point which occurs very forcibly to me is this; that at least 50 per cent. of the total loss incurred by the State by reason of such compensation of Indian traders should be borne by those licence-holders who stand to benefit directly by the elimination of admittedly unfair Asiatic competition. I suggest that the Treasury could reasonably be recouped to this extent by means of an extra licence fee payable annually by such beneficiaries over a period of years. The balance of 50 per cent. nett loss could be reasonably borne by the general tax-payer of the country in view of the European civilisation in South Africa, and more especially in Natal, so far as it is at present very materially jeopardised, would be assured.

This is, I think, the only way of dealing with the Asiatic trader in South Africa; it is of no use our legislators tinkering with the subject any longer; the only real remedy for the existing state of affairs is this drastic one, and like all drastic measures there must be some degree of unfairness, but with the reasonable compensation proposed the bitter pill will be made more palatable.

Now a few words with regard to segregation; this, as I have said, must be only for those Indians born in the country—the others must be repatriated at all costs. There should be only a limited number of licences allowed in the places set apart for segregation, and these licences should naturally be issued to Asiatics. The locations, bazaars, villages, call them what you like, must be built on modern town-planning lines—and no European should be allowed to enter under any pretext, save of course, the necessary officials.

With all this, it would be only fair to maintain for some years the presently existing outwardly open door, and free passages with a grant of money should be offered to all Colonial-born Indians who desire to leave the country permanently.

If there are any special hardships in regard to repatriation in certain cases, as there probably would be, a Board could be set up with special powers to deal with these and award reasonable compensation or take such other steps as may be expedient.

Finally, it will be urged in some quarters no doubt that these proposals are untenable, the scheme will cost too much, it will bring the country to financial ruin and so on. I can imagine all the arguments and perhaps vituperation I shall have flung at my necessarily anonymous head. But let me say this; I have not gone into this matter so deeply without considering the *cons* as well as the *pros*, and whatever the *cons* may be, no matter what it

costs us now, it is my firm conviction that unless we Europeans in this country tackle the matter and settle it once and for all, right now, there is only one alternative, which I can already see looming in the mists on the horizon. It may be a long time coming, or it may be close at hand, but it is undoubtedly going to take the shape of WAR. Let us take drastic action now and not wait until the yellow hordes are fully awakened for the fray. Let us make this entirely a white man's country, for it is good logic that the yellow peril as it exists for us will disappear in exact ratio as we fill this sunny South Africa of ours with white men! In the words of a famous recruiting speaker—"Let them sink in."

OUR LONDON LETTER

[BY OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT]

1st January, 1925

To-day is New Year's day but without the celebration that accompanies it in South Africa. It is like any other working day in the week.

The reminders of the birth of the New Year were the watch-night services in the churches, the hostings of the syrens, and, of course, the Scotch people celebrating the occasion in their own peculiar way.

Christmas, to one who comes from down South, was not without its disappointments. There was neither snow nor log fires blazing! It was just such a day as one may have in South Africa in the winter months; and in vain did one look for the Christmas atmosphere of the days of Dickens.—No turkeys and plum puddings, geese and mince pies were invisible. Oh! No! they appeared thousands to vanish as miraculously as they came.

Mr. H. S. L. Polak is away on tour in India and is not expected back till after January. Mr. Polak is as ever interested in things that matter to humanity.

Sir A. C. Chatterjee has been appointed High Commissioner for India in England.

The night of the election, when the results were screened on the buildings facing Trafalgar Square was not a night easily to be forgotten. The people in thousands and tens of thousands stood as if sanctified wherever there was standing space, in that poured without cessation, well into the early hours of the morning. There is nothing like a London crowd for numbers or enthusiasm or order!

And such were the crowds also which congregated in countless numbers round and about the Centoph in Whitehall on Armistice Day, the 11th November, 1924, and the observation of the two minutes' silence was as perfect as man can make. On that day, party and politics were forgotten and even man, woman and child was there to pay their homage to the glorious dead. Wreaths from far and wide were placed on the plinth of the Centoph. South Africa's was there and so too a beautiful wreath from the Government of India, the princes and peoples of India. And as I looked on the scene for its subdued grandeur and greatness and sorrow for the heroic dead of a nation, I marvelled not at the greatness and prayed for the day when Indians in South Africa will also remember their great heroic dead. Even on ordinary days of the week, practically every Britisher in passing the Centoph raises his hat in silent homage to all that the Centoph represents. May the day come when South African Indians will not only have a Centoph but memorials to their men, who in all things ever kept before them the cause of their own people and of the peoples among whom God has been pleased to place them.

The Guildhall Banquet by the Mayor of London was to be remembered for the utterance of Mr. Stanley Baldwin on the question of India. The speeches at the Banquet were broadcast and this is what Mr. Baldwin was heard to say: "The Government will be faced with problems of difficulty and importance in India. There are unmistakable signs in many parts of India that the tension between the Hindu and Mahomedan communities is more acute than at any time for years past. The political extremists have adopted tactics designed to wreck the existing form of Constitution and in Bengal terrorist organisations are at work which have made it necessary for the Viceroy to issue an Ordinance recently conferring special powers for the suppression of violent crime. The Government will support with their full authority the Government of India in suppressing crimes of that nature by whomsoever or upon whatsoever motive they are committed. One matter which will receive our earliest attention is the relief of the anxieties and financial difficulties of the Services in India but for whose loyalty and unswerving service our task would be impossible of achievement. Here we have available the advice of the Royal Commission presided over by Lord Lee of Fareham and I hope we shall be in a position to make a commencement at any early date."

The Government has since given effect to the recommendations of Lord Lee's Commission—the same recommendations which were rejected by the Indian Legislative Council at Delhi.

The New Year's Honours which are out to-day announce a G.C.S.I. for Lord Lee; K.C.I.E. for Mr. R. E. Holland who lately succeeded Sir C. S. Bayley on the Council of India; K.C.I.E. for Mr. Chatterjee, the High Commissioner designate for India. There are many honours for Indians in the list.

The year just passed is said to have been the wettest year for many years. The rains are on, as this letter is being written. The river Thames has overflowed its banks at places and at such places the houses are standing in water.

INDIA IN THE IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT

THE BENGAL ORDINANCE

In the House of Commons Colonel Wedgwood is reported to have said they did not want the example of Ireland repeated in India, and the operation of the Ordinance would have to be watched very carefully. Much as he hated coercion, he hated terrorism more, and his friends in India in the Home Rule movement had not to realise that the reforms which they and he had at heart were in a state of parlous jeopardy. If terrorism was shown in Bengal in the shape of assassination, all that they held dear ran the greatest risk at the present time. The reform scheme itself would be in jeopardy. They who believed in Indian Home Rule and were going to work for it without cessation knew quite well that they were a small minority in that House and in this country; the Government were overwhelmingly strong, and the action taken in Egypt ought to show his friends in India, as clearly as it showed him, the risks which they were running in giving a handle to the present Government to reverse the policy which had been that of the last three Governments in this country.

Mr. Scurr (Mile End, Lab.) raised the question of the enactment of the Bengal Ordinance, under which, he said, people could be seized by direction of the Government and imprisoned practically without charge. He drew special attention to the case of the Chief Executive Officer of Calcutta, who was arrested and taken to prison, although no charge had been made against him and no explanation given of this action, and there appeared to be no limitation to the period during which he could be confined. This kind of Ordinance and special

legislation did not really gain the object the Government desired. There were no members on that side of the House who would in any way encourage assassination or terrorism, but this action on the part of the Government of India led to the encouragement of assassination and terrorism.

Earl Winterton, Under Secretary, India Office (Horsham and Worthing), said Mr. Scurr had shown amazing Parliamentary courage in having raised this matter in the manner he did, having regard to the responsibility incurred by the Labour Government, of which he was an enthusiastic supporter. It was clear from what Mr. Scurr had said that his judgment in that matter was wholly mistaken. He did not sufficiently realise the gravity of the situation which confronted the Government of India when the Ordinance was promulgated. He was sure that Mr. Scurr would be the last person in the House to sympathise with the real motives and methods of those against whom the Ordinance was directed. The policy decided on had been fully accepted by the late Secretary of State (Lord Olivier) in the Labour Government. Those who knew Lord Olivier would not accuse him of any undue precipitancy in the matter. Mr. Scurr had used words which he hoped he would withdraw after reflection. He said that the Ordinance was the very thing which led to the encouragement of terrorism and assassination. That was a very serious and absolutely baseless charge, and was just the kind of statement that might have far-reaching effects in India. (Hear, hear.) Lord Olivier's decision had been accepted by Lord Birkenhead, who had given the matter most careful consideration.

Where there was a reasonable certainty that witnesses would come forward with a sense of security to give evidence, and that convictions would follow, prosecutions could still take place under the Ordinance. Where there was a strong presumption that witnesses would be intimidated, molested, and murdered there could be no recourse to trial in the ordinary manner. (Hear, hear.) The statement which Mr. Scurr had made as to repression never solving any problem was a meaningless phrase. Ordinary political agitation, even if it took an extremist form, was seldom, if ever, allayed by mere repression, and these exceptional weapons with which the Government of India had armed itself were not being, and would not be, used against political agitation, not even against what might be called extremist political agitation. Speeches of an extreme character had been made in India by Mr. Das and others against the Ordinance. No action had been taken nor would be taken against them. They were quite entitled to protest, if they thought fit, against the Ordinance. But he said most emphatically that where murder, terrorism, the bomb, and the revolver were the methods of opponents of Government in any part of the world, then the leaders of that Government would indeed be failing in their duty to themselves and to the general population if they did not rigorously repress the movement by depriving the instigators of their liberty. (Ministerial cheers.) How awful indeed would be the responsibility of the head of any Government who, knowing that his loyal subordinates—and here he would like to pay a tribute to the servants of the Government, whether Europeans or Indians, in Bengal, and especially the police—were in danger of their lives because of their loyalty, failed to take the steps which he knew he ought to take because he feared un instructed criticism in Parliament or in some other legislative chamber. (Cheers.) If the Government failed to take that step, and if any one of those servants of the Crown fell a victim to the bomb or the revolver, would not the executive head of the Government rightly be haunted for the rest of his life by the spectre of the man whom his own moral cowardice had betrayed? (Ministerial cheers.)

NATIVE PASS ORDINANCE

DEPUTATION RECEIVED BY GENERAL HERTZOG

Pretoria, Jan. 20 (Reuter) — Some time ago the Minister of Justice ordered that the Native Night Passes Ordinance of 1902, in its application to females, should be enforced as on Feb. 1.

To-day the Prime Minister in his capacity as Minister of Native Affairs, received a large and influential deputation of the joint European and Native Council, churches and other bodies on this question.

The members of the deputation urged delay in putting the order into operation on the grounds that the best means of dealing with the admitted evil of loose Native women in the towns had not been properly investigated, nor had Native opinion been consulted.

Mr. Howard Pim and others urged that the pass system would not attain its object.

The deputation was most sympathetically received by General Hertzog who, it is understood, said that the law must be carried out.

He would, however, consult with the Minister of Justice, and ask for the postponement of the operation of the order for six months.

He asked the joint Council to submit to him within three months a report suggesting the best method to be adopted with regard to the control of Native women in the towns.

EUROPEAN WOMEN'S DEPUTATION

Pretoria, Jan. 23 (Reuter) — A deputation consisting of representatives of the Women's Federation, The Women's S. A. P. and the Women's Nationalist Party, waited on the Prime Minister to-day, and assured him of their strongest support in the enforcement of the proposed Law regarding night passes for Native Women.

Mrs. De Waal, on behalf of the Women's Federation, urged that the Government should compel Native girls to carry monthly passes, and to be medically examined.

In connection with this matter it was learned in Pretoria this morning that the Government had decided to postpone the operation of the Act till May 1, and not for six months as previously stated.

News in Brief

According to a Geneva message a telegram was sent by Mr. Gandhi from India to Mr. Alexander representing the Society of Friends of Great Britain at the Opium Conference declaring that all India wanted suppression of the opium traffic, except for medicinal purposes.

A measure providing for the registration and protection of Trade Unions has been introduced by Sir Bhupendra Mitra in the Legislative Assembly says a Reuter's message from Delhi. The Bill provides *inter alia* that the minimum age for membership in a union be 15.

George Douglas, a South African mining engineer who according to his record came to this country at the age of five and was convicted 16 times for theft, fraud and forgery and finally deported and who has recently been sentenced at the Nottingham Quarter Sessions at Rifford to four years' penal servitude for a similar offence is reported to have made an amusing statement in the court, "that once a man was down in South Africa, whether black or white, it was very difficult for him to rise again."

The Chingleput (Madras) Mission is reported to have arranged to send to the Vatican Universal Exhibition at Rome, among a large number of exhibits, a likeness of His Holiness Pope Pius XI engraved on a single grain of rice.

Mr. J. E. R. Stephens, judge of the Kingston Court, Jamaica, has been appointed Judge of the Supreme Court of Kenya.

A Conference of the leaders of all political parties and communities, including loyalists, constitutionalists, Swarajists and non-co-operators, met under the chairmanship of Gandhi to draft a scheme of Swaraj suited to Indian genius and to conclude a new pact between the leading communities, says a Reuters message from Delhi. The speakers included Jinnah, Lala Lajpat Rai, Pandit Malaviya, Motilal Nehru and Mrs. Besant. The meeting appointed a sub-committee to report on February 12.

In the Indian Legislative Assembly Sir Alexander Muddiman, replying to a question, is reported to have said that 82 persons had been arrested in Bengal under the recent ordinances. All were informed of the charges against them, and given the opportunity to reply to them. The evidence had been placed before two judges, whose names he declined to give. The Government was arranging to maintain the families of the detained men.

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BOROUGH OF DURBAN

MAHOMEDAN SECTION — GENERAL CEMETERY

All persons claiming ownership of grave lots in the Mahomedan Section of the General Cemetery situated at Brook Street are requested to produce their receipts or other evidence in support of their claims to the Chief Sanitary Inspector, Old Court House, Durban. On production of satisfactory evidence of ownership, the owner's name will be registered in the block book which has been prepared in conjunction with a plan of that portion of the Cemetery.

A. O. JONES,
Town Clerk.

Town Clerk's Office,

Durban, 15th January, 1925.

دربان شہر

سار्वजनिक कब्रستانનો मुस्लीم ضلعو.

پورے سٹیٹ میں آجیو سار्वजनिक कब्रستانना मुस्लीम ضلعو میں کبھی کبھی زمینوں کی مالکیت کے حوالے سے تنازعات پیدا ہوتے ہیں۔ ان کو حل کرنے کے لیے ایک نیا قانون تیار کیا گیا ہے جس کے تحت تمام قبروں کے مالک اپنی ملکیت کے ثبوت کی تصدیق کرنا پڑے گی۔ اس قانون کے تحت تمام قبروں کے مالک اپنی ملکیت کے ثبوت کی تصدیق کرنا پڑے گی۔ اس قانون کے تحت تمام قبروں کے مالک اپنی ملکیت کے ثبوت کی تصدیق کرنا پڑے گی۔

ای. او. جونس،

ٹاؤن کلرک.

قبرستان عامہ کا اسلامی حصہ

تمام لوگوں کو کہ جو قبرستان عامہ واقع بروک سٹریٹ کے اسلامی حصہ میں قبروں کے ٹکڑوں کے دعویدار ہوں انکو اطلاع دی جاتی ہے کہ وہ ایسے اپنے دعوے کے ثبوت کی تصدیق کرنا پڑے گی۔ اس قانون کے تحت تمام قبروں کے مالک اپنی ملکیت کے ثبوت کی تصدیق کرنا پڑے گی۔ اس قانون کے تحت تمام قبروں کے مالک اپنی ملکیت کے ثبوت کی تصدیق کرنا پڑے گی۔

اس حصے کے نقشے کے ساتھ نڈار کیا گیا ہے۔

ای. او. جونس

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