

Indian Opinion

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NOTES AND NEWS

A REUTER cablegram from Delhi, dated Nov. 21, gives the information that, with the concurrence of the Government of South Africa, the Government of India have decided to send a deputation to South Africa. Mr. G. F. Paddison, of the Indian Civil Service and Commissioner of Labour for Madras will lead the deputation. Of the remaining members, six will be announced shortly.

The main purpose of the deputation, continues the communique, will be to collect as soon as possible first hand information regarding the economic condition and general position of the resident Indian community in South Africa, and form an appreciation of their wishes and requirements. It is expected that their report will afford valuable material for the Government of India to use in connection with the discussions now proceeding between the two Governments.

At 9 a.m. on Monday, the day when the morning paper published the above pronouncement, the S.A. Indian Congress delegates sailed from Durban on their mission to India, there being a large crowd on the wharf to bid them Godspeed. We present with this issue a portrait supplement of the delegation.

Mr. E. Norodien, President of the Cape British Indian Union, a body existing only in name, interviewed by Reuter's Agency, said that the members of his organisation, while they would oppose the loss of any of their present rights, and welcomed the decision of the Union Government to receive a deputation from India to discuss the draft Asiatic Bill, yet on the other hand they deprecated the sending of a deputation to India from South Africa, and also the inclusion therein of one who is not himself an Indian, viz., Dr. Abdurahman.

The Cape British Indian Union fears more harm than good is likely to result from this deputation, and while it is entirely opposed to the Asiatic Bill it hopes to induce the Government to amend it by excluding the Cape Province from its scope, as was done by the Smuts Government in regard to the Class Areas Bill.

We are glad to think that the views of Mr. Norodien are not shared by those outside his small circle. We should be ashamed of our Cape community were they to adopt such a selfish attitude as to ask the Government to exclude the Cape Province from the Asiatic Bill.

That the Minister of the Interior, Dr. Malan, is not satisfied with the support given by the people to his proposed Bill to deal with the Asiatics, was a statement made by Mr. A. F. Fordham, M.L.A., at a meeting of the Southern Suburbs European Association at Turffontein, Johannesburg, on the 18th instant, says a *Natal Mercury* telegram. "The Min-

ister told me, (he said) that there had been very little support from Natal, and that the country districts did not seem to be interested."

"It seems to me that the Indians in Natal have got their clutches so deeply into the land that people are afraid to discuss them," asserted Councillor H. Crocker at the same meeting. Business men go to bed secretly praying that the Bill will go through, but are afraid to express their thoughts in public. He pointed out that in the General Dealers' Control Ordinance, which had just come into force, there was an excellent weapon of attack against the Asiatics. He urged the Association to make a note of all Asiatics' shops in the district, and to oppose their application for licences under certain sections provided by the Ordinance.

It was proposed at the above-mentioned meeting to arrange for a South Africa Conference consisting, of course, entirely of Europeans, to be held in Johannesburg to discuss the Asiatic question, and a Committee was appointed to investigate and report on the matter.

Mr. G. Hullet, M.P.C., Natal, when asked by a pressman to state his opinion regarding the Premier's Native proposals, said:—"General Hertzog is quite right in saying that with the Cape Native having the vote, no Government could withhold the vote from the Natives of the Transvaal, Free State and Natal, and his boldness in grasping the nettle is to be highly commended. As regards the Cape Coloured vote, I appreciate the difficulties, but as I am led to believe this is a diminishing quantity, the extension of the franchise to these people who reside in the Transvaal and Natal can be viewed with less concern. The term 'Coloured man' must be clearly defined and must not include the Asiatic or the Malay."

At the Church Congress held recently in England, Lord Willingdon, who has had 11 years of administrative work in India, said: "I honestly believe that if the whole attitude of White races to Coloured races could be entirely altered, if the White men would always act in the spirit of giving equality of opportunity to those who are Coloured, what appeared to be the aggressive and unreasonable attitude of Coloured races would entirely change, and they would be found to be ready to discuss these important matters in a fair spirit, and with a due sense of all the difficulties surrounding them."

Mr. J. H. Oldham, an expert and a public speaker of a high order, said that many calling them to show a united White front against people of other colour. He asserted that a solid White front certainly and inevitably meant a solid Yellow front, and solid Brown front, and a solid Black front; and that in the end of the day, could have only one meaning. It meant war. And the only way to prevent us from drifting to that disaster was that men of cour-

age and true vision should refuse to be entangled in the snares of racialism and a purely racial way of looking at questions, and should strive everywhere and always to ensure the triumph of the claims of humanity and justice, even when such striving brought them into opposition with men of their own race. "Who may more fitly take the lead in rendering this service so indispensable to the future welfare of mankind than the Christian Church?" he asked.

The following telegram was addressed by the Council of the Imperial Indian Citizenship to the Government of India:—

"The Council of the Imperial Indian Citizenship Association begs to invite the earnest attention of the Government of India to the strong feeling prevalent in the country that if the basis of negotiations between the Governments of India and South Africa is an understanding that the question of repatriation of Indians from South Africa should be left open for discussion, it will be strenuously opposed by the whole country. The Council will thank the Government if they are in a position to declare definitely whether in any negotiation they are prepared to compromise on the repatriation question."

Commenting on the above on the 5th October, the *Bombay Chronicle* says:—"if the position of Indians in South Africa has grown worse from day to day, it is due in small measure to the invertebrate attitude adopted by the Government of India. To accept any compromise on the repatriation question would be an infamous betrayal of the cause of Indians in South Africa. The latter, the majority of whom are colonial-born, are as much entitled to live and trade in South Africa as any of the Whites. The Government of India have so far refused to take the public into confidence regarding their negotiations with the South African Government and if, as the telegram of the Imperial Citizenship Association suggests, they are wobbling on the vital issue of repatriation, it is time they were compelled to put their cards on the table."

Reuter's recent message informs that the deputation appointed by the Government of India to proceed to South Africa to investigate the position of Indians there, sailed for the Union from Bombay on the Karagola on Wednesday. The members of the deputation are.—Mr. G. F. Paddison (Madras Commissioner of labour) and Messrs Raza Ali and Bajpai.

Councillor Mrs. Benson was a passenger aboard the *S. S. Khandalla*, which left Durban for India on Monday. She expects to be in Durban again in the beginning of February.

The South African Indian Congress has sent the following message from Durban to the Colonial Secretary, in London.—"On behalf of South African Indian community, am directed to respectfully request you to convey to their Majesties the King and Queen the deep sympathy of community at the passing away of the Queen-mother, in whose death the Empire has sustained an irreparable loss.—Kajee, Secretary, South African Indian Congress."

Also a message from Pretoria states that at a special meeting of the Pretoria British Indians on Sunday, it was decided to send the following message to his Majesty the King, and the motion was passed with all standing: "Pretoria Indians tender his Majesty their deep and heartfelt sympathy upon the death of the beloved Queen-Mother."

THE QUEEN MOTHER

QUEEN Alexandra, the Queen Mother, often spoken of as Alexandra the Good, passed peacefully away on the 20th instant, at Sandringham. Her's was a beautiful life which calls for no regrets. As Princess of Wales, then as Queen, and since the death of her beloved husband, King Edward the Peacemaker, as Queen Mother, the late Queen Alexandra endeared herself to all alike, rich and poor, to all sections of the people, and she nobly upheld the high reputation of the Royal House of England for impartiality and equal affection for all races holding allegiance to the British Crown. As a loyal community we join with all other communities in mourning the great loss to the Empire, and we humbly offer our sincere sympathy to Their Majesties and the Royal Family in their bereavement.

UNCONSTITUTIONAL ?

IN reply to a question put by the Right Hon. Josiah Wedgwood, in the House of Commons, the Rt Hon. the Earl of Winterton (Under-Secretary of State for India) is reported to have said that the Government of South Africa had an absolute right to pass any such legislation as the present Asiatic Bill. He said it would be quite unconstitutional for him to answer the question regarding the placing of papers relating to the negotiations which have been taking place between the Indian and Union Governments. This is a new and strange attitude for a Minister of the Crown to take up. Are we to understand that the Union of South Africa is entirely independent of the Home Government even in respect to matters affecting unrepresented peoples such as the Indian community? Under the Act of Union, such questions were subject to the approval of the British authorities, and we have had instances of the Government in England vetoing legislation passed by the South African Parliament. What has taken place to alter things in this respect? If what Lord Winterton says is to be taken as implying that all powers of interference with South Africa have come to an end, we should very much like to know when and how it has been accomplished. If it be unconstitutional for the British Government to intervene, then our sending a delegation to India is useless, and the Government of India's decision to appoint an official mission to South Africa to enquire fully into the position is sheer folly. All we need say for the moment is that we do not believe that the position is as reflected in the words of the Under Secretary of State for India.

In the Imperial Parliament

Union's Absolute Right to Legislate

The Asiatic Bill

London, Nov. 23.—In the Commons to-day, replying to a question by the Right Hon. Josiah Wedgwood (Labour), the Rt. Hon. the Earl of Winterton (Under Secretary of State for India) stated that communications were still passing between the Governments of India and South Africa in regard to the Union's anti-Indian legislative proposals. He did not think any good purpose would be served by laying the papers on the table of the House.

Mr. Wedgwood asked for an assurance that the papers would be laid on the table before any legislation by the Government of South Africa was passed into law.

The Earl of Winterton replied that it would be quite unconstitutional for him to answer that, because the Government of South Africa had an absolute right to pass any such legislation.—Reuter.

The Delegation to India

Durban's Send-off

Rawat's Bio Hall was filled to suffocation when the Natal Indian Congress convened a mass meeting on Sunday afternoon for the purpose of hearing the delegates who had returned after attending the South African Indian Conference at Capetown, and of bidding God-speed to the delegates of the South African Indian Congress who, on Monday morning, left for India in connection with the Asiatic Bill now before the House of Parliament.

Mr. V. Lawrence presided and was supported by Mr. P. R. Pather, the acting secretary of the Natal Indian Congress, and prominent members of the Indian community. The members of the deputation proceeding to India—Dr. A. Abdurahman, M.P.C., of the Cape Province, Messrs. J. W. Godfrey, V. S. C. Pather, Sorabjee Rustomjee, Amod Bayat, Pundit Bhawani Dayal and A. A. Mirza Galbbeg—were received with thundering applause by the 2,000 people present.

The Chairman, in introducing the members of the deputation, spoke of the merits of the individual members and feelingly touched upon the great personal sacrifices they were making in undertaking the mission to India.

Mr. Godfrey, who attended the South African Indian Conference, was the first to speak, and gave a short resume of the work done at the Conference and of the interview that the deputation of the S.A.I.C. had with the Minister of the Interior at Pretoria. He thanked the audience for the reception given him and his brother delegates.

Amongst the other speakers who wished the deputation God-speed and every success were Messrs. M. Beethasee Maharaj, M. I. Kajeer, A. H. Kazi, B. M. Patel, A. I. Kajeer, C. V. Pillay and T. M. Naicker.

Dr. A. Abdurahman was the chief speaker of the afternoon. The doctor was received with deafening cheers, and the enthusiasm of the crowd was so great that it was several minutes before order was restored in the hall. At the outset the doctor, who is an orator, thanked the Indian community for the honour conferred upon in appointing him as one of the delegates to India, which fact went to show that they placed implicit confidence and trust in him.

He assured them that they would not have cause to regret the choice made by them. He would do his best to represent the Indian cause from all points of view to the peoples and the Government of India. He said that the eulogy showered upon the delegation by the enormous crowd was not all that was required of them. The deputation was leaving these shores on the following morning, and during its absence from South Africa it behoved every true Indian to put away his petty differences in his cupboard and to see that the entire Indian community of South Africa stood at the back of the delegation as one man. Unity should be their watchword, and if his advice coming, as it was, from a tried person, were taken to heart, he felt assured that the mission to India would be a crowning success. He felt that, judging from the enthusiasm displayed that afternoon, the deputation was leaving for India with the entire Indian community at its back. He saw that there were signs of determination in the eyes of every Indian present that afternoon, and he was fully confident that the fight they were going to put up against the Asiatic Bill would be crowned with success.

Pundit Bhawani Dayal thanked the audience on behalf of himself and his brother delegates, and impressed upon those present the necessity of carrying on the work with re-doubled energy.

The meeting terminated after Dr. Abdurahman was garlanded and the other members of the deputation were each presented with a beautiful bouquet. The doctor was given three hearty cheers which went ringing through the hall.

Churches and Colour Problem

Racial Prejudice and Democracy

South Africa and the Empire

Addressing the Church Congress Lord Willingdon dealt with a problem which is of supreme importance not only to the Church of England, but also to the whole British Empire, writes Mr. Harold Cox in *The Sunday Times*. The growth of racial prejudice is one of the unpleasant accompaniments, paradoxical though it may seem, of the growth of democracy. Willingness to associate with other races is much more common among the wealthy and travelled classes than among the rank and file of the population in any country. People who have only had experience of persons very closely similar to themselves regard with dislike all those who are dissimilar.

In addition, this primitive instinct of dislike for the dissimilar is aggravated in many countries by economic rivalry. The coloured man is generally willing to work for a lower wage than the white man, and on that ground alone the white man uses power wherever he can to deny equality of rights to the white man.

Lord Willingdon, speaking with the experience of one "who had been in intimate association with many Indians during 11 consecutive years," called attention to the grave difficulties that are arising owing to colour prejudice in India and other parts of the Empire. The coloured man is increasingly resentful of the treatment he receives from white men, and the bitterness of the anti-English movement in India is very largely due to this feeling of resentment.

A Matter of Manners

Another speaker at the Congress stated that the same feeling largely explained the present violent

agitation in China, and added that the attitude of so many professing Christians towards the colour problem was one of the greatest obstacles to the advancement of Christianity throughout the world. The conclusion of all the speakers was that the white man must meet men of other races on terms of absolute equality.

So far as India is concerned, one may safely state that white men who occupy positions similar to those held by Lord Willingdon invariably act on this principle. When I was myself living in India, my Indian friends used constantly to tell me that Indians were invariably treated with courtesy by Englishmen in high positions. It was only the inferior white man who treated the Indians as inferior to himself.

That Englishmen generally represent a stronger and more capable type of human beings than many of the Indian races is indisputable. But that is no reason why all Indians should be treated as inferiors simply because of their complexions. As a matter of fact, many Indians are intellectually and socially superior to many white men, and justice as well as good breeding requires that those who behave as gentlemen should be treated as such, regardless of race or colour or creed.

Equal Rights for All Races

Not only is this elementary principle of good manners largely ignored in the conduct of many white men towards coloured men, but in the Dominions there has grown up, concurrently with the growth of democracy, a system of legislation deliberately planned to deny the coloured races the elementary rights of citizenship. This development is totally at variance with the principles laid down when England was gradually building up her great Empire.

In Cape Colony, for example, equal justice for all races has always been the established principle of government, and when Natal was annexed in May, 1843, Sir George Napier, Governor of Cape Colony, issued the following proclamation:—

There shall not be in the eye of the law any distinction or disqualification whatever founded on mere distinction of colour, origin, language, or creed.

Yet within 50 or sixty years the little group of white settlers who had been permitted to rule the whole of Natal began to establish racial barriers against Indian traders, many of whom had been in the Colony longer than their white rulers. Similar measures were adopted a few years later by the Transvaal, with the result that the legal position of the coloured man became worse under British rule than it had been under Boer rule. Out of this issue arose some of the most serious questions subsequently affecting India.

Among the Indians in South Africa who suffered from this racial discrimination was a young Indian lawyer named Mr. Gandhi. He took up the cause of his fellow-countrymen and came to England to defend it. Although a Liberal Government was then in power in England, it refused to redress this Indian grievance. Mr. Gandhi went back to India, his faith in England shattered, and under his inspiration the anti-English movement rapidly developed.

A White Minority

To-day the colour problem in South Africa is again arising in a new shape. In spite of the opposition of General Smuts, the present South African Government is putting forward fresh legislation to deprive South African natives and Asiatic residents of many of the limited rights they still possess. The promoters of this measure have even refused to allow coloured men to give evidence before the Select Committee appointed to consider the Colour Bar Bill.

By ignoring the principles of equity so well laid down in the above-quoted declaration of 1843, we are allowing the Empire to drift rapidly in a dangerous direction. The supremacy of the white races must ultimately depend on the conduct of the white man. It is well to remember that white men are a small minority of the population of the British Empire, and if we, by betrayal of our own principles, create a feeling of racial antipathy, we shall have to face the steadily growing hostility of the coloured races.

In Australia there is a comparatively small white population, quite unable to defend itself against a conceivable attack from Japan. In South Africa the whites are an insignificant minority as compared with the blacks. In India our whole position depends on the willingness of the Indians to recognise the value of services rendered to them by Englishmen; but if those services are to be accompanied by an insolent claim of racial superiority they will be declined without thanks. Similar considerations apply to Ceylon, to the Straits Settlements, and to the West Indies. If the British Empire is to be held together in anything like its present dimensions, complete harmony between men of different races is essential.

Suffering Injustice

(By L. W. R.)

That our sufferings are a blessing in disguise is a pious opinion frequently voiced at Indian protest meetings. It is, however, not always quite as clear that the significance of the sentiment is appreciated and its truth realised because if it were one would rather expect such appreciation and realisation to become somewhat more patently manifest. Suffering is but the reaction of the "I" consciousness to disharmony or discord in some centres in the body. By identification of the "I" with the body the discord produces in the former the emotion called "pain" from which arises the notion of suffering. A nation or community is but a larger unit, an aggregation of the individuals composing it, just as the physical body of any one human being is an aggregation of the cells, tissues, organs etc. constituting it and the analogy in regard to the rationale of suffering holds equally good. Not that suffering is a necessity following from the recognition of the presence of dis-harmony. Rather is it the consequence of attachment of the "I" to the "not I" of lack of discrimination. *Such detachment make easier and surer the correction of the trouble, since it leaves the judgment unclouded by the pain-emotion.* Only the ill-informed speak of "injustice." There can be no injustice in a universe ordered by Law that is the expression Omniscience. Yet, paradox though it be, there is no dearth of unjust men and of unjust man-made laws and institutions! But man's selfish seeking to do injustice could find no soil for its satisfaction had the victims, as they regard themselves, not furnished it. Considered thus, the wrongdoer becomes but the instrument of correction, the injured the reaper of the fruits of his own sowing, of the disorders physical emotional or mental which through commission or omission he has himself introduced or failed to keep out or expel. And the application of this to our own case? Firstly, dispassionate and honest introspection. Pain is really a kindly mentor. It prompts the consciousness to recoil, throws it back upon itself; induces it to actively seek out the seat and cause of the disharmony. Let us not ignore its kindly admonition, not merely say that our sufferings are a blessing in disguise, but *act* and so prove our conviction. Without descending to particulars, we know of disharmony enough in the

prices below ninepence, in different districts, and in one district as low as seven pence halfpenny. The bread organisations not so long ago practically refused to give evidence before the Food Commission, saying that they had no new facts apart from the evidence they had previously given before the Royal Commission on foodstuffs, but there is every indication now that they will seek to give evidence before the present Food Council.

Eugen Saindow that famous strong man, died yesterday suddenly at his home in Holland Park Avenue, at the age of 58. His death is attributed to the bursting of a blood vessel in the brain. This is said to have been the result of shock and overstrain, which he suffered some considerable time ago, when, following a motoring accident, he lifted his car out of a ditch singlehanded.

At last the Government has set the machinery in law in motion against Communists. Some forty Reds, were according to press reports, considered by the Government, and eight of them were arrested on charges of conspiring to publish seditious literature and conspiring to incite to mutiny. The men charged are Albert Inkpin secretary of the Communist Party of Great Britain, John Campbell Editor of the Workers' Weekly, Harry Pollitt secretary of the National Minority Movement, E. Cart, London organiser of the Communist Party, W. Rust secretary of Young Communist League, T. H. Wintringham a member of the staff of the Workers' Weekly, W. Gallacher a Clyside Communist, and T. Bell a member of the Executive of the Communist Party. The first six were to-day released on bail of a £100 each, Mr. George Lansbury M.P. standing surety, for a £100 in each case. The last two are under police escort on the way to London. The cases were adjourned for a week.

With the opening of the Michelmass Sittings, of the Law Courts on the 12th inst. began a New Legal Year, and it was marked with all the ceremonial attaching to the event. The Lord Chancellor, the judges and the K.C.'s and barristers attended service at Westminster Abbey, and at the Roman Catholic Westminster Cathedral and from thence proceeded to the House of Lords where they "breakfasted." And in due course wended their way to the Law Courts, and walked in procession through the great hall between masses of spectators, a moving panorama of legal history expressed in person and emblem. Leading the way was Tipstaff, the Constable of the Courts carrying his crowntipped wand of office. Before each head of a division, or as in the case of the Lord Chief Justice, on the person of the judge himself was borne some emblem of venerable origin or significance. The Mace and Purse of State, before the Lord Chancellor, The famous "S" Collar or chain around the neck of the "Chief," and the unique "Silver Oar" the symbol of the Admiralty before the President of the Probate, divorce and Admiralty Division. The glint of gold and silver from these chattels, heightened the brightness of scarlet robes, and gold embroideries on robes of black. Behind the judges came King's Counsel over a hundred strong in full bottomed wigs. It was a goodly sight to behold, the Majesty and power of the Law.

Readers of the famous Novels of Alexander Dumas, the series beginning with, *The Three Musketeers*, will be interested to learn that the intrepid D'artagnan was a historical character, and that a statue is to be erected in the town Auch, near his birthplace. He was born in 1623 and died 50 years late as a captain of the French King's Musketeers. He was sent to England on a confidential mission to Cromwell; indeed Dumas got most of his details, including the names of D'artagnan's friends from his heroes' Memoirs, which Thackeray is said to have preferred to the Romances of Dumas.

South African Indian Congress

Natal's Delegation to India

Mr. E. M. Ally acknowledges with thanks the following subscriptions. Further subscriptions are earnestly requested, all cheques to be made in the name of Mr. E. M. Ally, and addressed to him at 109 Field Street, Durban.

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