

Indian Opinion

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BROKEN PLEDGES

IN the course of an article in the *Star* (Johannesburg), dated December 31st, Mr. C. F. Andrews writes:—

The psychology of the Indian is of the essence of problem to be solved. It is the principal term in the equation. There are no people in the whole world more easily won by affection and sympathy than those of India. Every act of generous freedom during the past century of the British connection has been repaid a hundredfold. But there are, on the other hand, no people who can show such amazing powers of passive resistance, if either a point of honour is at stake or they are faced by a decision based on brute force.

I watched with my own eyes, a short time ago, the passive endurance of the Sikhs at Gura-ka-Bagh, where their religious rights were threatened. In the long run, the Punjab Government was obliged gracefully to yield. But before the end came, thousands of Sikh warriors, who had gone through the hardest fighting in the trenches of Flanders and Gallipoli, marched to prison with a joyful heart without striking a blow. Even when they were beaten down to the ground again and again by the military police, they never struck back. I visited them in the hospital where at one time many hundreds were lying wounded, and they proudly told me how they had fought their battles in the Great War. But they were prouder still of this passive struggle for the honour of their religion. You cannot conquer a people like that with bayonets and bombs.

At the present moment, although much has been said by the Ministers of State in South Africa about the reasonableness of their own attitude towards the Asiatic Bill, together with their willingness to hear suggestions before its second reading in Parliament, in reality their position has been entirely unbending. They have refused a round table conference and have declared that they are unwilling to discuss the essentials of the Bill, because no concessions can be made. Even when the Indian deputation was received the Bill was not thoroughly discussed or its principles considered. The deputation was told that the principles were fixed beyond discussion, and the offer was made that the Bill might be criticised in Select Committee—a perfectly futile proceeding. The same offer was repeated to the Government of India deputation which has come over to South Africa from the Viceroy. Both deputations are told that they are not to discuss the principles of the Bill, but only the details.

This can only mean one thing. The Bill is to be forced through, and discussion is to come afterwards. When it is pointed out that the Bill implies a breach of settlement solemnly made in 1914, we are informed that one Government cannot be responsible for the pledges made by its predecessor. When it is further pointed out that those pledges were renewed at each Imperial Conference by different Ministers of State, we are informed again that those Ministers are now out of office and the present Government repudiates its debts of honour. When it is argued that the very conditions on which the

Natal Government brought out the indentured Indian labourers are now being ruthlessly broken, we are told that Natal unfortunately did agree to those conditions, but this was done so long ago that they are now out of date. When, in conclusion, India herself objects to the breaking of all these pledges and promises and engagements, the answer is given that this is purely a domestic concern and neither India nor Great Britain nor anyone else has any right to interfere with the sovereign rights of South Africa. I have heard of such repudiations of solemn engagements being made by small bankrupt States in out-of-the-way corners of the world, but it is surprising to find such an attitude being taken up by the South African Union, which ranks with Great Britain and France as one of the original signatory members of the League of Nations.

Yet even this is not all. A virtual repudiation has also been made of the main recommendations of the South African Union Government's own Asiatic Inquiry Commission, whose members were all officially nominated, men of such wide South African reputation as the late Mr. Justice Lange, Mr. H. J. Hofmeyer, General Wylie and Mr. Duncan Baxter. This commission's findings of March, 1921, have been almost as ruthlessly set aside as the pledges made to India and to the Imperial Conference.

There is one sentence which came into the English language through its use on an eventful occasion by a South African. It was Cecil Rhodes who first popularised the phrase "to face the music." South Africa cannot be a world power and yet repudiate her world obligations. She must "face the music." She cannot go on year after year pledging her word of honour to act sympathetically towards domiciled Indians and yet refuse to fulfil it. She must "face the music." She cannot go on time after time (as she did in the past) imploring the Indian Government to send her more Indian labourers on certain conditions and yet fail to fulfil those conditions. She must "face the music." If there is any doubt concerning her pledges and promises and engagements then she must be prepared when challenged frankly to accept the challenge and either come to a round table in order to thrash these matters out there and then, or else submit her case to arbitration. She cannot possibly claim that this question is solely a domestic matter; for the agreements which brought Indian immigrants out to South Africa were specially made with India, an outside power.

This is the Indian case, as it appeals to the Indian mind. It is true, that the Asiatic legislation proposed falls, in one aspect, within the scope of domestic affairs and cannot legally be challenged as such. But since, at the same time, it comes into conflict with outside agreements already made, it clearly has an external aspect also. This latter aspect cannot be rightly disregarded by a Sovereign State which has scrupulous regard for its own international reputation.

Mr. W. Duncan Baxter's words in the Asiatic Inquiry Report about a far smaller breach of agreement, should be carefully studied. He called the restriction of certain Asiatic rights in Natal "a

retrograde proposal." He added: "It is also a restriction of existing rights of ownership, and, in the case of ex-indentured Indians and their descendants, a breach of the conditions of recruitment which I think should be scrupulously adhered to in the interests of good feeling and the sense of fair-play, so necessary in our relations with the Indians in South Africa and the Government of India."

Sentences like these win at once the affection and the sympathy of India. They obtain in a moment a psychological atmosphere, which makes a fair and square deal possible. But if the sense of injustice is rankling in the Indian mind and if the present Bill is passed through without a round table conference, or a willingness to arbitrate on matters of international agreement, a long-drawn passive opposition is certain from a physically defenceless people, which will inevitably discredit South Africa in the eyes of humanity as an oppressor of the weak and will also make the practical results of the Bill nugatory.

A MEMORABLE MEETING

[By O. F. ANDREWS]

Of all the meetings which I have attended in any part of South Africa, none has been more significant to me than a recent one, where I was called upon to speak, at the Workers' Social Centre, in Johannesburg, before a Bantu audience. The whole room was filled with educated members of the Bantu race, some of whom were editors of papers; others were schoolmasters and teachers; others were ministers of religion. The first thing that struck me was the wonderful progress that this African race is making. Last time when I came to South Africa, in 1920, such a meeting as that which I addressed on New Year's Day, 1926, would have been almost inconceivable. This young people is clearly making strides forward, which will enable it to accomplish in fifty years what other races have attained in five hundred.

The next thing that struck me was the intelligence which was written in the faces and the beauty of soul which shone through the eyes of my audience. I have rarely had an audience so easy to impress with simple direct moral truth. The response was immediate and unflinching. The audience never once missed the point of such an appeal and the thought of the brotherhood of humanity impressed them most of all. It won applause every time it was mentioned.

I was asked to speak on the Indian Question in South Africa; and my audience gave me a most cordial and sympathetic hearing. It was as clear as possible that their hearts were with the Indians in one common fellowship of suffering. 'One touch of nature makes the whole world kin'; and the sympathy, which comes from fellow-suffering, is the most potent natural uniter of races in the world! "How should we," said one of the speakers, "have anything but affection for the Indians, when they are suffering the same fate of being a subject race as ourselves?"

Mr. Thomson, who took the chair and conducted the meeting, was very impressive indeed. He was simple and direct in speech and made the hit of the evening, when he said that the one wish of the Bantu race was to learn to know the Indians as their friends.

During the course of the evening, again and again, I raised the supreme challenge (quoting the words of Babindranath Tagore) that if the Indians stood in the way of the development of the Africans themselves, then they should be asked to leave the country, but not till

then. "If my countrymen," the Poet had said to me, "are not wanted in South Africa by the Bantus, then they have no right to remain, but if they have won the affection of the Bantus, then they have every moral right to stay."

One after another got up and declared that the Indians were their friends, and that they wished them to stay. This was the most impressive part of the whole meeting.

But while this is all true, and so far satisfactory results have been obtained in the mutual fellowship of the Indians and the Bantu race, yet we should not rest contented with what has already been done. We should press forward to make our moral claim to stay in South Africa more positive and more assured. We should seek out opportunities of meeting with them on equal terms of friendship and should try to learn something of their language.

It was a great scene, when Mahatma Gandhi's name was mentioned! There could be no doubt that he, at least, had won the unbounded admiration and affection of the Bantus; and they insisted on his son, who was present with me, making a speech.

At the conclusion of the meeting, I urged very strongly, that one or two of those who were present should make preparations to go over to India where they would receive hospitality and would realise the greatness of India, especially in her spiritual gifts. I hope that the idea, which is a practical one, may become a reality in the near future, because there is nothing that could do more to bring the two countries nearer together, intellectually and spiritually, than such a simple programme.

The Indian Question

The following letter appears in the *Rand Daily Mail* under the nom de plume 'Pro Africa':—

Sir,—As the Rev. O. F. Andrews treats the reply to "Anti-Asiatic" as quite simple, perhaps the following can be answered as readily.

Can he explain the reason why, not only South Africa, with her colour bias, is anti-Asiatic, but the whole of the Dominions are opposed to the entry of Asiatics into their countries? Canada, with an increasing white population, Australia, with its 6,000,000 whites and its Labour sympathies, New Zealand, with its fine democracy, and even the great American Republic, with its teeming millions, will not have them. Surely there must be some great fundamental reason which makes them afraid and cautious? Your readers, I am sure, would like to be informed on this point.

Regarding *The Statesman's* editorial remarks, probably if the editor was transplanted to local environment for a few years he would express himself differently and his "white opinion" would be a South African "white opinion."

Respecting Vrededorp conditions, this, no doubt, contains some truth, but the question arises, why, when not in Vrededorp, do most Asiatics not make themselves desirable neighbours? Take any of the outside towns of the Transvaal, and see the conditions under which they live and let the Rev. O. F. Andrews say if he would like such neighbours.

As for South Africa committing "suicide" through her segregation policy, it is obvious to anyone who examines conditions that she will do so if she does not do something drastic. Is the Rev. O. F. Andrews aware that there are white girls already working for

Asiatics? That from a South African point of view, is not exactly for the benefit or betterment of the country.

As for taking a large-scale map when studying subjects, agreed. But what larger scale when we are trying to give employment to the many thousands of boys and girls who are entering the battle of life every year and whose parents are asking every day what they shall do with the young folk, as the Asiatic invasion is not confined to the various professions and businesses, but may be noted in all walks of life?

Regarding the figures given of population and so on, the estimate of 50 years hence is merely guess-work. But if the present rate of white departures from South Africa continues and no steps are taken to remedy the problem, then there will be no need to worry 50 years hence or for our children's future.

A way out of the difficulty must, and will, be found, and without intimidation or interference from outside sources. But the first and foremost thought must be the South African point of view of preserving the heritage that was won by the whites, for the whites, and their descendants for generations to come.

PRO AFRICA.

Johannesburg.

Mr. G. F. Andrews has sent the following reply to the *Mail* :—

Sir,—I am grateful to 'Pro Africa' for giving me one more opportunity of reply on the Indian question before leaving the Transvaal. Let me also thank, at the same time, the readers of the *Rand Daily Mail*, and the *Mail* itself, for giving me such a fair hearing.

There is in reality only one issue to be faced, namely the promise made to the Indian indentured labourers in Natal. From my conversation with individuals, I have no doubt that, when once this main issue is clearly grasped, South Africa will be true to her word.

The Natal Government brought out under contract, from the year 1860 onwards, the vast majority of Indians who landed in South Africa. It was agreed between the two Governments, before they left India, that if they fulfilled their five years labour contract on the sugar plantations they should be given certain rights in Natal, including those of domicile together with open purchase of land and immovable property. The Natal Government, in its eagerness to get this indentured Indian labour, also agreed that Indian traders should be allowed to accompany the labourers as free Indians.

These Indian labourers purchased those rights at a great cost. For the five years' indenture was accompanied by such grave moral evils, that it has now been entirely abandoned as a vicious labour system. The Natal Government, up to quite recent times, has endeavoured to observe faithfully its side of the contract. Section 148 of the South Africa Act makes it clear that agreements made by the Natal Colonial Government devolve upon the Union (Year Book, p. 74.)

But during the last few years the rights, which these Indian labourers obtained, have been attacked again and again. The Asiatic Bill, which will be brought before Parliament next session, is a wholesale repudiation of those rights without any compensation. It is felt in India that the Union is about to deny its obligations.

That is the simple issue. That is why I have come over a third time to South Africa in the hope that this thing may not be done, and that South Africa may remain true to its word.

We are at the beginning of a New Year when new resolutions are made by most people who have a conscience in public matters. I want to appeal to that conscience. 'Pro Africa' may take my assurance

that there is no wish whatever in my mind either to intimidate or interfere. Indeed, I have a great admiration for the pioneer work which has been done in this country by the combined effort of all races, and I know the racial difficulties with which South Africa is confronted. But I am old-fashioned enough still to believe in God as the rewarder of those who keep their word and the punisher of those who break it; and I have found in South Africa a moral fairness to which I have been able to appeal in the past and am seeking to appeal again to-day.

The Indian question itself is by no means so serious from an economic standpoint as most people in South Africa have been led to think. Indeed, in reality, the solution has been already obtained, because the Indian competition is a diminishing and not an increasing factor. Yet even in a city like Durban, where Indians are most numerous of all, the net increase in the value of properties held by Indians between 1921 and 1925 was only in round figures a quarter of a million while that of Europeans was four millions. Yet the Indian and European populations in Durban and suburbs are in the proportion of four to five. I have already stated, and would state again, that the census of 1921 showed a European increase of 39.8 per cent, while the Indian increase was only 6.1 per cent. Every year, Indians in large numbers are leaving the country never to return. No more are allowed to come in. The Indian men in the Union are greater in number than the women. Therefore the birth-rate is not likely to be a high one. The whole number of Indians in the Union was only 161,000 in 1921. If there happens to be cases where Indian shops are increasing in number, I have seen with my own eyes other places where the decrease is equally marked. What cause is there, then, for any economic fear? The problem is easily able to solve itself, if only time is allowed; and in the increasing prosperity (which is certain to come with the improvement of trade) the shortage of labour will everywhere soon be felt and the majority of Indians, who still do useful and steady industrial and agricultural work, will all be needed. It seems, indeed, almost an absurd thing, at such a time, to be driving such a valuable labour asset out of the country.

But I return in conclusion to the one main issue. Whether from the economic side there is advantage or disadvantage, there is one thing needful—to keep promises. These Indian labourers, when they came over under indenture, were given rights in return for their labour; and no young nation can prosper, which starts on its career by depriving the poor of their rights and breaking its word of honour.

Your etc.,

C. F. ANDREWS.

Some Important Statistics

The following are some interesting statistics regarding the ratable value of immovable property within the Borough of Durban owned by Europeans and Asiatics during the under-noted years.

Year	Amount	Owned by
1920	£15,455,320	Europeans
	940,050	Asiatics
1921	£16,019,519	Europeans
	1,002,980	Asiatics
1922	£16,554,900	Europeans
	1,021,670	Asiatics
1923	£17,264,950	Europeans
	1,098,230	Asiatics
1924	£18,560,820	Europeans
	1,191,360	Asiatics
1925	£19,732,380	Europeans
	1,248,740	Asiatics

The Government of India Deputation

Arrival in Johannesburg

Enthusiastic scenes marked the arrival in Johannesburg on Tuesday the 29th ult., of the Government of India deputation.

Prominent Europeans and Indians were introduced to the deputation, the members of which were conducted to gaily-decorated motor cars which, with bodyguards posted on the running-boards, moved in processional order to the Goldberg hall in Ferreiras-town, where a formal public welcome was extended to the distinguished visitors.

The hall was thronged and as the members of the deputation were escorted to the platform they were freely cheered, following which they were garlanded and presented with bouquets by Mr. E. I. Asvat (Chairman of the British Indian Association).

Independent Inquiries

Mr. D. Nursoo, (secretary), having explained that the object of the meeting was to welcome the deputation, went on to say that the entire question upon which their mission was founded would be left to them to make independent inquiries into.

"Should those gentlemen require any assistance we," he stated, amid applause, "will be pleased to place it at their disposal. We trust that the work of the deputation will be crowned with success, and that as a result something will be done for the protection of Indians in this country." (Applause.)

Mr. Paddison, the leader of the deputation, in reply, acknowledged the very hearty welcome he and his colleagues had had, not only in Johannesburg but in the other cities and towns to which they had been since their arrival in the Union. It was, he said, their first visit to the Union, and they certainly appreciated the cordiality of the reception tendered them at every point.

"We have been studying this question," said Mr. Paddison, "in all its bearing and to the best of our ability, but I need hardly say that although we are on this platform we are not here to make any pronouncement as to what we have been able to do—our hope to be able to do. We ask, however, the assistance that your secretary has promised us so as to facilitate our inquiries which we hope will be of benefit to the Government of India." (Applause.)

The Hon. Syed Raza Ali, who was received with cheers, also referred to the warmth of the reception which the deputation had been accorded throughout their tour of the country.

"Stand United"

"As one who has been in public life in India for over 16 years, you have," he said, "a right to expect that I, without discussing questions of principle or policy, should say a few words to you. Now, so far as my Indian fellow-countrymen are concerned my humble advice—or if you will have it, my very honest suggestion to you is—take counsel together and stand united. (Applause, and a voice: "We are.") Whether you be rich or poor, merchant or mechanic or labourer, stand together. You should remember that there should be absolutely no distinction between Indian and Indian in this country. (Hear, hear.) To our fellow European citizens of the Empire I say that we expect them to extend to us a helping hand. We are here not only to seek the help and advice of our Indian countrymen as a duty, but it is equally our duty, if not more so, to ask our European friends to take us into their confidence, to discuss the situation freely and frankly and not mince matters. It is the duty of all—all sections of society—to give the very closest attention

to the immense problem, not disguising the magnitude of it.

"It should not be beyond the grasp of statesmanship to find a satisfactory solution for this very important problem. I for one don't despair in that connection, for I have got faith in the citizens of this Empire. Surely Imperial statesmanship, which has risen to greater and more important occasions than this, should not find it impossible to find a way out of the difficulty." (Applause.)

Among those present at Park Station were Dean Palmer, the Rev. C. F. Andrews, M.A., Mr. Rheinallt Jones, Mr. L. W. Ritch, Mr. E. I. Aswat (president British Indian Association), Mr. Dawood Patel and many other prominent members of the Indian community.

The deputation has during the last week visited Springs, Benoni, Boksburg, Germiston and Potchefstroom, and has met many prominent members of the European and Indian communities. The deputation went to Pretoria last Monday and is now visiting the Cape.

Sir Deva Prasad Sarvadhikari

The Rt. Hon. Sir Deva Prasad Sarvadhikari the unofficial member of the Government of India Deputation who has arrived here last week is reported to have said in an interview with a representative of the *Natal Advertiser*, "I have studied the South African Indian question very closely for many years. I have heard the views of the deputation now in India, for we crossed there, but I know full well that there are other and diverging ones, and I cannot express any opinion, as it would not be fair.

"I am convinced that I shall learn much in your wonderful country, and I shall not make up my mind until I have seen everything I can see. As a Government deputation, we will report along specified lines to the Indian people, who maintain that the proposed Bill has violated the spirit of the Smuts-Gandhi agreement."

"The Union Government has been very kind. A special coach was sent down to Delagoa Bay for me, but as I was warned of the strike, I decided to come through to Durban. I should very much like to stay in this beautiful town for a few days, and will immediately communicate with the deputation in Johannesburg and try to remain for a while.

"I have never been nearer Africa than Aden, and am thus anticipating great pleasure, despite the great amount of work I shall have to do during my stay here.

"When I go north," said Sir Prasad Sarvadhikari, wishing an interested reporter goodbye, "it will be with the hope and confidence that a solution to the present problem can be found. I only wish I had been in a position to speak Dutch, and so been able to hear that party's views." With a final shake of the hand, he descended the gangway, with the Indian rose-garland of honour resting on his shoulders, to be greeted with loud cheers from the gathering of Indians on the wharf.

The Hon. Sir Sarvadhikari has sent the following reply to the *Rand Daily Mail* :—

Sir,—My attention has been drawn to Reuter's Durban telegram to you, regarding my arrival at Durban yesterday. The report is incorrect in some respects, and one of them is vital. I did not, in fact, could not, say that "I had heard the views of the South African Indian Congress deputation; but would not express any opinion without hearing other views."

I did say, as the fact is, that the deputation and I

crossed one another on the high seas, and not in India. I did not and could not, say that we should "report to the Indian people" and "We, a Government of India deputation, shall report to that Government, and that we could not express any opinion now."

I seek the hospitality of your columns in order that the erroneous impression likely to be caused by Reuter's telegram may be removed, and I trust papers that reproduce the telegram will also reproduce this.

I did, and do, express my gratification at the arrangements that Mr. Long, the Union agent at Delagoa Bay, made for my comfort, and I also take this opportunity of thanking the Government for the arrangements from Durban to Johannesburg.

Indian friends, who met me at Durban in large numbers, were kindness personified, and in reply to their insistent demand for "speech," I told them that I am for the moment tongue-tied. I told the Press representative at Durban the same thing.

(Sfr) DEVA PRASAD SARVADHIKARI.

Messenger of Peace ✓

Mr. C. F. Andrews' self-chosen function is to do the service he can and think no more about it. His service takes the form of bringing about peace. He had hardly finished his work in Orissa among the men or cattle in distress or among the mill-hands of Bombay when he felt the call to go to South Africa and help the Indian settlers who are in distress. But he will be helping not only the Indians there but also the Europeans. He has no malice or anger in him. He wants no favours for the Indians. He wants bare justice. Mr. Andrews is no stranger to South Africa. South African statesmen know and admit that he is as much Europeans' friend as Indians'. The Indian question has reached a most critical stage. For the Indians resident in South Africa it is a matter practically of life and death. Mr. Andrews' presence in their midst at this juncture must bring the greatest comfort to them. May this good friend's labours bear ample fruit as they have done before now. Let the settlers however not be lulled into a sense of false security by Mr. Andrews' presence which by itself can bring them little relief. He can but guide, advise and negotiate. But all the guidance, advice and negotiation will come to nothing, if there is no cohesion or courage among the settlers themselves.

Mr. Andrews' Mission

The Hindustan Times has the following leading article in its issue of the 13th November:—

The departure of Mr. C. F. Andrews for South Africa marks a definite stage in the direction of the fight against the ruination of Indians in that country. As he does not propose to make speeches but to meet the parties concerned, giving Indians his advice as to the lines of further action, it may be expected that a new turn will be taken by the opposition to the Indian demands. In view of the contention, so often pointlessly made and vigorously condemned by Mr. Sastri on a memorable occasion, that the economic disparity is at the root of the trouble, Dr. Gool, the President of the fifth session of the South African Congress, sounded a note which will be taken due note of by the whites. There was no possibility, he declared, of producing a white South Africa and the only reasonable aim could be "a white civilised standard in which every race could take part." This, the movement on the part of

South African Indians would seem to be toward a higher standard of living in order to give fair and equal chances to the whites to triumph in competition. The cry so far put up that the whites were under a severe handicap by reason of their greater needs cannot retain much force if the conditions become equal and still the Indian is not worsted in the race. But it is just at this point that even more fully than before, the real racial bias against Indians is likely to become evident. Not that it matters on what pretext they wipe out the Indians. As Mr. Sastri rightly said, whether it is called racial antagonism or economic necessity, the process is the same and the result no different. But with the evidence of an attempt on the part of Indians to expose the untruth of the economic contention the whites, if they are to retain their advantage, must necessarily fall back upon the naked racialism so severely propounded not long ago by Mr. Tielman Roos.

To careful observers there has not been, even till now, any doubt in regard to the real feelings actuating the whites. Bishop Fisher of Calcutta who, as our South African correspondent said, had gone there to study the Indian situation, on return interviewed by a Bombay contemporary, stated, "I discovered more race prejudice in South Africa—perhaps the worst kind of prejudice—than in any country I have ever visited in my life." After giving various instances of the ill-treatment to which Indians are subjected, he said, "The white people definitely state that they cannot compete with the Indian traders." They give two reasons, viz (1) that the Indian has a superior brain and (2) that he lives on a lower standard than the white man's. The Indian is regarded as a very intelligent competitor and they think that he must therefore be crushed. If the definite raising of the standard of life by Indians robs the whites of what, in their view, is a powerful argument, they would be hard put to it to explain the further jingoism on their part. Since their objection to standard of living dovetails into the objection to the intelligence of the Indian, and as the latter cannot be eradicated, they would perhaps concentrate their attention on that aspect. It may be hurtful to their claims of superior intellect and better training, but where it is an affair of survival in competition, they have already chosen a path which Bishop Fisher describes as that of "persecution and extermination." The intensity of white hostility to Indians is such that General Hertzog is said to feel that no politician could remain in power without acceding to the demand of the whites. And the Christian churches, it is painful to contemplate, may not, according to Bishop Fisher, be looked to for any help by Indians. The Christian conscience may be influenced from without, he says, and it is his hope that some great Christian leaders might rise to challenge the churches. It is a tragedy that the "Houses of God" have become a hand-maiden to the lust of the white man. But such is the fact. In view, therefore, of the white determination in South Africa, Bishop Fisher has suggested that all Indians must unite against the latest attack on them. "My judgement is," he has stated, "that there should be a solid, united and conscientious stand taken by the Indians of South Africa, the Indians of India, the Christian Churches of India, the Hindus, the Parsis, the Mahomedans, the Imperial Government in London and self-governing Dominions of the Empire against the proposed bill and in favour of just and liberal solution of the problem." He is emphatic in asserting that "the Indians are not going to leave South Africa; they are there to stay just as much as the white men and the more they (the Indians) are persecuted, the more they will, in my judgment, prosper." He hopes that "intervention on the part of London and Delhi" might bring about an amicable

settlement. But the hope is a forlorn one, especially as Delhi seems still resolute on patience and London is unable to forget colour. The sojourn of Mr. Andrews, however, it may be hoped, will lead to a stiffening of the Indian forces, both in South Africa and this country itself, so that until a settlement is reached, the fight is not given up. It is a matter for gratification that the main body of the European element in India is in favour of the just Indian cause and the Christian Church in India is unwilling to countenance white aggression. Mr. Andrews' visit, in the circumstances, must be deemed to mark an evolution in the Indian fight already assuming a grim phase due to the dominating instinct of the white man.

OUR LONDON LETTER

[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT]

27th November, 1925.

The disappearance of the Submarine M.I. off Start Point Devon, has given rise to the discussion whether submarines should not be abolished. There have been other cases where submarines have disappeared with loss of life. With increasing development of aeroplanes, submarines have been largely rendered useless. It is urged in many quarters that this should form part of the question of the disarmament of the Nations and for this purpose a conference should be immediately convened. But on the other hand in view of preliminary inquiries now being conducted into the whole question of disarmament in order that a conference may be called at some future date it is held by others that it is premature for the British Government to make a move at this stage.

Sixty-nine men rank and file went under in the M.I. Much sympathy has been expressed with the bereaved but on the practical side the highest amount of pension for the late commander's wife and child is £164 per annum and a gratuity of £300 descending in scale in regard to the others. It seems so little to receive for so big a loss—irreparable in its nature.

There was at first owing to the manner in which the M.I. disappeared speculation as to the causes for her disappearance; there were suggestions of inefficiency, defects in the mechanism of the submarine. Since however news has come from Sweden that a Swedish boat "Vidar" struck some hard substance at the point where the submarine had disappeared. The "Vidar" in dry dock was examined and in addition to the dents previously found, grey-green paint markings were discovered on the port side of her bottom. On analysis these marks prove to be clear green paint. The upper works of Submarine M.I. were recently painted this colour, so it appears that the submarine had collided with the "Vidar".

It speaks well for the Germans that at a moment's notice German divers came across to help in locating and if possible investigating how the submarine was sunk. The Germans alone possess a diving apparatus, which is something new in the diving line. It is claimed that it enables a diver to work for some hours at a depth of over 400 ft., without air connection with the surface, weighing about half a ton. The apparatus is fitted with electric light and telephone appliances. It looks like a suit mediæval armour. The diver is entirely inside the apparatus and his hands are free to manipulate the handles and levers close to his body that operate the grappling tackle and other implements attached to the suit. The diver carries with him his own supply of oxygen.

The weather so far has been too boisterous to allow diving.

Queen Alexandra is dead. Yesterday from Sandringham all that was mortal of her was brought to London, where it lay at St. James' Palace Chapel. To-day it will be taken, followed by a representative procession of Royalty, Nobility, and commoners to Westminster Abbey, where after the service from 1.30 p.m. to 10 p.m. it will lay for the people to pay their last respects to the well-beloved Queen Mother Alexandra. Universal is the expression of sorrow. She was loved as few had been by rich and poor alike. Her simplicity and love of home and all that it stood for, and her practical interest in her peoples' welfare in no small measure contributed to the love she won of the world. Her beauty was as exceptional as her spirit of humanity. Her passing away removes a charming personality, which occupied so large a space, so usefully, from the British life.

Yesterday the King of Siam, King Rama the VI died. He is succeeded by his younger brother Prince Prajadhipok. King Rama was 44 years, and had reigned for 15 years. He was the sixth of his line. He was educated at Oxford and Sandhurst, and visited England frequently after his University days. Quite recently he addressed a message to Siamese students in England, warning them on no account to take English wives, "as we have seen quite a number of such cases but have not seen them result in lasting happiness."

Prince Prajadhipok was born on the 8th Nov. 1863, and was sent early to England for his studies. He was at Eton, and in January 1920 at the Military Academy at Woolwich, passing out of it as an artillery lieutenant two years later.

Among the many labour saving devices that America boasts of, the Cafeteria affords an interesting example. A Cafeteria is a cheap restaurant where the service is self-service. The customer enters it, and from the tables laid out he picks up a tray and the necessary knives, forks and spoons he needs, and a table napkin, and then selects from the dishes the things he chooses for his meals, leaving the tables on his way to a smaller table to eat his meal. A cash desk is passed, where the cashier glances at the tray, adds up the bill and you pay before you pass on. The service is quick because it is your own, you get what you like because you see it before you take it. There is a minimum expense of labour by the restaurant so that costs can be low, and you pay before you eat, which abolishes the need for cash checks and supervision.

Russian boots for women are the rage just now. They come up to the knees, and are made in different colours, some plain, others bound with fur at the top. They are serviceable in extreme cold weather, rain and snow. But they do not look becoming in all cases. The Bond St. Boot people declare that they are not stocking them, that Russian Boots are not fashionable, that they are good enough for Piccadilly and Petticoat Lane. Gaiters, they say, is the thing to wear—which they stock. The demand for Russian Boots, finds employment for more people.

The twelve Communists, Inkpin, Gallacher, Rust, Pollit, Hunnington, Murphy, Arnot, McMatters, Campbell, Wintringham, Cant and Bell were found guilty. The first five were sentenced to twelve months' imprisonment in the second division. The remainder were ordered to be bound over, but on their refusing to be so bound, they were sentenced to six months' imprisonment in the second division.

Natal Indian Congress

A general meeting of the members resident at Ladysmith will be held on Sunday the 24th day of January 1926 at 2 p.m., at the premises of Mr. Ragnath Singh, Illing Street, Ladysmith, for the purpose of forming a Branch of the Natal Indian Congress and electing the officials of such Branch.

P. R. PATHER,
Acting Secretary,
Natal Indian Congress.

Natal Indian Congress

A general meeting of the members resident at Clairwood will be held on Sunday the 17th day of January 1926 at 2 p.m. sharp for the purpose of forming a Branch of the Natal Indian Congress and electing the officials of such Branch,

P. R. PATHER,
Acting Secretary,
Natal Indian Congress.

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