

# Indian Opinion

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## NOTES AND NEWS

TO what extent the colour prejudice can go in South Africa is illustrated in the following piece of news transmitted by Reuter:—

Jobannesburg, April 27.—Owing to dissatisfaction in the Mafeking Hospital caused by a Native practitioner, Dr. Silas Molemas, taking white patients to hospital for operations, the nurses have resigned in body. The nurses object to taking orders from a Native, operating on white people. Dr. Molema's case, as stated to a *Rand Daily Mail* representative to-day, is that a patient has the right to choose his or her doctor, and that the doctor has the right, under the Hospital Ordinance, to demand the admission of his patient to the hospital if there is a vacant bed. The doctor added that he believed in distinctions of race, and had no desire to be familiar with nurses whose names he did not even know. When he returned to South Africa from overseas he married a woman of his own race.

The only course to adopt against this unrightly attitude of the nurses would naturally be to dismiss them. But in this instance as the party concerned was "only a nigger" the gross insult to a reputable practitioner has not been taken into consideration but, on the contrary, a feeling of sympathy has been shown by a section of the white people to the nurses and a question as to what steps the Government is taking in support of the nurses was asked in the Union House of Assembly. As the matter falls under the jurisdiction of the Provincial Administration the Government has declined to take any steps. Meanwhile one would like to know what fate the poor patients are suffering!

Dr. Franz Boss, professor of anthropology, Columbia University, thus concludes his article on "fallacies of racial inferiority" in *Current History*:—

We may dismiss as entirely unfounded the arguments based upon an assumption of inferior ability of various European and Asiatic groups. There is no reason to suppose that from the present migration from all parts of Europe and from many parts of Asia there will result an inferior mixed population. All Historical, biological and sociological considerations point to the conclusion that we have at present merely a repetition on a large scale of the phenomena of mixture from which have sprung the present European nations.

We read in the *Hindu Missionary*:—

There is not one Indian who has not rejoiced and felt proud on hearing of the splendid reception given to Sir Jagadish Chandra Bose at the various centres of Learning during his recent trip to Europe. After all, the land of dreamers can produce the equals of men who are "wide awake." As a result of the European tours of Rabindranath Tagore and Bose, Hinduism stands a better chance of being properly appreciated in the West.

The statistical report of the Durban Public Health Department for the month of March gives the following information:—Population during the month was Europeans 55,587, Coloureds 1,924, Natives 38,000, Asiatics 17,240.

Deaths during the month were 90 among the Borough residents comprised of Europeans 43, Coloureds 2, Natives 26, Asiatics 19.

Births registered during the month were European male 44, female 38, Coloured female 4, Native female 1, Asiatic male 30, female 27.

The total income derived by the Corporation from the Durban Indian Market for the month of March amounts to £902—12—6.

Persons proceeded against for contravention of Borough By-laws during the month of March were Europeans 301, Indians 90, Natives 699.

### NEED FOR CALMNESS

OUR Durban vernacular contemporary has for the last few months introduced English columns and whilst congratulating it on its progress and wishing it every success we are sorry to have to express our deep regret at the tone it has adopted in its recent articles dealing with the Indian question. We feel that by adopting an attitude such as it has deemed it advisable to do our contemporary is doing a good deal of harm to the community whose welfare it has at heart. We have at present before us its article on the new Asiatic Bill. It curses the Bill in the strongest language, it expresses dissatisfaction at the agreement arrived at between the Union and Indian Governments and places little confidence in those working in connection with the Bill on behalf of the Indian community. We agree with our contemporary that the settlement arrived at between the Union and Indian Governments on the Asiatic question is not as we would desire, we agree that it is by no means a settlement of the whole Asiatic question, we agree that we are suffering many hardships and humiliations through the administration of Provincial laws which is as a rule harsher than the laws themselves, we agree that there is every reason for the Indians to actively protest against such harsh administration and, if they have the courage, to sacrifice their

all to safeguard their national honour and self-respect. But to curse the present Bill with fiery adjectives we totally disagree with our contemporary. The Bill is the outcome of the agreement arrived at as a result of the Round Table Conference between the Union and Indian Governments, and that agreement, we must confess, was the best that was possible for the present in the circumstances. Let us therefore not belittle the work of the Habibullah deputation nor the unselfish and excellent services of Mr. C. F. Andrews. Let us also be grateful to the Union Government for yielding to the fair and reasonable representations on our behalf of the Indian Government and for the sympathetic consideration they have been showing since the Conference to all the representations of the S. A. Indian Congress. We have also to be grateful to the European public and more especially the European Press who moulds public opinion for the calmness they have shown during and since the negotiations, although, the *Natal Mercury* in this connection, was unfortunately a notable exception who had latterly marred its reputation by showing some hostility. There are certain sections in the Bill, we admit, that are ambiguous and the Congress officials are doing everything possible to have those points cleared. Mr. A. L. Kajee general secretary and Mr. V. S. C. Pather hon. treasurer accompanied by Mr. C. F. Andrews went to Capetown for that purpose and a memorandum, the text of which is published elsewhere in this issue, was placed before the Minister of the Interior, signed by representatives of all the Provincial bodies. We were given to understand by Messrs. Kajee and Pather who returned last Sunday and also from Mr. Andrews that they were given a very sympathetic hearing from the Ministers and some of the important points in the Bill such as Section 4 which seeks to amend Section 5 of the Immigrants Regulation Act 1913 dealing with the entry of minor children were satisfactorily cleared. A written reply to the Memorandum has been promised by the Minister and we will reserve our comments on the points in dispute until the receipt of the reply. Meanwhile it behoves us to keep calm and not indulge in the strongest adjectives that the English language would teach us to denounce the Bill.

## Memorandum of the S. A. Indian Congress On The New Bills

The following Memorandum was submitted to the Honourable Minister of the Interior, by the South African Indian Congress, with reference to the Immigration and Indian Relief (Further Provision) Bill, and Asiatics in the Northern Districts of Natal Bill now before Parliament:—

"We, the undersigned, hon. general secretary and joint hon. treasurer of the South African Indian Congress, and the representatives of the affiliated bodies, and as such representing the Indian community of South Africa, beg to submit the views and observations of our Congress in regard to the above two Bills, which have been introduced by the Honourable Minister of the Interior, thus giving legislative effect to a part of the settlement arrived at between the Union Government and the Government of India on the South African Indian Question; and would request a reply which might be kept along with this Memorandum among our Congress records.

### IMMIGRATION AND INDIAN RELIEF (FURTHER PROVISION) BILL

In regard to this Bill which seeks to amend certain sections of the Immigrants Regulation Act No. 22 of 1913, we beg to refer to section 4, subsection (a) which does not give a clear meaning of what is intended by the addition of the words to paragraph (e) of section 5 of the Principal Act. If it is intended that a child born after the commencement of the Principal Act outside the Union should enter the Union within three years from the date of his birth, it becomes a physical impossibility to do so, as it is some 14 years now since the passing of the Principal Act, and any child born soon after the passing of the Principal Act cannot enter the Union unless it seeks to do so under subsection (g) of section 5 of the Principal Act. We would therefore ask the reason for the insertion of this new provision and also whether subsection (g) is in any way modified by it and whether there is not an apparent contradiction between (e) and (g).

Since it is the intention of the Government to give effect to paragraph 3 of the Reciprocity Resolution of the Imperial Conference of 1913, which intended that an Indian should be enabled to live a happy family life in the Country in which he is domiciled, we beg to point out that by Proclamation No. 264 of 1904, Cape, wives of domiciled Indians and of Indians born in the Transkeian territories are refused admission. We therefore beg to submit that the said Proclamation be withdrawn or such relief afforded as will enable the lawfully resident Indians in the Transkeian territories to come under the operation of section 5, subsection (g) of the Principal Act. We would ask that the same permission be granted if any similar cases arise in any other territory under Union jurisdiction.

With reference to section 10 of the Bill which defines the term "domicile", we beg to submit, that if it is intended that all persons, who are now absent from the date of departure, should lose their domicile, then it would be a hardship on those who today possess either the Transvaal Registration Certificate or Natal Domicile Certificate and who have remained outside the Union for more than three years relying on the validity of, and the protection afforded by these certificates. We therefore would ask that a clause be added giving such persons sufficient time after passing of the Bill within which to return to the Union.

Again, supposing a person married a South African born woman and divorced her while in India, and the woman by virtue of her birth in the Union returns thereto with her offspring, the person cannot

bring into the Union another wife as he is precluded by the definition of the term "wife" as appears in section 3, subsection 2, paragraph (b) of the Indian Relief Act, No. 22, 1914. We therefore suggest that in the said paragraph (b) after the word "living" be added the words "other than a woman whose marriage with such exempted person has been dissolved to the satisfaction of the Minister". (Vide Round Table Conference Conclusions Entry of Wives and Children, para c.)

Further, the right of a woman returning to South Africa who is innocent and obtains a divorce against her husband should be protected.

While this opportunity has been afforded us to submit our views on the proposed Amendments, of the Act, we beg leave to refer to some of the minor points which could be administratively or otherwise given relief to, and which are as follows:-

1. When an Immigrant has once filled in a D. I. 90 Form, he should on subsequent occasion be only asked to fill in a supplementary form, giving such further particulars as are necessary.

2. Since the proposed Bill makes it an offence to illegally enter another Province within the Union the deposit of £10, should be dispensed with, wherever the Immigration Officer is satisfied with the educational, commercial, professional or social standing of the Applicant.

3. That in view of the liberty of the subject being involved in Immigration cases, sittings of the Immigrants Appeal Board should take place in the Court House, and every facility be given for the attendance of the public and for the publication of its proceedings.

4. That in any cases hereafter where the record in the Immigration Office with regard to an Indian returning to or entering the Union does not agree with the record sent over from India, a further reference should be made to the Government of India before the case is brought up to the Appeal Board and settled upon the evidence already in hand.

5. That the Hon. the Minister assure our Congress that those Indians who are subjects of the Native States of India and who are lawfully domiciled in the Union, would be for all purposes regarded as British subjects, notwithstanding the decision of the Courts.

It is our wish, that, while we do not anticipate for the present any hardships provided this Act and the Amendments thereto being sympathetically administered, the Minister may be pleased in the future to redress any legitimate grievance or hardship that we may suffer, and if need be to amend the law in order to render a peaceful working of the Settlement now arrived at.

#### ASIATICS IN THE NORTHERN DISTRICTS OF NATAL BILL

The definition of the term "Asiatic" in Section 16 is incorrect, as the words "and includes a coolie, an Arab and a Malay" carry no meaning and are inappropriate and reproachable. We respectfully ask that these words be eliminated altogether.

We venture to submit that the Honourable the Minister of the Interior would be pleased to favourably consider our representation and to give us, in answer to this Memorandum, assurance on the points above mentioned.

We beg to remain, Sir,

Your obedient servants,

A. I. KAJEE, Hon. General Secretary,  
V. S. C. PATHER, Joint Hon. Treasurer,  
S.A.I.C.

Further (sgd) by V. S. C. PATHER,  
N. A. CAMAY, A. ISMAIL, as representing respectively Natal Indian Congress, Transvaal British Indian Association and Cape British Indian Council, and countersigned by C. F. ANDREWS.

## The Deputation to the Minister

(BY C. F. ANDREWS)

The Deputation to the Minister concerning the new Bills did great credit to the Indian community and obtained important results. The very careful consideration that was given to its representations and the time spent upon it by the Ministers themselves during an exceptionally busy and distracting week was a token of the entirely new spirit, which had come into the administration in dealing with the Indian question. When we compare this visit with that of a Deputation on the Asiatic Bill nearly two years ago the change is so remarkable as to be well nigh incredible. Yet it is actually true.

Perhaps, the best way of telling the story will be to make a narrative of it as far as it can now be told. With regard to the industrial questions that come under the Agreement Mr. A. I. Kajee, Mr. V. S. C. Pather, Mr. N. A. Camay and Mr. A. Ismail went, in company with me, to the Minister of Labour at 9-15 p.m. on Monday April 25th. The talk lasted nearly an hour and a half and even after that Mr. Boydell called Mr. A. I. Kajee back in order to discuss the further question of housing in Durban itself and how far Indian capital itself might be invested in it, if suitable arrangements were made. He also wished us to meet the Trade Unionists engaged in the furnishing trade, who were at that time in Capetown. Unfortunately, it was not possible to do this, but there will probably be ample opportunity to meet in Durban itself when the whole question of the furnishing trade is likely to become acutest. With regard to our own request to the Minister that some place might be found under the Industrial Conciliation Board for our own Trade Unions and Employers' Union so that they might function side by side with other Unions in the same trade, whether European or Native, wherever they might already be in existence, he advised us to meet with the Union leaders.

The Minister promised to give the matter his most careful consideration in order to see how the difficulty could be met. He pointed out that more could probably be done at present by mutual consultation and agreement than by ministerial action.

In the afternoon of the same day, the Indian Deputation was received by the Minister with the utmost courtesy and consideration. Here again the interview lasted for over an hour and a half, and it was noticeable that the Minister was obliged to absent himself from Parliament in order to continue the interview to the end without interruption. Next week, we hope that it may be possible to give the full answer to the Memorandum, but at present all that can be said is that the main points in the Memorandum have been answered satisfactorily and two very great difficulties in the Bill, as it originally stood, have been entirely cleared away.

(i) The *only* change about minor children is that they must be accompanied or preceded by their mothers. There is no alteration at all about the age of their admission. Any minor under 16 may still be admitted *with* the mother.

(ii) People who are already absent from the Union will not be affected by the new rule about three years' absence. The period will begin from the date of the passing of the Act, not before it.

Many other points have been cleared up which are of a very important character. But in this present article, I am only able thus to give a main outline of what happened.

I would like in conclusion to congratulate and

thank Messrs. Kaje, Pather, Camay and Israail for the excellent manner in which they carried through all the proceedings. I was told afterwards by a very high authority that the Ministers had been fully satisfied by the ability and character of the Deputation and its constitutional manner of conducting business. They were also pleased with the promptitude and punctuality of the proceedings.

## The Facts about Assisted Emigration

(BY C. F. ANDREWS)

Much misunderstanding has arisen, concerning the Agreement, owing to the clauses about assisted emigration not having been carefully considered by the reader.

Under the old system, three things used to happen, which were very harmful and humiliating. Under the new system, great improvements, have been made in these.

(i) *Before*, children up to the age of 21 were reckoned as minor children; a parent could sign away their domicile rights and they could not protest.

*Now*, this age for a minor child has been reduced to sixteen. After sixteen, a boy or a girl may do as he or she likes.

(ii) *Before*, children and parents had to sign away at once their domicile and promise never to return.

*Now*, no one signs away his domicile immediately. Anyone may come back within three years, provided he or she refunds the money paid by the Union Government.

(iii) *Before*, when landing in Bombay or Madras, the South African Indian immigrants used often to be cheated and robbed and fleeced. Also no occupation was provided for them even if they desired it.

*Now*, every care will be taken, and the best efforts will be made, to see that the ship's passage is decent, and that those who come over are not stranded on landing or in want of work.

While, personally, I do not anticipate any large increase of numbers going back to India, I think we may have reasonable confidence that those who *do* go back are not likely to suffer either humiliation or destitution. Indeed, we may go further and be certain, that in any 'hard case,' where residence in India was clearly unmistakable to the emigrant, an effort would be made to enable him to return, after the experiment had proved a failure.

What has, I think, been realised at last by the Union Government is this, that any one leaving South Africa, and meeting with unhappiness and destitution in India, would be, as it were, a bad illustration and example, which had to be avoided at all costs; because it would tell heavily against the Union. For this reason, the inhumanity, which used to happen before, is not likely to happen again.

It should be remembered, lastly, that the whole scheme is under experiment, from *both* sides. If it leads to destitution and misery, it will *have* to be revised and altered after a period of years. If, however, as I expect, it leads to increased happiness and contentment, then obviously it should be allowed to continue, along with any fresh improvement or modification that might be found necessary.

## An Expression of Regret

(BY THE REV. C. F. ANDREWS)

To the Editor, INDIAN OPINION,

Dear Sir,—I find unfortunately that a statement I made in a pamphlet issued more than six years ago, in which I had written about the evil effects of the old, bad indenture system, has given rise to much pain within the Colonial-born Indian community in Natal.

I had *really* written about Fiji, but had unfortunately mentioned also the name of Natal in the same category (assuming that conditions were similar) without making the same very thorough investigation here that I had made in Fiji.

I fully admit that I ought not to have brought in the name of Natal along with Fiji, without making the same thorough investigations here that I had made in Fiji.

Therefore, I wish unreservedly to withdraw the word 'Natal' from the statement I made about these special evils of the indenture system, and shall delete the word in future.

I wish also to say how deeply I regret if I have caused any pain in the past to anyone in this manner. A hundred times over, both here and in India, and throughout the world, I have written publicly concerning the truly noble and admirable manner in which the Colonial-born Indians in every Colony have recovered from the cruel system of indenture under which they were recruited. Indeed, it has been a great part of my own life-work to put an end to that system of Indian indentured labour, not only in Natal, but in British Guiana, Dutch Guiana, Fiji, Jamaica, Trinidad, where it had been continued up to January 1st, 1920. Now, thank God! it is entirely abolished.

The utter misery that it brought, those only can know who suffered from it!

If, in fighting this evil at close quarters, for the sake of Indian honour, I brought in hastily on one occasion the name of Natal, when describing the evils which I found in the barracks at Fiji, I know that the Colonial-born Indians in Natal will excuse me.

There is nothing that would give me personally more pain, than that I myself should have given pain inadvertently to those whom I came out to help, to serve and to love.

Yours faithfully,

C. F. ANDREWS.

## A Touching Story

(BY C. F. ANDREWS)

The following is a story concerning the faithful devotion of a little dog to a young child. The readers of INDIAN OPINION all over the world will like to read it. It runs as follows:—

"An extraordinary adventure with a snake at a farm in the Pietersburg district is related in the Press, when a five-year-old child named Guy Farmer was attacked by a black mamba.

The story of how the child was saved by his dog which, however, was bitten to death in a subsequent struggle, amounts to an epic of animal heroism.

Mrs. Hetty Farmer, the mother of the child, was a guest on a farm which lies in a somewhat isolated area backed by a line of rocky kopjes. Snakes have been seen there, but not for the past few months. Mrs. Farmer missed her son, who is described as a pretty curly-headed child, on Wednesday morning, but presumed that he was playing with his dog, which was devoted to him, somewhere behind the homestead.

At length a frantic barking attracted her attention, and rushing out to the back a strange sight met her eyes, a black mamba swaying from side to side was approaching the dog, which was barking furiously and turning its head quickly to and from the child as if anxious for him to run away. The boy, however, stood as if transfixed.

At length the snake quickened its speed, and the dog jumped at it, the two engaging in a life and death struggle.

Mrs. Farmer snatched up her boy with the intention of getting him away from the spot, and returning with a revolver from the house. Within two minutes, however, the dog's barking ceased, and it staggered for a few paces and dropped, whereupon the snake made after the mother and child. Telling the boy to run to the house—which he at once proceeded to do—Mrs. Farmer pluckily faced the oncoming reptile. She seized a large stone, throwing it with desperation, and by a lucky chance, dropped it on the back of the mamba which stopped and wriggled convulsively.

Mrs. Farmer then hurried the child to the house, returned with her revolver and shot the still wriggling creature, after which she returned to the heroic little terrier. It lay inert, although its heart appeared to be still beating. She carried it back to the house, but it died half an hour later.

Mrs. Farmer, who was greatly upset by the occurrence, states that her son is inconsolable, and that she has ordered a stone (inscribed) in memory of the gallant little animal which gave up its life for her child.

What a wonderful beauty there is in such a story as this! How it quickens the heart and brings tears to the eyes to read it! I feel certain that all the readers of INDIAN OPINION will like to share it with me.

## European Press Comments On The Indian Agreement

The *Manchester Guardian* writes as follows:—

The full significance of the agreement reached between the South African and Indian Governments lies in the sentence stating that British Indians who wish to remain in South Africa and are prepared to adopt "Western standards of life" may do so and go about their concerns as freely as any Europeans" and will not be specially segregated.

It is not a whit too much to say that if this provision be lived up to faithfully by both sides there is here the beginning of a solution of the colour problem throughout the Empire. Only those who have lived in the Union, and noted the conditions of racial life there, can fully realise what a tremendous step in the improvement of racial relationships is covered by this phrase. Some wise man has said that the greatest difficulties in life arise not where both sides are wrong but where both sides are right. The European worker, especially the retail business man, has always had a certain case against the British Indian in South and East Africa.

### "WESTERN STANDARDS OF LIFE"

The European trader holds, with justice, that it is not fair that he should have to observe certain sanitary conditions, send his children to school, keep certain hours of business, and pay certain rates, while his Indian competitor, whose wife and usually numerous family are all "spanned into" his business, does not observe these standards. To this the reply of Mr. Gandhi and other Indian leaders has always been, in effect, that they recognise the unfairness of this competition and invite the local Government or municipal authority to use all the powers of its police or municipal services to force any offenders to come into line with the higher standard. I speak with some knowledge on this point, because when, nearly twenty years ago, the trouble reached one of its numerous acute phases, and Mr. Gandhi and some of his friends lay in prison; I, at the request of General Smuts, then Transvaal Minister of the Interior, acted as a con-

dential intermediary between the Government and Indian leaders and tried to find out what the latter's irreducible minima were. Over and over again Mr. Gandhi assured me that the Indians were perfectly prepared to accept the principle that only a small number of their people should seek admission to South Africa, and that these or any others would have to accept European standards or abide the consequences, in the shape of prosecutions as frequent and as harrying as the police and sanitation departments cared to make them. What they would not accept, what they would strenuously and continuously resist, was attempted assertion of the principle that, whatever their degree of culture or mode of life, they should, because they were Indians and because the colour of their skin was different from the colour of the British skin, in no circumstances be allowed to live and carry on their business as free men.

General Smuts on that occasion made an earnest effort to bring about an understanding, and full credit is due to him, though he may not have foreseen that many years afterwards the promising result now announced would be reached. This result is all the more promising because General Hertz and his colleagues, who have so fairly and so wisely conducted the negotiations from the South African side, represent a party many degrees more Indian than that led by General Smuts ever was. There is an additional guarantee in the fact that the South African Government has agreed to the instalment within the Union of a special representative of the Indian Government whose duty it will be to supervise the working of the scheme.

### REPERCUSSION ON NATIVE AFRICANS.

It does not seem dangerously optimistic to say that if this agreement affecting the Indians be carried out in the spirit in which both sides have reached it, a by-product will almost certainly be a by-result which will be quite as important as its main result. There will not well be the improvement in relations between Europeans and Indians in South Africa which the agreement fore-shadows without their being a corresponding improvement in the Europeans' relations with their native African neighbours. Hitherto, in almost every considerable South African town, two spectacles have presented themselves—on the one side the trim, well-kept European settlement; on the other, as far away as possible, a miserable, squalid collection of horrible hives called the native location. Its people have been without political power and without municipal or any other power except the grim power which comes to it when pestilence breaks out. And of late years there has been a tendency to adopt the same pernicious principle in the settlements of the West Coast. The common fool, who thinks, or at least says, that all Africans are alike, all at the same stage, and all incapable of adopting for themselves the good points of our civilisation, would, if he wishes to retain his theory, do well to avoid West Africa, with its African lawyers, doctors, teachers, editors, and officials, its independent traders, not a few of whom live in houses well built and in the European style, who import British motor-cars, and whose general advancement in life has meant and is meaning "big business" to British manufacturers and British merchants.

During the last few years a tendency has shown itself for Governments to place the European—who, in the best circumstances, can never be more than a sojourner in West Africa—in one area, with good houses, electric light, water service, recreation spaces, and other amenities (the main part of the money for which, after all, comes ultimately out of the ground of Africa and the work of Africans), leaving the Africans to stew in their own juice in the

old, insanitary, huddled-up native towns. The reason or excuse given has been that in this way malaria and other diseases are better kept at bay. Anybody with half an eye knows that there is not, and never can be, physical segregation of Europeans and Africans in Africa, for at dozens of points every day they are and must be in contact. The better educated, and therefore better-to-do, Africans have realised, and in a timid, doubtful sort of way argued, that such a system must mean that the weaker race gets "the little end of the horn." Here also, and in numerous other parts of Africa, the influence of the agreement reached between the South African and Indian Governments must make itself surely, if slowly, felt.

In the course of a leading article on the Union-Indian agreement the, *London Times* writes:—

"The agreement... is not a victory for either side. It is an honourable and friendly understanding rather than a binding treaty. The Union has not surrendered its freedom to deal with Indian problems by legislation, nor has the Government of India bound itself to co-operate with the Union, on their practical question. The main achievement is that a question which has aroused serious racial bitterness on each side of the Indian Ocean has been discussed in a conciliatory spirit by negotiators more anxious to find a solution of an admittedly difficult problem than to win dialectical triumphs in the presentation of their case. In such cases a *modus vivendi* can generally be found. In this case it has been found without any sacrifice of the right of the South African Union to use all just and legitimate means for the maintenance of Western standards of life—a right which the agreement, indeed expressly recognised and affirms—and without any interference with legislation already in force within the Union. Indians who emigrate will be assisted by what appears to be a very generous system of State aid in the form of individual and family bonuses. The Union will provide increased educational facilities for Indians; it agrees not to proceed further with the Areas Reservation Bill, and undertakes to consider the Indian suggestion that the discretion of the local authorities should be limited when the Trade Licensing laws are revised. The Colour Bar Act, which is now law, is not to be modified; but the Indian delegates have the promise that there will be no derogation of the principle underlying the Industrial Conciliation Act and the Wage Act which enables all employees, European or Indian, to take their places on the basis of equal pay for equal work. It would be premature to say that all the difficulties have now been smoothed over. Still, on the natural assumption that both parties will honour the agreement, the future phases of the problem may now be awaited with far greater optimism than was permissible a few months ago." From the Imperial point of view the fact that two of the great members of the British Empire have reached an understanding by direct negotiation is agreeably significant.

### Northern Natal Indian Chamber of Commerce

The adjourned General Meeting of the Northern Natal Indian Chamber of Commerce met in the School Hall, Newcastle, on the 10th of April. Mr. Cassin Meier of Dundee, presiding, being supported by Messrs T. S. Vawada, A. O. Moola, Y. O. Vawada, the Vice-Chairmen, I. M. Maiter, Hon. Treasurer, Sheik Ameer, Hon. Auditor, A. C. Peer, Hon. Secretary, and a large gathering of merchants and others.

After conclusion of formal business the meeting set down to the important business of considering

and adopting a constitution, and gentlemen from all centers displayed keen interest in this business, and after prolonged discussion adopted a constitution which only allow holders of general dealer's licenses to be eligible for its membership, the fee for which has been fixed at £2. 2. 0 per annum.

This the meeting was then called upon to elect a committee and the following gentlemen were appointed who together with the officials shall form the committee.

Messrs D. M. Seedat (Newcastle), G. M. A. Vawada (Newcastle), L. C. B. Ephraim (Newcastle), Sheik Abdool (Dannhanser), M. Hansa (Hattingspruit), G. H. Meer (Dundee), G. H. Timol (Rorkes-Drift), Ismail Limbada (Vants' Drift), A. C. Seedat (Ingogo), S. I. Mall (Waschbank), C. S. Asmal (Ladysmith), I. A. Kharva (Ladysmith), E. M. Haffejee (Escourt), M. Peerbhoy (Estcourt), E. M. Manjoo (Colenso),

Before closing the meeting Mr. Chairman referred with pleasure to the great interest shown in the work of the chamber, and thanked those who came from far and near, and for their support.

The meeting concluded at 8. 30 p. m after a vote of thanks to the chair.

During the day all delegates from outside were the guest of Mr. I. S. Vawada and in the evening of Mr. I. M. Maiter, who were thanked for their kind hospitality.—*Contributed.*

### Rates

#### GREENWOOD PARK LOCAL ADMINISTRATION AND HEALTH BOARD

The rates assessed by this Board for the year ending 31st, July, 1917 was due and payable on the 31 January, 1917 and persons who have not paid such assessment are now in default.

Notice is hereby given that it is the Board's intention to institute legal proceedings for the recovery of all Rates remaining unpaid on the 9th May, 1917.

By order of the Board.

G. MATHIESOM,  
Secretary.

### Wanted

An Indian compositor and a printer who understands a wharfedale cylinder machine. Applications by correspondence to: Manager Indian Opinion, Phoenix, Natal, and in person to 19 First Avenue, Durban.

### "INDIAN OPINION"

#### Subscription Rates.

WITHIN THE UNION :	s.	d.
Yearly ... ..	20	0
Half-Yearly ... ..	10	0
OUTSIDE THE UNION and OVERSEAS	s.	d.
Yearly ... ..	20	0
Half-Yearly ... ..	10	6