

Indian Opinion

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Indian Opinion

SATURDAY, JANUARY 25th, 1908.

On Compromise

THERE is undoubtedly a great deal of talk in the air of the desirability of arriving at a basis of compromise on the Transvaal trouble. We have, from the very beginning of this struggle, urged such a course, and it has been a matter of wonder to us that its adoption has been so long delayed. The question instantly leaps to the lips—whither are we travelling? It is a thought that must give pause to every statesman in South Africa to-day, for vital principles of right and wrong are involved. We believe we see in this terrible ordeal, through which our brethren in the Transvaal are now passing, the seed of a plant of splendid promise for the unrepresented people of the world and certainly of South Africa. And it is necessary, in order to fully appreciate the tremendousness of the problem, to take a broad view of it.

Why was the Registration Law ever placed upon the Statute Book of the Transvaal? Chiefly, we think, because of that peculiar condition of mind that is almost universal in South Africa, that presupposes a complete difference in the humanity of the

white man and the coloured man, a fundamental error that is based upon false comparisons and partial ignorance of facts. Had it not been, as General Smuts has himself almost admitted, that the Transvaal Parliament "did not know" that this measure would have called forth such an amount of opposition, we are certain that it would never have received popular support, at any rate, in its present form. It was only because it was believed that the Asiatics would not make any real objection, once the measure was placed on the Statute Book, that the Law was so warmly, or apparently warmly, welcomed by the European Colonists.

The Asiatics were never consulted in its framing. It was not thought necessary to consult them. They were Asiatics, and it was for them to meekly accept anything that their rulers, in their wisdom, saw fit to give them. They had no voice or vote in such an enactment. They were a despised and disfranchised minority, and even supposing that there was not the slightest acknowledged desire to humble and degrade them, the fundamental error of statesmanship would still have existed. The vital principle was contained in the circumstances surrounding the American War of Independence, which lost to Britain the North American colonies. The battle-cry of the Americans was "No taxation without representation." In other words, where a section of the community was not represented, any action relating to its vital interests should never be taken without frequent, close, and sympathetic consultation. It is exactly the recognition of this elementary political maxim that the Asiatics in the Transvaal are striving for to-day.

But, it may be asked, what has all this to do with compromise? Everything, for it is only upon a basis of mutual respect and acknowledgment of the *bona fides* of each party to the fight, that anything in the nature of a permanent peace can be concluded. The Government of the Transvaal have systematically blackened the character of the Asiatic communities, and the Law itself presupposes a guilty knowledge by those communities of an illicit influx of Asiatics on a large scale. Their good faith is suspected, and their honour deemed of little account. The attitude of mind, too, that permits a responsible Minister, a highly educated man, and the head of the Department that has the handling of the entire Asiatic problem, to speak publicly of Indian merchants and traders as "coolies" shows how wide is the breach at present separating the

combatants. On the other hand, the Asiatic communities still remember bitterly the so-called National Convention. They still remember the various attempts, all abortive by a happy chance, to put all Asiatics into locations for purposes of residence and trade, and they fear that this particular measure is the thin end of the wedge of anti-Asiatic legislation that will be driven home, unless prompt measures are taken to defend themselves from the threatened peril.

That is the position of affairs to-day, and it is for South African statesmen to put an end to an extremely awkward situation. But we say, again and again, no compromise can be acceptable to the Asiatic communities that does not give them self-respect and the respect of their rulers. The question is, as Mr. Gandhi so tersely put it recently:—Is the Asiatic in South Africa to be treated as a gentleman or a pariah?

Religious Tests

WE had almost thought that religious tests had gone out of fashion. We recollect the furor that arose when certain religious disabilities were inserted in the first Education Act in England, and how vigorous was public opposition to a measure that disabled men and women from holding certain public positions and performing certain public acts, for the faith that was in them. We remember the long struggle that preceded the abolition of the famous Test Act. Nor do we forget with what a breath of relief the news was received that the first Jew, the first agnostic, was admitted to the British Parliament, not because he was a Jew or an agnostic, but because he was no longer disabled for being one. The names of Baron Lionel de Rothschild and Charles Bradlaugh will be ever memorable to Englishmen as standing for principles that have become as the very breath of life to the modern Britisher. And when we compare this satisfactory condition of affairs with that which obtains in Russia, where Jews are only admitted to the high schools and universities in an infinitesimal proportion of the whole number of students admitted, because they are Jews, we are accustomed to hold up our hands in pious horror, and unctuously remark that, thank goodness, such a thing is not possible, under British rule, where absolute religious freedom and tolerance prevail. So that, when we are told that a religious test act of a peculiarly insulting nature exists in the Transvaal, we are amazed and incredulous. Yet what is the Registration Act, if not that? It re-enacts the

definition of an Asiatic to be amongst other persons, "the native races of Asia," including "Mahomedans subjects of the Turkish Empire." A case in point arose last week, when Mr. Syed Mustafa, a Turkish subject, was refused a licence to trade in Johannesburg, because, although he was a European Turk by birth, his religion was that of Islam, and he, being unregistered under a law that differentiated against his very faith, was accordingly not deemed a fit person to ply a peaceful calling. Thus, a European Turk, if a Christian or a Jew, would not come within the terms of the Registration Act, and could trade freely. A European Turk, if a Mahomedan, is regarded as a sower of social disease. Can it be wondered at, then, that the whole Mahomedan section of the community is up in arms against a measure that counts their very faith as an offence, and its acknowledgment a sufficient reason for robbing a man of his means of livelihood?

AFTER GENERAL SMUTS' THREAT IT was obvious that the intention of the Government, in so far as General Smuts may be said to represent the Government, was to attempt to terrorise the body of the community by arresting more of the leaders. Undoubtedly, the leaders have been arrested and imprisoned and many of them have been ordered to leave the Colony. The question is: Has General Smuts attained his desire? Has he proved his case? The enthusiastic meetings held by the Indians and Chinese were surely sufficient answer. A spirit which can move a whole community to regard their hitherto acknowledged leaders as communally dead for the time being, and which replaces them by men from the ranks who have sprung forward as volunteers in the sacred cause of freedom of conscience and defence of religion, can never be overcome by all the arbitrary acts of any Government. The next few weeks will show important results. But we do feel that it is a very great pity indeed that General Smuts will not come down from the heights and attend one or more of these meetings, and obtain a full translation of all the proceedings. He will then be able to feel what the people feel, to see with his own eyes that this is no mere movement of agitators, to hear with his own ears what the people themselves have to say. It is a fair offer. Will he accept it?

IF THE MORE RESPECTABLE AND responsible papers in South Africa are carefully perused, there is no room for doubt as to their having accurately diagnosed the situation in the Transvaal. Almost unanimously they have come to the

conclusion that one of the greatest objections to the Registration Act is due to the fact that it was passed over the heads of the Asiatic communities and without consultation with them, an unrepresented, voteless minority. And they are equally plain that this was consequent upon the contempt for and distrust of the Asiatics. It is well within our knowledge that the *bona fides* of the Asiatic leaders has been suspected in the highest quarters, and even to-day they are distrusted by responsible ministers and charged with carrying on a baseless agitation. It is, therefore, quite impossible for self-respecting, religious men to accept a measure which, from its very inception, was calculated to degrade them, and lower them in the eyes of their fellows. To-day, these responsible journals are suggesting that the Asiatic leaders should be listened to and their suggestions carefully considered. That is the whole crux of the question. Are the Asiatics to be regarded as pariahs or as gentlemen? If the former, the fight must go on; if the latter, the way is clear for a compromise acceptable to both parties. Upon the answer to this question depends the whole future of South Africa, and the success of the attempts towards closer union.

ELSEWHERE, WE REPRODUCE A LETTER addressed by Mr. Harold Cox, M.P., to *The Times*. It speaks for itself. Mr. Cox raises anew the constitutional question as to

the exact point where suzerainty ends and independence begins within the Empire. Is a Colony, which has been granted self-governing powers, free to pass any legislation it pleases, regardless of the welfare of other territories of the Empire as a whole, or is its action, so far as it is not purely domestic, always subject to the veto of the Imperial Government? What again is to be the position of voteless minorities under such a system of Government as obtains in the colonies to-day? Where does Imperial responsibility for these minorities begin and end? Are Imperial pledges to be subservient to the dictates of individual and subordinate parts of the Empire, and if so to what extent? All these questions go to show that the Imperial constitution is in a state of flux, that Imperial morality is beginning to be doubted, and that thoughtful men are beginning to ask what will be the eventual results in regard to the relations between the same unrepresented minorities and their political masters once the former have learnt the power of organisation and application of principles of Government. Time alone will show, and Mr. Cox will, we think, yet be remembered as one of the few alert men who shouted "Fire!" before the conflagration, and not afterwards.

Prize Essay Competition

Judge's Award

Owing to Dr. Landau's withdrawal from the judgeship of the competition, due to his desiring not to be in any way associated with what he believed to be a political movement, the Rev. J. J. Doke, minister of the Central Baptist Church, was requested to act as judge, and kindly consented to do so. Below we give his award:

THE "INDIAN OPINION" PRIZE ESSAY COMPETITION. SUBJECT: "THE ETHICS OF PASSIVE RESISTANCE."

Four Essays only were received. Three fulfilled the conditions imposed. One completely failed. With Dr. Landau, I wish it to be distinctly understood that I in no way enter into the merits of the political application of the views advanced in these Essays. I judge them as statements of an argument. Whether I agree with the argument or not is immaterial, and I take into account their value from the standpoint of logic and literature.

1. I award the first place without hesitation to the Essay signed "DIXI."

From a literary point of view it is by far the best production. The diction is forcible and relatively pure. The idiom is good.

The argument is clear, and the manner in which the subject is handled shows an intelligent appreciation of the points in dispute.

Most of the illustrations are distinctly well chosen. The best illustration is the first which shows originality of treatment.

The requirements have been fulfilled.

2. The second place I award to "LEX."

He mistakes at times "Active Resistance" for "Passive Resistance," and is by far too sweeping in his assertions to be logical. There is also a lack of system in his argument, while his "examination" of the two works by Thoreau and Tolstoy is unsatisfactory.

Still, there is a nervous power about this Essay, and a clearness of expression which easily place it in the second position.

3. The third position is taken by "Spes in Ardui."

This Essay shows a considerable amount of labour, a careful study of Scripture, and an appreciation of the Phædo. These are good points worth noting, but throughout the Essay a mistaken use of long words and sounding phrases has been its ruin. The ideas are by no means clear, and there is nothing that can be called "an examination" of Tolstoy's book in the Essay.

4. "Nacte Virtute" has missed the subject altogether. His whole argument appears to be in favour of Force as opposed to Passive Resistance.

The books mentioned in the condi-

tions have not left a trace on the Essay.

JOSEPH J. DOKE.

Johannesburg,

January 17, 1908.

The Winner

We are glad to award the prize of £10 ros. to Mr. M. S. Maurice, "Bon Espoir," Molteno Road, Claremont, Capetown, who adopted the *nom-de-plume* of "Dixie." Mr. Maurice is an Indian gentleman. A cheque for ten guineas has been forwarded to Mr. Maurice. We hope to print his essay shortly.

Mr. Harold Cox's Letter to "The Times"

We reproduce below Mr. Cox's letter in full:—

Sir,—In your issue of December 21, you publish a telegram from Standardton stating that the "Maintenance Department of the Central South Africa Railways has discharged about 40 unregistered Indians." The *Times* has so frequently and so clearly insisted on the duty of the British Government to protect his Majesty's Indian subjects from tyrannical treatment in British colonies, that I hope you will permit me to call attention to the meaning of this latest move on the part of the Government of the Transvaal.

The whole excuse put forward for the system of registration which the Transvaal Government is attempting to force upon the British Indian population is that without registration it would be impossible to identify Indians who were lawfully resident in the colony from those who had entered surreptitiously. For the moment I wish to say nothing about this new conception of what is meant by liberty under the British flag. Hitherto Englishmen have been taught to believe that wherever the British flag floats men of all nationalities are free to come and go, provided they can show a clean bill of health, and are prepared to maintain themselves by honest industry. It is upon this principle that the British Empire has been built up, and I, personally, hold that its abandonment will mean the destruction of the Empire.

For the moment, however, I am only concerned with the official plea of the Transvaal Government that the new system of registration, with all the paraphernalia of finger-prints, is essential for the purposes of identification. The dismissal of these 40 railway servants proves the inadequacy of this plea. These men were already identified. They were Government servants, drawing Government pay, and we can hardly be expected to believe that the financial laxity of the Transvaal Government is so great that it pays wages to its own servants without being able to identify them.

A similar consideration applies to the case of numerous Indians employed by private persons in the Transvaal

who have also been dismissed by their European employers for refusing to adopt a method of identification which they regard as humiliating, and which the fact of their regular employment proves to be unnecessary. I have before me a copy of a petition addressed to the High Commissioner by more than 100 Indian ex-soldiers. The petitioners—43 Punjabi Mahomedans, 13 Sikhs, and 54 Pathans—are all British subjects. They were most of them brought to the colony in connexion with the Transvaal Corps raised at the time of the war. They were told by their officers that at the end of the war it would be possible for them to settle in any part of South Africa and to secure honourable employment. They were granted permits to reside in the Transvaal in exchange for discharge certificates issued by their officers. In spite of these permits they have been dismissed from their employment for refusing to submit to a system of registration which they regard as humiliating.

In their own words:—"It is not possible for your petitioners to submit to the Asiatic Act, inasmuch as it subjects them to humiliation never experienced by them in India, and reduces them to a state which is incompatible with their self-respect and dignity as soldiers." They go on to say that they are willing to give evidence that they have served the Empire as loyal British subjects, but that they cannot return to India and find the wherewithal to support themselves.

Is there an Englishman living to whom such language does not appeal? These men were born under the British flag; they have fought for that flag in more than one campaign; and yet now, while still under its shadow, they are told that they must either starve or submit to a ceremony which in their case is from every point of view superfluous, and which they regard as degrading.

The case is, however, only part of the general issue involved. The real meaning of the resistance to registration is perfectly understood by Europeans as well as by Asiatics in the Transvaal. Everybody there knows that behind the flimsy pretext of identification there was a deliberate desire to make continued residence in the Transvaal so intolerable to self-respecting Indians that they would be compelled to abandon the prosperous businesses which they had built up by their industry and thrift, and to leave the retail trade of the colony to their white competitors from Poland, and Russia, and Greece. This retail trade, it may be added, consists very largely in dealings with the native population, where the Indian has beaten the European mainly because he is more patient and more courteous in his treatment of his Kaffir customers.

As for the idea that by expelling the Indian trader, or by any other form of tyranny, South Africa can be turned into a white man's land, it may be dismissed as a dream. The black popu-

lation already outnumbered the white by five to one, and the disproportion is every year becoming greater. Nor will it be possible permanently to keep the natives in that condition of industrial and commercial subjection which a certain type of colonist appears to desire. They are educating themselves at their own expense, and are rising in the scale of civilisation as all Englishmen ought to wish them to rise. The question whether South Africa shall be white or black is already settled by the competition of the cradle, and by forces which no legislation can control. The only question at issue is whether the few thousand British Indians now resident in the Transvaal are to be deprived of their property and of their livelihood in order to make room for white competitors, many of whom are not even British subjects.

The plea that the Transvaal is a self-governing colony, and must, therefore, be allowed to manage its own affairs, will not bear examination. A colony can safely be left to govern itself when all its inhabitants, as in Cape Colony, have the opportunity of acquiring power to influence the Government. They can then use their votes to redress their own grievances, instead of carrying their complaints to his Majesty's Ministers, who are ultimately responsible for the good government of the whole of his Majesty's Empire. But the Indian colonists of the Transvaal have no votes. They have been handed over tied and bound to the tender mercies of their white competitors. They have no means of redress, except by appealing to the Imperial Government. When the Transvaal was under a foreign flag, England lent a ready ear to Indian appeals. Part of our *casus belli* against President Kruger was his ill-treatment of the British Indians then resident in the Republic. To-day their treatment is a hundred times worse than it was, yet the Imperial Government refuses to lift a little finger on their behalf.

To say that we have no means of coercing this little colony is a palpable absurdity. We maintain a garrison in South Africa costing the taxpayers of the United Kingdom £3,000,000 a year, and the Prime Minister of the Transvaal has specially asked the Imperial Government not to remove any troops without giving him good notice, because their presence reduces the expense of the police force, and brings British money into the colony. In addition to this convenient subsidy the Transvaal has obtained an Imperial loan of £5,000,000 to meet urgent financial requirements. Our effective power of control over the Government of the Transvaal is, therefore, as complete as is our Imperial responsibility for the defence of our Indian subjects in all parts of the world.

Yours obediently,

HAROLD COX.

Gray's Inn, Dec. 23.

Further Indian Prosecutions

This Week's Cases

In B Court, Johannesburg, on Monday last, Nawab Khan, Jamadar, appeared before the Magistrate to answer a charge of being in the Transvaal after having been ordered to leave the Colony within a certain period. He had been arrested that morning, as his arrest the previous Friday had been informal. He took part in the Tirah, Chitral, Blackhill, Burmah and South African campaigns. He pleaded guilty. After formal evidence of arrest and service of notice, Mr. Jordan passed sentence of two months' imprisonment without hard labour.

Afterwards, Hassan Mia of Roodepoort, was brought before the Magistrate on the charge of being in the Transvaal without a registration certificate issued under Act 2 of 1907. He pleaded not guilty and, after formal evidence of arrest, he was ordered to leave the Colony within 14 days.

Messrs. Nanumia Ramtula, Mahomed Ebrahim Konkey, Hassan Mia Oobarey, Abdul Gafur Fazander, and Ahmed Karodia were charged similarly at the same time. All pleaded not guilty. All explained that they had large business interests but that they were content to receive short notice. The Magistrate ordered them to leave the Colony within 14 days.

Messrs. J. L. Wengsee, Acting Chairman Chinese Association, Ho Ling, Lu Chin, and thirteen other members of the Chinese community, were similarly charged, and pleaded not guilty. Mr. Wengsee stated that he had been in the Colony for 21 years. He had always carried on business here as a wholesale and retail merchant. He was married in South Africa and had a daughter whom he had to support and who was now at school in Durban. He had £5,000 invested in his business and a large amount outstanding. The law was bad and unjust and he could not submit to it. If he did so, he would disgrace himself and his nation. He was quite willing to receive short notice to leave the country.

Mr. Ho Ling stated that he was in the Transvaal for 11 years and had afterwards opened a wholesale business as direct importer of Chinese goods. At present he had from £8,000 to £9,000 stock and about £2,000 outstanding. It was the first time he had been in a criminal court. The law was unjust. He had always thought the British a civilised nation and one that always rendered justice. This law was bad. No human being could submit to it. To-day, although he had a wife and five children here, he would not consider that and did not mind what happened. He would rather receive the shortest notice than submit to the law.

Mr. Lu Chin said he was chief picket. He came to the Transvaal in 1897.

When war broke out he went down to Kimberley and returned after the war. He carried on business as a general dealer. The present law was bad. No one could submit to it. He was afraid that the British people had made a great mistake in trying to force Asiatics to submit to such an unjust law. Since September, 1906, when the law was first drafted, he had left his business to look after itself and had undertaken public work. He also requested short notice. The other accused gave similar evidence. All were ordered to leave the Colony within 14 days.

On Saturday last, Shahji Saheb came before the Court on the charge of being in the Colony without a registration certificate. He said that he had never committed any crime, and he asked the Magistrate whether he (the Magistrate) would leave the Colony if he were ordered to do so. He asked for five minutes' notice, but he did not intend to leave the Colony. The Magistrate ordered him to leave the Colony within 14 days.

In D Court on Monday before Mr. Graham Cross, 75 hawkers were sentenced to pay a fine of £2 or 14 days imprisonment without hard labour for trading without licences within the Johannesburg Municipal area. They all stated that they were not guilty, having made application for licences, which had been refused to them on the ground that they had no registration certificate issued to them under Act 2 of 1907. No fines were paid. Three boys under age were discharged.

On Tuesday, Messrs. Ahmed Suliman and Moosajee Mahomed, pickets, were ordered to leave the Colony within 14 days by Mr. Jordan. Thirty-five more hawkers were sent to gaol for 14 days, as they refused to pay fines. The Magistrate pointed out that in the descriptive receipt held by each of the accused they were described as "Indian coolies." He drew the attention of the police to the fact that these men were not "coolies," "coolie" being a term of contempt. They were Indians and should be described as such. Five boys under age were discharged.

It was a remarkable sight to see these men marched along to the Court by police, each man carrying on his head his basket of vegetables or fruit. Most of them, of course, have lost the little money that they invested in their day's purchase. In the case of the pickets, their badges were taken from them by the police who refused to return them.

Pretoria Cases

The *Star* of Monday last reports:—To-day five Asiatics were warned to appear at the charge office for the purpose of being charged under the Asiatic Law Amendment Act with not being in possession of the necessary permits. It appears, however, that two of the number were not to be found by the leaders of the Asiatic community. This evening, however, only three were charged, the names of whom are Moosa Ismail Adia, Sar-

foodin Benze and Endroos.

After being charged they were released on their own recognisances and ordered to appear before the Magistrate to-morrow.

Alleged Intimidation

Tuesday.—Before Major Dixon this morning, the three Indians appeared who were arrested yesterday on a charge of not being in possession of the necessary permit under the Asiatic Law Amendment Act.

Formal evidence was led by the police, and the accused, who had no statement to make, were ordered to leave the Colony by the 1st February.

The first case of an Asiatic being ordered by a Magistrate to make application for registration after the accused had pleaded intimidation as an excuse for not registering within the period prescribed by the Colonial Secretary, was heard before Major Dixon to-day. The accused, an Indian named Francis Narayamasammy, was charged with not being in possession of a registration certificate. The usual police evidence having been given, the accused stated that he was the holder of two registration certificates, but not registered under Act No. 2 of last year. The reason he was not registered was, he asserted, because he was afraid of the Asiatic pickets who stood outside the Asiatic Registration office and also because he lived in a bazaar. He stated further that he had lived in the Transvaal for 12 or 14 years. He wanted to register under the new Act, and he had never been ordered to leave the Colony.

Cross-examined, accused stated that he had been threatened with assault by his compatriots if he registered.

Asked if he would not be afraid now if he registered, the accused replied that he could not get work unless he did, and could not starve.

He was ordered by Major Dixon to forthwith make application to the Registrar of Asiatics to be registered.

A Case at Vereeniging

The *Transvaal Leader's* Vereeniging correspondent writes: On January 16, Abdool Rahman, one of the Asiatic pickets at Heidelberg, while on a visit here to his compatriots, was arrested under the Registration Act of 1907, he appeared before the Assistant Resident Magistrate, Mr. D. Kriel. Lieut. Irvine, S.A.C., was in charge of the prosecution. The accused pleaded not guilty.

The Magistrate: You have broken the law.

On being asked what would be sufficient time for him to arrange his affairs, he said the shortest time would be the most agreeable.

He was ordered to leave the Colony within 48 hours.

On Monday, the 48 hours' notice having expired, the accused was sentenced to two months' imprisonment without hard labour.

The Press on the Transvaal Situation

Further Interesting Comments

The *Diamond Fields Advertiser* writes:

For our part, we hesitate to believe that if there was any prospect of a really efficient system of registration being voluntarily agreed to by the Indian leaders, and voluntarily carried out, the Colonial Secretary would allow mere considerations of dignity to stand in the way of an understanding even at the eleventh hour. After all, the Government is strong, while the Indians are weak and magnanimity, as Burke says, is not seldom the truest wisdom. But while we cannot acquit the Indian community of serious blame for the present *impasse*, and while we recognise the difficult position of a Government face to face with organised resistance to the law, we frankly confess that the spectacle of respectable Indian merchants—men who are very highly spoken of by the mercantile community—being haled off to prison because they believe—however mistakenly—that the restriction laws were intended for their humiliation is one which inspires us with deep concern. Moreover, we are by no means certain that the policy of showing no mercy to the leaders will have the desired effect. We are told, indeed, that the feelings of the rank-and-file of the Indian population have been so worked upon that the majority will suffer any penalties rather than submit to the law. It would be a great relief, therefore, to learn that some way had been found of putting an end to an incident which is deeply embarrassing the Imperial authorities in other parts of the Empire without placing the Government of the Transvaal in a false and undignified position.

The *The Times of Natal*, after commenting severely upon the unequal sentences at Johannesburg and Pretoria, says:

The whole position, especially occurring at the present time, is unfortunate, and while we recognise the right of the Transvaal to place restrictions upon the influx of Asiatics, we cannot but regret the means adopted to carry out these restrictions. The finger-print system of identification seems to us of far less significance than the declared object which the Government has in view—namely, to expel from the Transvaal all Indians not resident there before the war. If the special object of Mr. Smuts was to emphasise the practical independence of the Transvaal, and its absolute indifference to all Imperial considerations, he could not do better than he has done. . . . It has been said that the Chinese question broke Mr. Balfour's Administration. Is it not possible that the Indian question may yet break Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman? Stranger things have happened, and unless we are much mistaken the methods of the Transvaal Government are disapproved of by the vast majority of the British people, irrespective of their political sympathies.

Under the old regime the Transvaal Government was unable to impose and enforce anti-Asiatic laws and regulations, because it knew that the Imperial Government would at once intervene. "Better a few thousand Indians in the Transvaal," thought President Kruger, "than a British army on my borders." So the Indians were left comparatively alone. Now, however, that the Transvaal is a British colony, and part of the British Empire, it can do as it pleases with regard to British Indians.

The *Cape Times* comments on the Asiatic problem as under:

One of the most sensible comments upon the Asiatic difficulty in the Transvaal is that of the London *Daily Chronicle*, which,

declares that the Transvaal Ministers could not give a more signal example of political sagacity than by gaining their own ends on the lines indicated by Mr. Gandhi.

For this is what the issue practically amounts to. The object is to get rid of British Indians who have no legal right to be in the Transvaal, and at the same time to assure the position of *bona-fide* residents. In order to achieve this end some mechanism of identification is necessary. The mechanism of the Act is offensive to unobjectionable Indians: the law contains provisions which self-respecting Indian citizens could scarcely be expected to accept. If the leaders of the Indian community pledge themselves to assist the Government, so that the desired object may be obtained without this blow to their self-respect and without the risk of serious consequences in India, statesmen have a way out of an ugly difficulty for which they may be thankful. A good deal is made by some critics of the danger of yielding to an agitation which defies the law: but there is surely a distinction between a resistance which springs from a lawless spirit, and a nonconformity the object of which is to maintain a natural self-respect and not to create disorder.

The *Vryheid Herald* concludes a leading article with the following:

The consummation that we would most desire at present is that Mr. Botha and his colleagues would postpone decisions which might have far-reaching and lamentable effects until the imminent Pretoria Conference when he might have the advice and assistance of the statesmen of all the South African Colonies, and be able to arrive at a decision agreeable to all parties concerned.

The *Star* says:

There are times and emergencies when an unequivocal expression of public opinion on matters of general concern is of vital importance. The present Asiatic crisis is not one of these. . . . We see no excuse, far less any demand, for public demonstrations similar to that which took place at Pretoria last night. Such gatherings will weaken rather than strengthen the hands of the Government; for no matter how tactfully the proceedings may be conducted, it is impossible to escape altogether lending colour to the suspicions of those opposed to our policy that prejudice is the dominating factor in the Government's action.

The *Natal Mercury*, discussing the coming meeting called by the Mayor of Durban to discuss the Asiatic question, remarks:

If the influx of Asiatics to South Africa is undesirable—and that is the hypothesis upon which the Transvaal legislation is based—the chief sinner amongst the South African Colonies is Natal. Every month we are introducing shiploads of the very people whom the Transvaal Government have determined to keep out. . . . We have ten times the number of Asiatics in this small Colony that there are in the much larger territory of the Transvaal. We have a dozen Asiatic residents for every ten Europeans; in the Transvaal, there is only one to every score of Europeans. We are still bringing in more Asiatics and increasing their majority over Europeans. Most of the Asiatics against whom the Transvaal has been legislating have filtered into that Colony from Natal. Many of them, if compelled to leave the Transvaal, would come back to enjoy our hospitality. One object of the Transvaal is to protect itself against Natal, which is the Asiatic reservoir that has been overflowing across the border. In such circumstances, to pass resolutions supporting the Transvaal Government would be to make a laughing stock of ourselves. Let us pluck the beam from our own eye before we unctuously praise the Transvaal for trying to get rid of its mote.

In connection with the present phase of

the local anti-Asiatic movement there has been exhibited more cant, inconsistency and muddle-headedness than we have ever known in the discussion of a public question in Natal. People have talked of the Transvaal's efforts to get rid of the Asiatic, while Transvaal Ministers have declared that their object is to confirm the right of residence to Asiatics. The Transvaal Legislature has passed Acts which, in their avowed objects, are legitimate enough, but they are administering these Acts in a way which works wide-spread injustice. They have flouted the wishes of the Imperial Government, and displayed a reckless disregard of Imperial interests. For which of these things are we invited by ranting and unreflective people to give the Transvaal Government our support? Surely, we are not to applaud injustice even to coloured men, nor to play fast and loose with the interests of the Empire to which we profess ourselves proud to belong. If the object of the Transvaal, as its Ministers say, is to provide security of residence to the majority of its Asiatics, is that the policy for which Natalians are to display their gushing enthusiasm?

The *Natal Mercury*, commenting on the recent agreement between Japan and Canada, says:

When the anti-Japanese ebullitions occurred, Sir Wilfrid Laurier, the Canadian Premier, showed a keen appreciation of his obligations to the Empire. He denounced the indignities and ill-usage meted out to people who were the subjects of "the friend and ally of the King." He insisted upon their being treated fairly under the British flag. The same fine sense of duty to the Empire has not been conspicuous in some incidents of the South African movement against British Indians, who are loyal subjects of the King, and were British subjects long before some of those persons who have shown a disposition to treat them with small consideration. But it is not every part of the Colonial Empire that is endowed with statesmen of the calibre of Sir Wilfrid Laurier. By the tact of himself and his colleagues, a crisis which might have proved embarrassing to the Imperial Government has been solved in a spirit of international amity. The Japanese Government have responded handsomely to the chivalrous attitude of the Canadian authorities. They recognise the aversion of Canadians to an influx of Asiatics, and have undertaken to yield respect to Canadian wishes. They have already prohibited the further emigration of Japanese to Canada. The Canadian Government have not sought to brand the Japanese as an inferior race, but, as Mr. Lemieux expresses it, have accepted Japan's dignified assurances that she would do her utmost to stop the emigration. On the strength of the friendly solution which he negotiated at Tokio, Mr. Lemieux feels warranted in affirming that "all danger of future trouble from the Oriental races has now been eliminated." The settlement effected is honourable alike to Canada and to Japan, and must be gratifying to the Imperial Government.

THE HINDUSTAN REVIEW. The *Hindustan Review* (Allahabad), as the oldest of the Indian monthlies in existence, is naturally the first to reach its hundredth number in its December issue, which abounds with articles dealing with all current topics—political, social, religious, industrial, and educational. The place of honor is accorded to a powerful statement of the case of the Indians in the Transvaal, under the heading of "A Betrayal and its Aftermath," which is addressed as "An Appeal to India," by the writer, Mr. Henry S. L. Polak, Editor of INDIAN OPINION.

Soldier's Petition to Lord Elgin

An Appeal for British Protection

The following petition "of His Majesty's retired Indian soldiers, resident in Johannesburg, Transvaal, setting out the disabilities placed upon them by the Transvaal Government" has been forwarded to Lord Elgin (Secretary of State for the Colonies):—

Your petitioners represent the members of the Sikhs, Panjabees, Afghans, Goorkhas, Pathans, and Cashmerie (Dogra) communities resident in the Transvaal, who are exclusively old and retired members of His Majesty's Indian Army. Your petitioners came to this country during the late Anglo-Boer war, and were attached principally to the Indian Detail Department, under Captain John C. C. Perkins, D.S.O. Your petitioners attach hereto a copy of a document belonging to Jamadar Nawab Khan, entitling him to sojourn in this country under this military order. Similar documents are held by all the signatories hereof. Your petitioners respectfully bring to your Lordship's notice the humiliating system of registration embodied in the new Asiatic Amendment Ordinance. It seems to your petitioners that the requiring of the 18 digit impressions and the four digit simultaneous impressions and the necessity of disclosing one's mother's name and wife's name are methods of identification which operate as a gross insult to your petitioners, and is contrary to the tenets of their religion.

One of the choicest blessings of the British Raj in India, one of the principal planks on which the stability of that Raj is maintained, is the fact that religious tolerance is conceded on every side. The Indian Government's scrupulous and kindly regard of the caste and religious prejudices and sentiments of an ancient and civilised people is known throughout the world, and accounts for the successful administration of Hindustan and all other British dependencies. It is in this respect your petitioners respectfully submit that the Transvaal Government have erred, disregarding as they have all those principles of life which are so dear to your petitioners and on which the very existence of an Indian depends. It is needless and unnecessary to dwell further on the fact that the lives of the Indian people are wrapped up in a deep consciousness of religious feelings.

Your petitioners as old soldiers only understand that, where the British flag flies, British Justice, Equity, and Fairplay will be dispensed with an even hand, and are now entertaining fears that such is not the case, in view of the harsh treatment meted out by the Transvaal Government to servants of the Crown. Is it possible that His Majesty's loyal and patriotic old soldiers, who fought in many bat-

ties for the sake of the Empire, cannot be protected from insult and degradation? Your petitioners are reluctant to believe that such is the case or that this could be the reward for loyal services that have been rendered to the Crown and are still at the full and free disposal of His Majesty the King-Emperor. Further, His Majesty's old Indian soldiers in the Transvaal decline to degrade themselves to the level of servile menials by submitting under compulsion to a form of registration against their religion. His Majesty's Indian soldiers cannot, consistent with the dignity of a soldier, degrade themselves by being compelled to register in such a manner, and, should His Majesty's Government be unable to obtain just treatment for the King-Emperor's Indian soldiers in the Transvaal, then they ask as men and British Indian soldiers, who are proud to have risked their lives in the cause of the Empire and have braved the privations of war, to be spared the degradation of imprisonment or deportation, and further wish that the King-Emperor will command that they be shot by Generals Botha and Smuts on one of the battle-fields of South Africa, where they have been under fire whilst serving their King-Emperor and the British Empire.

Your petitioners humbly pray for justice and fairplay. For which act your petitioners shall, as in duty bound, ever pray.

Dated at Johannesburg this 11th day of January 1908.

(Sgd.) Jamadar Nawab Khan

" " Abdul Kadir Khan

" " on behalf of 116 old soldiers.

N.B.—It was by the instructions of the Viceroy's Council that these old soldiers of the Indian Empire were granted permission to remain in South Africa after the conclusion of peace.

Remount Depot, Elandsfontein,
Transvaal,

November 5, 1902.

I.D.

No. 4629

Under the powers vested in me by the Government of India, in their Military Department Letter No. 3344-B. dated Simla, 27th September, 1901, and by the Secretary of the Transvaal Administration in his letter No. 1634/D/02 Pretoria 6th March 1902.

R.P.

I hereby authorise No. 4579 Jamadar Nawab Khan to take his discharge on and from 5th November, 1902, to take up private employment and to reside and live in Johannesburg, Transvaal.

R.P.

No. 4579 is aware that he forfeits all claims to return passage to India at the expense of the Government.

He is aware that he has to report himself to the Commissioner of Police, Johannesburg.

He is in possession of a service

book in which his full and accurate description is given.

(Sgd.) JOHN C. C. PERKINS

Captain,

Officer Commanding Indian Details in South Africa.

Correspondence

An Appeal

The Editor of INDIAN OPINION.

Sir,—Will you allow me a space in your valuable journal to express my views and to give the real impression of our degradation and humiliation here, to our brethren in Hindustan?

I want to point out the disgraceful attitude of the South African Britishers to the whole of our Hindustani nation that is represented here. That we must send copies of the Asiatic Law to the Vernacular and English papers throughout the length and breadth of Hindustan, together with a stirring appeal made by the South African Hindustanis to the Princes, the landowners, the merchants, the farmers, the tradesmen, the artisans, to all our communities from the highest to the lowest, to join in raising a cry against casting a national slur on us by that mighty British Government who promised our fathers protection and equality.

I appeal to the whole of the South African Hindustanis to raise a large and substantial fund to protect ourselves and to help ourselves.

I am, etc.,

HORMUSJI MANCHERJI.

Cape Town,

17th, January 1908.

List of Madrassi Pickets

For Johannesburg

The following have been elected pickets for Johannesburg from the Madrassi community.

Messrs. K. Paul (Chief Picket), M. Chinasamy Pillay, C. M. Phillip, V. Veera Pillay, K. Kallappa Pillay, V. M. Tommey, P. S. Francis, M. Vythlinga Pillay (Manager), Thomas Daniel, Jacob Moorgan, Veeramuthu Padayachy, V. M. Nayanah, V. M. Mick, P. M. Jodge, A. P. Francis, R. A. Francis, V. M. Jack, George Jackson, Fredrick Poonsamy, S. P. Padayachy, V. V. Ramasamy Naidoo, M. Abdool Sutuloo, R. Phillip, M. Abdull, D. Tommy, Samuel, Kangappa Govender, Harry Thamae, C. Harry, Letchoomanan, Moonoosamy Chetty, S. Govindasamy Padayachy, E. Aroomoogam, Anoomunthoo, N. Ramasamy, Muruthamoothoo Padayachy, G. Samy, K. Coopooosamy Naidoo, Abdool Ragaimon, R. Mumin, V. Vengadasamy Naidoo, K. Narayansamy, V. Ramasamy, Papa Jack, Thumbiappa Padayachy, Appathurai Chetty, V. L. Jack, V. Murlian, M. L. Joseph, Pariathumbi and Doora.

Durban Anti-Asiatics

Meeting in the Town Hall

Supporting the Transvaal Government

Indentured Labour Question

A public meeting, promoted by the Durban Patriotic Union, was held in the Town Hall on Tuesday night to "discuss the Indian question." Despite the somewhat unfavourable atmospheric conditions, says the *Natal Mercury*, there was a large audience, and the proceedings were of an enthusiastic character. The Mayor (Mr. C. Henwood) presided, and was supported amongst others, by Messrs. Dan Taylor, M.L.A., C. Haggar, M.L.A., R. O. Nutman, O. J. Askew, G. Halle, W. R. Poynton, J. T. Brown, Bird, Kennedy, W. D. Cunningham, Ascheim, W. P. Clarke, Wade, Knowler, Whiteman, Drs. Campbell, McKenzie, and Murison.

The Assistant Town Clerk (Mr. W. P. M. Henderson) having read the requisition convening the meeting, the Mayor briefly opened the proceedings.

Mr. Poynton, who was cordially received, moved the first resolution, which was as follows:—

"That this meeting heartily supports the action of the Transvaal Government in regard to the enforcement of the Asiatic Registration Ordinance and Immigration Restriction Act, and considers that the firm attitude adopted by that Colony will be conducive to the best interests of the whole of South Africa. And that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the High Commissioner, the Premier of the Transvaal, and the Premier of Natal."

So far as the agitation in the Transvaal was concerned, it was not a question of religion. They had been told so by the leaders there. It was not a question of what they called honour, because they had already given their thumb prints, and were now asked to put down their four finger prints. That had nothing to do with the question; but if these Asiatics could get rid of that Ordinance which required them to register in the form it did, the next thing they would be required to do, both in Natal and in the Transvaal, would be to get rid of the Asiatic Restriction Law. If they gave way on one point, they would have to give way on the other; but he hoped that, instead, before the year was out, they would have similar legislation brought forward in this Colony, to deal with the Indian in the same way as he was dealt with in the Transvaal. (Applause.) In the Transvaal, many Indians had smuggled themselves into that country, and, to prevent that smuggling, the finger-print system was required. So far as Asiatics in the Transvaal were concerned, the

laws passed were not for their expulsion, but simply for law-abiding citizens to carry out what the law demanded. If a law were passed which was not satisfactory to a man, if he did not like it, he could go to gaol until such time as he could get the law amended. (Laughter.) If the Indians in the Transvaal were not satisfied with the position, they could clear out, and the Transvaal would be pleased when that day arrived, and he hoped it would not be far distant. (Applause.)

Dr. McKenzie seconded the resolution. Speaking on the Indentured labour question he said he was sorry that the *Mercury* had that morning entirely misrepresented his remarks the other evening at Greenwood Park, because he absolutely insisted that this importation of Indians must cease forthwith. What he said at Greenwood Park was that, if they had to have cheap labour of any kind, let them go to the open markets of the world; let them get, say, the Chinamen—(cries of "No.")—and let him be sent back when they had done with him. He would prefer Chinamen, who could be kicked out of the country, to the Indian. ("Don't you employ Indians?") They all employed them, more or less, but that was no reason why they should not unite to stop them. (Applause.) Let them make this a white man's country. (Applause.) They wanted every Indian to put down his two hands. (Laughter and applause.) The Indians said it interfered with their religion. But there was no greater down-trodden kind of religion on the face of this earth. (Applause.) Let them not get down to the level of these people. He seconded the resolution with the greatest pleasure.

The resolution was put to the meeting and the Mayor said it was carried with one dissident.

Dr. Campbell, who was received with applause, moved:

"That this meeting, having in view the appalling condition into which this Colony has drifted through the increase of Indians, calls upon the Government of Natal to forthwith stop further immigration of Indian labour."

Mr. Whiteman seconded the resolution and it was carried.

Mr. Dan Taylor, M.L.A., who was received with applause, moved: "That this meeting desires to point out to the Government and various municipalities the desire of all white Colonists that no fresh licences or transfers should be granted to Asiatics, and, in the case of insolvency, the insolvent shall not again be allowed to trade." He (Mr. Taylor) quite realised that that drastic resolution was going to be criticised pretty severely, but he only wished the resolution were more drastic. (Applause.) He would be quite prepared to move: "That we give these Indians two or three years' notice that no further licences will be issued after that date."

(Applause.)

Mr. J. Bird formally seconded the resolution.

Mr. Haggar, M.L.A., in supporting the resolution, proceeded to speak of the action he had taken in the House, and declared that in regard to that matter Mr. Moor played the traitor, for he, in the presence of certain members, agreed to the resolution he (the speaker) afterwards proposed, and then voted against them.

Mr. Norrie, stepping forward to the platform from the body of the hall, announced his intention of speaking against the resolution. He did this because a certain percentage of the Asiatics, who were engaged in trades, would remain in the Colony to compete with the white workman, and, so long as the present competitive system continued, so long would their wages be brought down by this so-called system of fair competition. There was no such thing. He said that, as long as the Arab storekeeper remained, he would cause competition, and so benefit the working man. (Loud hoots and boos.)

The Mayor then put the resolution to the meeting, which he declared carried, with two dissentients.

This concluded the meeting, a vote of thanks being accorded to the Mayor for presiding, on the motion of Mr. Poynton.

Feeling in England

On the Transvaal Crisis

London, 21st January (INDIAN OPINION special).—The Free India Society congratulates the Transvaal Indians on their bold stand for liberty.

The *Natal Mercury* correspondent cables from London, on the 17th instant:—The *Westminster Gazette*, believes that the Indians in the Transvaal are only fighting for terms of surrender and hopes that Mr. Smuts will come to an understanding with Gandhi.

In a leading article to-day, *The Times* contrasts the wise solution of the immigration problem between Canada and Japan with the methods adopted by the Transvaal Government who, it says, appears to have no appreciation of the difficulties they are bringing on themselves in connection with the Indians and those which are entailed on the whole Empire.

The newspaper hopes that the Transvaal Government will yet see the benefit, for the sake of the Empire's honour, of accepting registration papers taken out under the express assurance given by Lord Milner that they would be final.

January 18.—Sir Edward Carson, ex-Solicitor-General, speaking at Tonbridge, says Reuter, regretted that the fate of the British Indians in the Transvaal was left in the hands of Boers who cared nothing for the Empire or for us.

Cape British Indians' Meeting

[SPECIAL TO INDIAN OPINION]

A mass meeting of British Indians from all parts of the Cape District was held on Sunday the 12th instant, at Capetown, in the Bethel Institute, Hanover Street, in reference to the action of the Transvaal Government in enforcing the provisions of the Asiatic Act of that Colony, and particularly to express the sense of the Indian community of this part of South Africa upon the conviction and imprisonment of Mr. Gandhi, the noted Indian Advocate and leader of the passive resistance movement, and other prominent Indians in the Transvaal. There was a very large attendance, some two thousand people having been present. The president of the South African Indian Association, Mr. Ebrahim Norodien, took the chair, and amongst those on the platform were: Messrs. A. Abas, Abdool Ganie, S. Ismail, A. G. Kable, Ali Adam, S. Casimali, M. S. Maurice, J. M. H. Gool, A. G. Ghanshar, Moosa Noor Mahomed (Stellenbosch), Hajeer Ebrahim (Somerset Strand), Fakeeh Ismail (Goodwood), M. J. Rawood (Claremont), Rabtnjee Noor-oojee, and others.

The Chairman opened the proceedings with a forcible speech regarding the arrest and imprisonment of Mr. Gandhi and other leading Indian citizens of the Transvaal. He said it was a blot on British Administration that a law unacceptable to self-respecting citizens should be enforced on peaceful, loyal and law-abiding people. The English Government forgot that the Indian Empire was the pivot of the King's Dominions, and that the inconsiderate manner in which Indian subjects were made to suffer would end in disastrous consequences to the English nation. He was proud to see such a large gathering before him—a gathering influenced by one motive—to express deep indignation at the drastic action of the Transvaal Government. He hoped there was yet time to undo the great wrong that was being done in South Africa to the Empire at large.

Mr. Ahmed Abas submitted the following Resolution, which was duly seconded by Mr. S. Ismail, and supported by Mr. R. Nowrojee: That the following cable be forwarded to the Right Hon. John Morley, Secretary of State for India—"The South African Indian Association respectfully calls attention to the stringent enforcement of the Asiatic law against Indian leaders in the Transvaal and earnestly appeals to you for intervention, as grave consequences may thereby ensue." It was then resolved to send a cable to the leading Indian papers. The motion, proposed by Mr. Ghanshar, seconded by Mr. Essop Ahmedji Patel and supported by Mr. S. V. Satlie, was as follows: "With great grief

we inform you to let all India know, that our leaders have been imprisoned by Transvaal Government under Asiatic Act. We earnestly hope that Indian Government will intervene on behalf of Indian subjects in this country, who are undergoing galling treatment."

Mr. S. Casimali proposed that the following wire be sent to the High Commissioner. This was seconded by Mr. Ali Adam and supported by Fakir Ismail: "While we fully recognise right of Government to safeguard the principle of home rule, we greatly deplore the necessity for the stringent application of an unacceptable law, so far as Indians are concerned, and deeply regret that the Transvaal deliberately overlooks the Imperial issues involved in this delicate matter. We hope that Government will even at this late hour discriminate between the persons affected, and as an act of clemency remit sentence passed on Mr. Gandhi and other leaders, whose imprisonment for a day, will have amply vindicated the law, unjust though it is."

Mr. Maurice, who spoke a few words in explanation of what had been said in the Hindustani language by the several speakers, proposed a short message of sympathy to Mrs. Gandhi, as follows:—"In deep sorrow the South African Indian Association begs you to accept its sincere sympathy. May Heaven aid us all in our trouble." This was seconded by Mr. Halim.

Mr. Ismail Rawood proposed a resolution to send a message to the British Indian Association, Johannesburg: "South African Indian Association deeply regret drastic action of Transvaal Government. Great indignation amongst all classes here. Our sympathy is with you all. Businesses of community being suspended to-morrow, Monday." Seconded by Mr. Hassen Shamsudin.

Mr. T. L. B. Edgcombe here ascended the platform and made a few appropriate remarks in protest against the enforcement of the Asiatic Act in the Transvaal. He referred to the fact of the silence of the Colonial Minister, and said our Emperor and King was not conscious of the great wrong being done the Indian community here. He emphatically gave his opinion that rather than the honour of England should be stained he would say "Perish the Transvaal."

Mr. J. H. M. Gool and several other speakers, amongst them some European gentlemen, and a native, spoke in indignant terms of the arrest and conviction of Mr. Gandhi and the other leaders. The purport of the speeches was that they were all deeply pained at the extreme step taken by the Transvaal Government, and were now moved by sorrow and grief and great indignation at the imprisonment of Mr. Gandhi and others for no great offence. The native, Mr. L. Soal, said that the natives were of the same colour as the Indians and that they were entirely with them in their pro-

test against the unjust treatment meted out to Mr. Gandhi.

It was also resolved that all business should be suspended on Monday by the Indian community as a mark of respect to Mr. Gandhi and the other leaders.

Correspondence to "Transvaal Leader"

Moulvi Sahab

Sir,—Surely there must be some mistake with regard to the notice from the Transvaal Government to the Imaum of the Fordsburg Mosque to leave the Colony. No true Englishman would give such an order against any religion, and no refined British subject can be expected to register himself like a common criminal. If the Imaum (who is the teacher of his religion to the children of the Indians and Malays) leaves the colony, who will direct the little ones on the right path? This action of the Transvaal Government is not likely to cement the British Empire.—I am, etc.,

M. CHURCHWARD.

January 18.

An Explanation

Sir,—In a heated controversy like this it is natural that misunderstandings should arise, some of them perhaps sufficiently serious to hinder a settlement. Of course, self-interest will stimulate some people to foster and multiply such misunderstandings. That we must expect. And they have abundant opportunity in the difficulties of the language, religion and thought for doing so. But one sincerely hopes for the credit of our city that such people are few. At any rate just men must form a large proportion of our community, and these at least will be glad of any word which may help to allay the confusion. We do not want our prisons to be filled with men who are not criminals. We do not want to drive from their homes, ruined and disgraced, those who have been our citizens for years and have mercifully helped our wounded on the field of battle. We are sick and ashamed of it all, and we want a just settlement as soon as possible.

There is one point then, that, with your permission, I shall be glad to explain, because to my knowledge a misunderstanding here has confused the issue in many minds and has held back many from expressing a desire for settlement. The Asiatic leaders have claimed at different times to be allowed to register in a voluntary way, and have spoken very strongly against compulsion. This has been interpreted to mean that they claim perfect freedom in this matter. That they wish to be allowed to re-

gister if they like; but if they do not like, to be under no obligation to do so. This would be our idea of voluntary registration. I am, however, in a position to say that the meaning of the Asiatics is different. They have chosen the word "voluntary" because it is in opposition to "compulsion" to do that degrading thing which they believe to be the spirit of the Act. All they mean by "voluntary registration" is this: they ask to be allowed to revert to the method of the old Act, under which they pledge themselves to give thumb-prints and all other means of identification not of a degrading character. They ask for three months in which to register in a voluntary way. And they are willing that all who are not registered at the end of those three months should be dealt with under the Immigrants' Restriction Act, and turned out of the Colony. You and I would say, "This is also compulsion." Well that may be so, but to the Asiatic mind it is "voluntary," and this is all they want.

The pitiful thing about all this imprisonment and ruin for Asiatics, and the degradation of the old soldiers of the Empire, is that just men have no controversy with them. There is absolutely no difference of opinion. Those colonists who do justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with their God do not desire to heap disabilities upon these men, for whom Christ died. They want to be assured that the immigration from Asiatic countries shall be wisely, firmly, and righteously restricted. It is the "unlimited competition" of which Mr. Quinn writes which they desire to oppose. Given security for that, and they are willing that, while the resident Asiatics behave themselves, they shall continue their work in our midst, always supposing that they have a legal right to be here. That is one side.

On the other side, the Asiatics press the same desire. They say, "We have no objection to the Immigrants' Restriction Act; enforce it. We will give all necessary material for our own identification, and we ask that a judicial enquiry be made into all alleged frauds."

What difference is there between the two?—I am, etc.,

JOSEPH J. DOKE.

Jan. 20.

Colour Prejudice

Sir,—There must be hundreds of cultured people who are alarmed at the present exhibition of colour prejudice. Is it not possible for someone to step forward and organise into a body all who wish to stem this current? To the clergy of the Transvaal I suggest that at this crisis it would be well for them to decide if they are going to hand down a record which cannot but injure the fame of the Churches?—I am, etc.,

BRITISH WOMAN.

Jan. 15.

Mahomedan Priest Ordered Out

Moulvi Ahmed Mukhtiar, Priest-in-Charge of the Surti Mosque, Johannesburg, applied for an extension of his temporary permit in the following terms:—

Johannesburg, 23rd December, 1907.
The Registrar of Asiatics,
Pretoria.

Sir,—I have the honour to enclose herewith my temporary permit No. E/3330. You were good enough to assure me that my permit would be renewed from time to time every six months. I now return the permit for such extension.

Mr. Chamney, Registrar of Asiatics, replied as follows:

With reference to your letter of the 23rd instant, I have the honour to inform you that although no assurance has ever been given that the temporary permit which has been taken out by you would be renewed from time to time, I am nevertheless prepared to issue a temporary permit in your favour if you will enter into an undertaking in writing that you will leave the Transvaal on the expiry of any period for which it may be issued if you are required to do so, and I shall be glad if you will forward me such an undertaking.

Again the Moulvi wrote:

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 30th ultimo. You ask me, before granting me extension of my temporary permit, to give you an undertaking that on the expiry thereof I should leave the country. As a priest, I can give undertakings of such a nature to no man. I venture to remind you that when I was with Mr. Hajee Habib you promised that my permit would be extended from time to time every six months. The same promise was repeated in the presence of Messrs. Nagdee and Manga when in the month of June last the permit was again extended, and it was on the strength of such promise that I opened a Madressa for teaching Al Koran to Moslem boys. I am also, as you are aware, priest in charge of the Surti Mosque in Johannesburg, and I am called upon from week to week and even oftener to preach to congregations, sometimes mixed, at present frequently mixed, of the Hamidia Islamic Society, and to give religious instruction to the Moslems, including the religious aspect of the Asiatic Registration Act. I trust, therefore, that you will be pleased to let me have an extension of the permit forwarded to you.

The following reply was received:

With reference to your letter of the 3rd instant, I have the honour to state that I am unable to extend the period of your temporary permit to reside in the Transvaal, and you are hereby warned that unless you leave the Colony immediately you will be

subject to arrest and prosecution for failing to carry out the conditions to which the permit is subject.

The parents and relatives of pupils taught in the Hamidia School by Moulvi Ahmed Mukhtiar, have drawn the attention of the Registrar to the following facts:—You were good enough last June, when renewing the temporary permit of the religious teacher of our children, in the presence of Messrs. M. E. Nagdee and Ismail Manga, to promise six-monthly renewals of that permit, and it was upon these representations that the Hamidia Religious School was opened under the superintendence of our priest. We understand that, notwithstanding your promise, Moulvi Ahmed Mukhtiar has received a notice from you to the effect that a further extension of his permit is refused to him and that he should leave the Colony immediately; otherwise, he will be liable to arrest and prosecution for failing to do so.

They request that he will be good enough to reconsider his decision, in view of the fact that this is the only manner in which their children can receive religious instruction and Moulvi Ahmed Mukhtiar is the only person in Johannesburg qualified to give that instruction.

Japan and Canada

A Settlement of the Difficulty

Mutual Trust

An Example to the Transvaal

Reuter cables from London, Jan. 12:—An Ottawa telegram states that Mr. Lemieux, the Canadian Minister of labour, who recently visited Japan, explained in the Dominion House of Commons the settlement arrived at on the Japanese immigration question.

The Government of Japan, he said, had promised to respect Canada's desires, and had already prohibited the emigration of labourers to Canada.

Mr. Lemieux, in his statement, affirmed that all danger of future trouble from the Oriental races had now been eliminated.

Canada, he said, was bound to accept Japan's dignified assurances that she would do her best to restrict emigration. They could not ask a rising Power in the East—Britain's friend and ally—to brand her people as an inferior race.

The Canadian Commissioner of Immigration absolves Japan from blame for the influx of Japanese into the Dominion. He blames the anxiety of Canadian Corporations to obtain labourers.

The American Immigration Officer's report shows that the number of Japanese immigrants into the United States in December, 1907, was 2,934 less than in December, 1906.

The Indian Press

Discusses the Transvaal Question

The *Hindustan Review* comments as follows:

The situation in the Transvaal has become very acute and our fellow countrymen are in hourly peril of being imprisoned or deported. It is the Asiatic Law Amendment Act that has brought about the crisis. The most humiliating conditions are sought to be attached to the continued residence of Indians in that colony, and the attempt has proved the proverbial last straw. We are not aware of another instance of such patient endurance under long suffering, of such loyal determination to obey the laws of the country, however galling they may be, of such respectful representations to constituted authority for the redress of grievances, which would have provoked armed revolt if they had been inflicted on a more spirited and less philosophic people. And what is the reward of it all. To be treated as worse than beasts and brutes. The history of the Indian question in South Africa, and particularly in the Transvaal, is a history of disgrace to the European population of the colony, and to the British as well as the Dutch Government. At the top of unnumbered acts of injustice comes the Asiatic Law Amendment Act by virtue of which the entire Indian population of the colony, including women and children, is regarded as a population of criminals. Criminals themselves have not to undergo greater degradation than the most respected members of the Indian community in the Transvaal. Naturally the worm has turned. The Indian settlers in the Transvaal have stoutly refused to obey the law and have declared themselves ready to be imprisoned or deported in consequence of their defiance of a law, which as moral beings they cannot obey. What the Transvaal Government will do will be known very shortly. For the present we can only say Bravo to our worthy countrymen in the Transvaal. Never was wisdom more justified of her children. India cannot pray to have truer sons than Mr. Gandhi and his compatriots of the Transvaal. Entire India is watching their struggle for national self-respect with profound interest and sympathy, and we say their sufferings cannot go in vain in this world of God's providence. Meanwhile we will remind the British Government of the words of the late Lord Salisbury that "injustice will bring down the mightiest to ruin."

The *Tribune* (Lahore) concludes an article thus:

May we not ask the Government of India to retaliate, by shutting the portals of all public offices in India against these Colonists? Mr. Morley himself has declared that the Ordinance places the bar sinister upon millions of His Majesty's loyal subjects and we think he should moreover mark his own sense of displeasure at the unrighteous action of these bigoted Colonists.

The *Indian People*, discussing the appeal from the Hamidia Islamic Society, says:

The plain moral of this Hamidia Transvaal appeal is that the Mahomedans should learn to co-operate with other members of the brown community and make common cause with other Asiatics in the defence of such rights and liberties without which there can be no existence of the race. It ought to teach the Hindus as well a lesson to leave their sectarian and narrow-minded caste prejudices and to live more compactly, so that they may all, Brahmins and Sudras, be actuated by the same feelings of racial pride and self-respect, which have made the white race progress and flourish everywhere it has gone.

The *Hambury Gazette* remarks:

The position of the batch of pensioned In-

dian soldiers to Lord Selborne on the subject of Asiatic disabilities in the Transvaal is bound to command attention both at Home and in the South African colonies. Included in the number of memorialists are veterans of the Tirah and Chitral campaigns, men who have fought for the Empire, brothers of those whose blood and bones have paved the way for commerce and contributed to the maintenance of the prestige of Britain beyond her frontiers. That such men, in a British colony, should receive as little consideration as cannibals and less than the scum of Europe, is nothing short of a scandal and a disgrace to the fair fame of Britain. This declaration has been made and repeated on countless occasions but with little effect, and the time has undoubtedly come when pressure should be put on the South African Colonial Government.

It is not to be marvelled at that Indians regard compliance with the Act as involving communal degradation. The Indian in the Transvaal is one of the most industrious of Colonists and though he is a severe competitor with the European in trade or commerce, room must be found for him and he must have equal rights and privileges with every other British subject.

Mahomedan Leaders Firm Attitude

A Straight Reply

Imam Abdool Cadir Bawazêr, Chairman of the Hamidia Islamic Society, has addressed the following letter to the Johannesburg press:

General Smuts appears to be under the impression that the mass of Indians are anxious to register once the leaders have been taken away. That, of course, time will show. But when he speaks about their volunteering to register and his favourable consideration of such an offer, he does not mean voluntary registration at all. What he really does mean is that the law is there. He will not re-open the registration office unless the people come to him and say: "Please open the doors for us so that we may now register under the Act." Does Mr. Smuts think for one moment that Indians have been carrying on this struggle for sixteen months and are now going to ask him as a favour to do the very thing that they have protested against during this lengthy period? I am myself under order to leave the country within fourteen days. It is not my intention to do that. It is my intention to remain in this Colony to vindicate my position as a free Indian and a British subject, and I am prepared, if necessary, to spend my days in gaol sooner than accept a law which insults my religion as a devout Mahomedan and sooner than advise the community that I represent to be false to their oath and to dishonour their manhood. Lest I should be misunderstood, I would point out that the law itself differentiates against Mahomedans and it is, therefore, impossible for me to accept it.

"MIGHT IS RIGHT." Nations that have not armies and navies will always be subordinate to the nations which have. RICHARD JENK.

The Position in The Transvaal

Bright and Hopeful Prospects

[FROM OUR TRANSVAAL REPRESENTATIVE]

There can be no doubt of the spirit animating the vast majority of our people in the Transvaal. Everywhere there is an optimistic feeling, a feeling that the crisis is waning, and that, with the marvellous enthusiasm and tenacity of purpose displayed by the rank and file, victory, if worked for as it is to-day, is assured. Whilst that spirit prevails, the result cannot be in question. Your representative has attended practically every meeting of importance in Johannesburg and Pretoria, he has sought the opportunity of canvassing individuals of all shades of opinion in regard to the probable issue of the struggle, and the one great fact that has been elicited is that the people, so far from having lost heart or head, are more seriously determined than ever to prosecute the fight to a finish satisfactory to themselves. The *Rand Daily Mail*, one day this week, believed that this determination was weakening, that there was something like a split in the community, and that quite a large body was opposed to the continuance of the struggle. Your representative is in a position to absolutely deny these allegations. The whole thing is a figment of your contemporary's imagination. There has never been so firm a resolution, never so remarkable a unanimity in our heterogeneous community as now, as the intensity of feeling shown at the various meetings has demonstrated beyond the shadow of a doubt. True, here and there one finds a man who will ask—how is it all to end? But even such a man will go to gaol gladly when reminded of the sufferings of those who have preceded him there.

The people, who used to throng the approaches to the Courts, are now absent on their usual daily routine duties, except on extraordinary occasions, when, of course, an orderly crowd of vast proportions assembles in mute sympathy, and afterwards disperses in an equally orderly manner.

To-day the hawkers go their rounds and await arrest in due course. When brought to the Charge Offices, they refuse to pay bail or be bailed out, though I am credibly informed that kind-hearted police officers, unwilling to see these brave men in the cells overnight for a petty offence, and not realising the spirit of passive resistance, have searched some of them, and finding money in their pockets, have paid their bail with it and then dismissed them with the bail-receipts. The B.I.A. has already approached the Commissioner of Police on the subject. The hawkers invariably refuse to pay the fine, cheerfully accepting imprisonment for the cause. They disappear into the Courts

yard with a smile on their faces—and that smile bodes no good to the Colonial Secretary.

Notes on the Campaign

We have always considered that the war of passive resistance, which the Indians and Chinese are waging, is similar in many aspects to the conflict which lasted so long in England before the Jews received recognition. This impression is heightened by the analogy drawn by the *Transvaal Critic*, and, while not desiring to interfere in the political aspect of the question, we cannot help commenting, from an ethical point of view, upon the iniquity of a statute which takes no consideration of either moral or religious objections.—*S. A. Jewish Chronicle*.

At a meeting of the inhabitants of Utrecht in support of the Transvaal Government, the following resolution was passed:—

"That this meeting of white inhabitants of the town and district of Utrecht give their whole-hearted support to the Transvaal Government in their efforts to enforce the Asiatic Registration Act, thereby asserting the white as the predominant race in South Africa; and that this resolution be forwarded to the Transvaal authorities."

There has never been anything else in our mind than that, what is the persecution of the Indian and the Chinamen to-day, will be the persecution of the Syrian to-morrow, and, in all likelihood, of the Jew next day, says the *S. A. Jewish Chronicle*. We do not mean the English Jew, although, as in the case of the Indians and the Chinamen from Hong-Kong, British citizenship has been no protection, but we mean our poor, and often illiterate in any other language than Yiddish, co-religionists from Eastern Europe. To-day, Yiddish is accepted under the Immigration Law as a language "within the meaning of the Act," but it was a new Government that granted that favour, and, once firmly seated on the saddle, who knows but that a short amending Ordinance may not be introduced, precluding the acceptance of the language in which so many millions of our people express their thoughts.

Mr. W. Hosken, M.L.A., in the course of his speech before the Johannesburg Chamber of Commerce, said that he trusted they (the whites) as a people were not going to take part in anything which took away a man's self-respect, whether that man were black, white or yellow. If they did they would make a mistake that would be fatal to their Government in the future. If a people, a dominant people, forgot the rights and interests they had to govern and did

not make due provision for them they were creating difficulties for themselves of the first order. If they only thought of their own particular interests it would be a bad day for them, because this sort of action and administration always came back to roost. Wrong done to the weakest and humblest frequently recoiled upon those who had been so mistaken as to do it. He remembered that in that Chamber they had never given way to prejudice regarding Indian traders that had been shown in so many Chambers of Commerce in South Africa and the Transvaal. To-day the question had arisen as to whether it was after all a matter of colour. If the Chamber went out of its way to help provide a vacancy so that one's own friends might step in and take the trade then they lost all principle as a Chamber. The Transvaal's action might be of considerable moment as to what was to be the future relationship of the British Government and people towards the millions of India.

The Victoria County Political Association held a meeting at Greenwood Park on Saturday last and passed a resolution supporting the Transvaal Government. Mr. J. P. White, the chairman, is reported to have said that at the present moment it looked as if they had to say: "Thank God for what the Transvaal is doing."

The Witwatersrand Trades and Labour Council has addressed a letter to the London Trades Councils on the subject of the Registration Act, and pointing out various reasons for supporting the Transvaal Government.

One reason for enlightening the London Trades Councils is that "the news on any South African problem cabled Home being necessarily brief and notoriously from the point of view of the capitalist section of the community only."

This document goes on to say: There is nothing in the provisions of this Act which—except by a wild stretch of the imagination—can be construed to be an injustice, a tyranny, or an indignity to the British Indians.

The following letter has been forwarded to the Commissioner of Police by the chairman of the British Indian Association:—

Sir,—I have the honour to bring the following facts before your notice. Mr. Gulabbhai K. Desai was one of those gentlemen who received a warning on Monday night to appear before the Magistrate on Tuesday. He obeyed the warning, and appeared before the Court at the time appointed. Before, however, his case came on for hearing he asked leave to go to the lavatory. He was taken into the yard at the Court and manacled, and in this condition was led across

Government-square by a policeman in the midst of his compatriots, like a felon. I would draw your attention to the fact that Mr. Desai had been placed upon his honour to appear before the Court, and he had not failed to do so, and he is a high-caste Indian. The feeling in the community with regard to this matter is intense, and I have the honour to request your intervention in this matter, and that you will be good enough to give instructions that in future where such occasions arise this degrading procedure will not be adopted.

At Potchefstroom, eight Indians were charged before the Court on Thursday last under the Registration Act. One police witness stated, in reply to the Bench, that he had taken no steps to assure himself that Patel and Rahman were Asiatics within the meaning of the Act. The defendant's attorney appealed for a remand for seven days on the grounds that the accused had not yet been able to secure the advice of counsel and that he hoped to prove that Patel and Rahman were exempt, the latter being a Moor.

The Springs Town Council have forwarded a copy of a resolution supporting the Government, passed at one of their meetings, to the Colonial Secretary. There was some opposition to the resolution being passed, but it was passed by a majority.

The Asiatic Registration Act was discussed at the monthly meeting of the Middelburg Chamber of Commerce on the 15th inst. and a resolution was passed supporting the Government.

A meeting was held at Gezina for the purpose of passing resolutions in support of the Government's policy as regards the Asiatic question and a resolution was passed.

In the course of a lengthy letter pointing out some of the incorrect statements made at the Chamber of Commerce Meeting, Mr. H. S. L. Polak says: "In supporting the resolution, Mr. Quinn, amongst other things, remarked that 'they were not attempting to turn these Asiatics out of the country or to take their property from them,' and almost in the same breath he said that 'it was impossible to ask white men to compete with men who could live on two-pence worth of rice per day and who did not buy a suit of clothes in a year.' The two statements are inconsistent. If what Mr. Quinn says with regard to Indians is correct, then, whether these men register or not, they still live on two-pence worth of rice a day and they still do not purchase one suit of clothes a year. How is Mr. Quinn, then, going to get out of that economic difficulty, if the culprits are not expelled?"

In his reply, Mr. Quinn says:

Mr. H. S. L. Polak points out what appears to be an inconsistency on my part. I can quite understand his doing so, for on the point in question I did not by any means make my argument as clear as I ought to have done. The point I tried to make was, that it was unreasonable to expect the white people of this country to tolerate "unlimited competition" from our Indian traders and labourers; and although a great number of people insisted that we have already too much of this competition, for my own part, I was prepared to allow the present state of things to continue, rather than expel any Asiatic already legally established in this country.

The British Indian Association and all those who have received telegrams of sympathy and encouragement from various individuals and public bodies in South Africa, since the struggle entered upon a new phase, desire to take this opportunity of acknowledging their deep and grateful thanks to the senders. It is not possible to send individual replies.

The following is a copy of a consular certificate: "This is to certify that the bearer Syed Mustafa from Adrianpole with wife and three children is registered as a Turkish subject by this Consulate.—Dated at Johannesburg, the 6th day of January, 1908.—Imperial German Consulate, Johannesburg.—(Sd.) Frank, Imperial German Consul."

Mr. Syed Mustafa comes from European Turkey. He applied for a licence on the 14th instant, and was asked what his nationality was. He replied that he was a Turkish subject. He was again asked what his religion was. He replied that he was a Mahomedan. He was then informed that he could not obtain a licence as he came within the terms of the definition of "Asiatic" contained in Law 3 of 1885, as amended by Act 2 of 1907.

This incident sufficiently shows the insult that every Mahomedan feels when he reads the terms of the Registration Law! and it proves beyond doubt that it is the Law itself that is in fault, and not merely a question of incidentals; for here we have a European who, but for his faith, would be given a licence to trade and would be free from all disabilities attaching to the Registration Act.

At Krugersdorp last week, a hawker was arrested for trading without a licence. Owing to a confusion between the description of a hawker and a pedlar the Magistrate discharged the man.

Mr. Ebrahim Noor of Nylstroom has received an order to leave the Colony by the 25th instant.

The Cape, the well-known Capetown weekly, has a cartoon entitled "The Immortal Cause." The scene is a prison cell. The figure of Liberty is addressing General Botha. An Indian prisoner sits on a form. Liberty says: "It was in my name that you fought, General; have you no sympathy with his struggle for me?" The artist is Mr. D. C. Boonzaier, the distinguished cartoonist.

A meeting was held at Rustenburg on Monday night, and passed a resolution supporting the action of the Transvaal Government.

Messrs. Suliman Moosa, S. Moonasamy, and Ebrahim Moosa at Barbarton received 14 days notice to leave Colony.

A further remittance of £200 has been sent by the Natal Indian Congress to the South Africa British Indian Committee in London, to help the cause.

"There are none so blind as those who won't see," Mr. Augustine Birrell, Secretary for Ireland, speaking at Reading, says a *Mercury* special, defended the attitude of the Transvaal in regard to the Indians. "If 50,000 of these people came to our collieries or the shipyards of the Tyne, he asked, what reception would they get? We were not, he declared, in a position to dictate in such a matter to the self-governing Colonies." Anyone who knows the facts of the position cannot but think this to be an unfortunate attempt to gull the British public.

At Potchefstroom a meeting supporting the Government was held. Of course there was the usual resolution and the inevitable senseless twaddle about farmers who could not grow produce and shopkeepers who could not sell stores because of the Indian competition, and other things too ridiculous to mention.

A speaker at a meeting at Christiana confessed to having a "sneaking regard" for Indians, at the same time he supported the Government!

On Wednesday morning, the Germiston Magistrate sentenced 6 Indian pedlars to 7 days imprisonment with hard labour for trading without licences, these having been refused to them in terms of the Registration Act.

Six more hawkers in Johannesburg on Wednesday went to gaol for 14 days for a similar offence.

Mrs. Gandhi wishes us to convey on her behalf her sincere thanks to all those who have sent messages of sympathy and encouragement by telegraph or otherwise in connection with the present political struggle.

Late News

[SPECIAL TELEGRAMS]

Johannesburg, Friday.

Mr. Abdul Ganie, Ex-chairman of the British Indian Association has been arrested and remanded till the 5th February.

At Heidelberg Mr. Cappu Thomas received two months' simple imprisonment.

At Potchefstroom Messrs. S. D. Robert, Behman Patel, Moosa Hassan, Moosa Raja, Hafejee Moosa, Hemandas, and Katanjee were ordered to leave the Colony by noon on the 31st instant.

At Pretoria Mr. V. M. Sheth received three months' hard labour.

At Germiston yesterday 13 hawkers were arrested; at Krugersdorp 12; and at Johannesburg also a few; some were remanded. There is a possibility of a test case being fought.

Last night 43 new arrests were effected for contravening the Registration Act. Probably these cases will come before the Court to-day, when they will, no doubt, be ordered to leave the Colony in 14 days.

The Governor of the Transvaal has commuted all the Pretoria sentences to two months' imprisonment without hard labour or fine. Probably a similar course will be pursued in the other places.

Everybody appears to be strong. There are no signs whatever of weakness amongst Indians.

The rumour reported by the *Transvaal Leader* that Registrations had taken place at Standerton is false, as none were effected since the new phase has been entered upon.

It is understood that some registration is going on in Pretoria, but it is believed this applies only to returned Memons.

Contributions have been received from Kimberley Gujarati Indians and the Indian Political Association, also from Grahamstown Indians and the Durban Fruiterers' Association.

A wire has been received from Nairobi Indians sympathising with the Indians in their tribulations.

Meetings in various parts of the country have been held, at which the usual resolutions supporting the Government have been passed.

The general impression seems to be that it is intended to expel those Indians who are not identified.

A number of Chinese have been arrested at Johannesburg for contravening the Registration Act.

At Barbarton Messrs. K. Desai and Jimmy were sentenced to two months' simple imprisonment whilst Messrs. Mahomed Moosa and two others were ordered to leave the Colony within 14 days.