

# Indian Opinion

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## Indian Opinion

SATURDAY, APRIL 11TH, 1908.

### Indian Education

OF late years there has been a slow but steady increase in the number of Indian students proceeding from South Africa to England for education. Two causes among others may be mentioned. The one is the fact of South Africa, owing to colour prejudice, placing a handicap upon Indian education. The second is the natural ambition of Indian parents to give their children a suitable training. As a result there are already in South Africa one Indian doctor and three barristers who were sent by their parents to Great Britain to finish their education. One more has passed his bar final at London, has graduated at Cambridge, and is now awaiting call. Three more are at present in London—one studying medicine and two studying law. The latest recruit is Mr. Dawad Mahomed's son, who is already on his way to England. It is highly probable that more will follow. Moreover, there are two barristers and three doctors who, having arrived from India, have established themselves for practice in South Africa. All this must be a matter of pride and satisfaction to the Indian community.

But the question that arises and that must be honestly faced is, what is to be done with all these professional men or what are they to do? This question gives rise to two further questions. Are these young men to use their profession as a means merely or

largely of amassing wealth, or are they going to devote their learning to the betterment of their countrymen's condition—political, social, moral and educational? If the answer to the first of the last two questions be in the affirmative, we believe that the sending to England of so many young men will be a serious mistake. In this country there is not much room for Indians belonging to the liberal professions, so far as their practice is considered. And pecuniary ambition must, as a matter almost of course, lead such young men into undesirable temptations to which every liberal profession is exposed, or it must be doomed to disappointment.

If, however, the object of receiving a training in England be to enable one the better to serve his countrymen, South Africa, in our opinion, presents almost an illimitable scope for Indians who have attained to a high degree of intellectual and moral development. There is work to be done in the political department, as every Indian child knows. It is a struggle for a bare honourable existence consistent with the dignities of free men coming from an ancient stock. There is work enough to do in the social department. The different Indian races inhabiting South Africa have to be welded together and made to think corporately, to sink their sectarian prejudices, and enjoy free and easy social intercourse among themselves. There is work to be done on the moral plane. Deprived of the ordinary restraints of the homeland, the Indian in South Africa often does not know even his bearings on the moral plane. And what shall we say of education? When we think of it, we notice nothing but chaos underneath. A handful of Indians going to England and receiving good education is but a drop in the ocean. Hundreds of Indian children grow up around us in utter darkness. Indian adults have nothing to feed their minds upon. To them there is nothing but a striving to be wealthy. A society that grows in such a weedy manner is bound sooner or later to perish. We, therefore, think that education of the right type is the crying need among us. And we cannot conceive of anything nobler for the young Indian England-returned students than for them to use the knowledge acquired by them for the benefit of their countrymen, and to spread education among them. Then will they be able to say, with the Eastern sages, Wisdom (learning) and kingly rule are never equal. "A king is worshipped in his own country, a wise (learned) man everywhere" or with those who say that "A learned man increases his learning in the giving of it."

WE ARE PUBLISHING IN OUR GUJARATI columns abstracts from two letters from correspondents complaining of inadequate accommodation and other inconveniences on the Natal Direct liners bound for India. The passengers complain that latrines are bad and insanitary, deck space is limited and uncomfortable, the holds too small to contain the passengers accepted. There are other complaints into which we need not enter at present. We draw the attention of the agents and the owners of these vessels to the facts alleged, and trust that the complaints of the deck-passengers will be thoroughly investigated and relief granted, if the complaints are found to be true.

THE *Cape Argus* FOR THE 18TH ULTO. has the following on the question of Asiatic Immigration to the Cape:

At a time when South Africa has lost and is still losing hundreds of her most useful inhabitants, owing to the absence of work, it undoubtedly behoves the authorities to see that there is no laxity in the administration of the Immigration Act. It would be the height of absurdity if, while there is a continuous exodus of able-bodied white men, there were a corresponding influx of Asiatics. In this connection, attention may be called to a letter from a correspondent on the subject of Indian immigration, which appears in another column. From the tenor of this letter, there seems to be ground for at least suspicion that the Act is not being carried out with that thoroughness which is essential. It may possibly be found that there are defects in the legislative machinery, but in any case the allegations made by our correspondent merit investigation. His statement that during the past three months considerably more than 200 lads giving their ages as under 16 have been landed at this port, who claim fathers in this country, which having no mothers living in their native land, is too significant to be passed by without notice.

If the facts as set forth by the *Argus* are true, there is much to be said in favour of the alarming tone adopted by our contemporary. But in view of our past experience about such statements, we think that the *Argus* correspondent's story must be taken *cum grano salis*. The best way out of the situation will undoubtedly be for the British Indians at the Cape to ask the Government either to deny or to confirm the statement, and publish the Government's reply. It is precisely statements of this nature that caused the Asiatic crisis in the Transvaal. It therefore behoves the responsible Indian leaders at the Cape to nip the evil in the bud.

WE PUBLISH IN ANOTHER COLUMN the Asiatic regulations adopted by the Portuguese Government for the Province of Mozambique. An abstract of these regulations we gave some time ago. The fuller details show clearly how drastic these rules are. It will require great energy on the part of the Delagoa Bay Indians to have them amended or repealed. Bad, however, as the regulations are, we are, for the present, concerned with showing their infinite superiority to British Colonial regulations or Acts. In the Portuguese Province, a sharp distinction is drawn between Portuguese and non-Portuguese. The former are entirely protected from harassment and thus the Asiatic who is a Portuguese subject is enabled to feel and realise the importance of being one, in Portuguese dominions, at any rate. We go further, and say that the Portuguese regulations, even with regard to Asiatics not subjects of the King of Portugal, respect their sentiments, as will be seen by glancing through the regulations. But, in the British Colonies, it would almost seem that, if an Asiatic be a British subject, he is, on that account, also a fitter subject for insult and degradation. Such a policy, if persisted in, can only result in harm being done to the Empire. Portugal is not a mighty power, it is true; yet Lord Elgin can, to his own credit and the advantage of the Empire he serves, safely copy the respect of Portugal for its subjects.

THE DUNDEE LICENCE APPEAL SEEMS to have resolved itself into a farcical misrepresentation of justice. An Indian trader comes before the Court for the redress of what he considers to be a grievance in that the renewal of his licence has been refused, and he is calmly informed, in effect, that, in future, he must consult with the licensing officer of his town or district before he can enter into certain commercial transactions, because, without the consent of this person, who is now to be regarded as Keeper of the Asiatic trader's conscience, the latter will be forbidden to come to any arrangement with his creditors, however much to the satisfaction of these the arrangement may be. Why these inquisitorial powers are to be given to licensing officers as against Indian traders we are at a complete loss to understand. We have not observed anything in the Licensing Law or the Bankruptcy Law warranting any such interpretation of the functions of these officials. We decline flatly to believe that it is part of their business to intervene between an Indian trader and his European supporters as to the manner of their business agreements. Surely the supporters of the Indian trader, business men themselves, are capable of conserving their own interests without the shepherding of the licensing officers. Nor are we aware that Indian business

methods are more reprehensible than those of their competitors. *Carthago delenda est.* The Licensing Law must be amended. The Indian trading community of Natal must strain every nerve to obtain this urgently necessary result.

MR. WYBERGH MUST HAVE READ THE proposals of the Transvaal Municipal Association, in regard to the policy to be enforced against non-whites in that Colony, with very mixed feelings. There is no doubt that the Association is more royalist than the King, and the drastic proposals to be submitted at Potchefstroom this month go to the very extreme of the segregation infatuation. We suggest that penalties be imposed upon every person of colour who appears outside his house or kennel in broad daylight or on a moonlight night, because the light that shines upon him is white; that under no circumstances should white people appear in public on dark nights or dusty days, because of the evil contamination of darkness and colour; that whitewash, white painting material, white paper, and similar commodities of a white appearance shall be contraband in the hands of a coloured person, in the same manner as special restrictions are contained in the Gold Law on the subject of unwrought gold. These are a few of the lines along which the Association might profitably direct its energies. We commend our suggestions to the fanatics who drafted the report to be found in abstract elsewhere in our columns. They may, as the French say, give them furiously to think.

## Chinese and Opium

### Interesting Letter

The following letter from Mr. Leung Quinn to the President of the Witwatersrand Church Council, Johannesburg, under date the 6th inst. is of interest:

My Association is informed that your Council is taking up the question of the repeal of the law permitting the issue of opium to Chinese, and my Association feels that such a reform is so urgently needed in view of the terrible effects of the continuance of the present system alike upon Europeans and Chinese, that it feels called upon to offer most grateful thanks, on behalf of the whole Chinese community, for the action that your Council proposes to take. I am desired by my Association to express to you its willingness to co-operate with the Church Council most cordially, and my Association will be glad to furnish the Council with whatever information on the subject may be required.

## The Home Cabinet

### New Secretary for the Colonies

London, April 8. The *Daily Chronicle* gives the following forecast of the impending changes:—

Chancellor of the Exchequer: Mr. Lloyd George.

President of the Council: Lord Tweedmouth.

Secretary for the Colonies: The Earl of Crewe.

First Lord of the Admiralty: Mr. Reginald McKenna.

President of the Board of Trade: Mr. Winston Churchill.

President of the Board of Education: Mr. Walter Runciman.—*Reuter.*

## Registration Notes

[BY OUR TRANSVAAL REPRESENTATIVE]

The total of applications to date is 7,607, the number of certificates issued 4,590. Applications are being received at Warmbaths to-day, and will be taken at Benoni, on the 13th, 14th, and 15th inst., at Lydenburg on the 9th and 10th, at Volksrust on the 13th and 14th, at Potchefstroom on the 16th, 17th, and 18th, and at Krugersdorp on the 16th, 17th and 18th.

In the course of a special article on Asiatic registration in the Transvaal, the *Pretoria News* says:

To the credit of the British Indians and the Chinese alike it must be said that instances of this sort (attempts to obtain certificates by false pretences) are comparatively few, and that as a community the Asiatics are assisting the Registrar in every possible way. The other side of the picture is to be found in cases where Asiatics, through no fault of their own, but on account of perfunctory and careless registration are being put to serious inconvenience in identifying themselves and making good their claim to a new certificate. At the time of the publication of the compromise arrived at between the Government and the British Indians, the Rand newspapers pointed out that the success or failure of the registration now depended upon the Registrar. Up to the present the registration has been a complete success. The percentage of claims in dispute is a very small one indeed, and the Asiatic community as a whole are being put upon a fair and just footing in regard to their claims to remain in Transvaal. It is worth while paying a short tribute to the tact and discretion which is being exercised by the officers of the Registration Department, from the courteous and kindly chief downward. At last the question of Asiatic registration is well upon the way to final, irrevocable and complete settlement.

**The Free Indians of Natal**

**How Do They Live!**

**Their Future Prospects**

[SPECIAL TO INDIAN OPINION.]

The question of how our Indian population is and can be employed is one which interests both European and Indian Colonists, and therefore the report of the Customs Tariff Enquiry Commission just published in the *Gazette*, is a valuable document. The Commissioners, in the first place, "consider that it would be highly advantageous to the interests of South Africa were a resolution passed at the coming Customs Conference making known to the whole world that Protection had been adopted as a principle by the Parties to the Customs Union of South Africa." With that question, however, it is not necessary to deal at the present juncture. It is the question of labour which more immediately concerns us.

According to the evidence before the Commission, the Match-making industry in Natal up to a recent date employed only 25 Whites as against 405 Coloured, yet the amount expended in wages per annum was—on Whites £6,150 and on Coloured £6,750! Much of white labour, of course, is skilled and highly paid.

"Or again, take the case of the hardly less reviled Soap industry. We have it in Evidence from the Manager of one of the Soap Factories, that his Wages Bill from 31st December, 1906, to 31st December, 1907, shows the following division of the Total Wages paid:—

	£	s.	d.
Whites...	1,607	10	6
Half-Caste Girls...	159	2	11
Natives and Indians	661	6	2

The Coloured labour inside the factories is entirely of Indian extraction—men, women, boys and girls.

We find free Indian labour the most satisfactory, and comparatively few indentured coolies are employed."

The Report goes on to say:

"These industries are given here only as examples. Others could be quoted to the same end.

Moreover, in connection with the outcry against those two industries because they employ a considerable number of Asiatics, it may be as well to point out, that so far as our information goes, those employed are nearly all free.

Now, whatever sentiments the average man may express as to the desirability of checking the importation of more Asiatics, and as to the desirability of their indentures terminating in India, we have found no one who goes so far as to advocate the transportation of the tens of thousands of South African-born free Indians. These people are multiplying year by year. They cannot be allowed to starve. They cannot all

go on the land. Employment of some sort must be open to them. They have been educated, in thousands of instances, above the sphere of plantation hands, and are wholly unsuited to such employment.

There are industries, such as the Match and Soap, and some others, which do not appear to appeal to whites in this climate. Moreover, some of these industries could not possibly economically exist if the higher rates of wages required by whites (to enable them to live according to even a somewhat low white standard) had to be paid, to all employes.

Such industries, then, appear to us to be among those openings which should be welcomed as they at all events help to solve what threatens to become a grave problem—that of the employment of the tens of thousands of Asiatics who cannot be expelled, whose evolution cannot be arrested, and for whom employment will have to be found in the immediate future.

It has also to be borne in mind, that the scale of white wages in this country is much higher than in Europe, and that, owing to the great dearth of those who in Europe assist in averaging down the cost of labour in production—we refer to labourers, apprentices and learners—there would be no means of averaging down the higher cost of labour in production in this country, were it not permissible to employ coloured people in place of the labourers, etc., who serve that economic purpose in Europe. Were our industries debarred from employing coloured people, it would, therefore, only mean the stoppage of many of them, and the consequent throwing out of employment not only of the coloured people, but of all the whites now enjoying or likely to enjoy, employment therein.

It is, therefore, our opinion that the granting of Protection to an industry should not be made contingent upon the proportion of white people employed therein to coloured nor that it should be made contingent upon any condition attached to the class of local labour employed.

We attach too much importance to the encouragement and establishment of industries which will afford employment to any class of local labour, not to appreciate the importance of affording every reasonable facility to every possible industry.

The great majority will be compelled to employ a proportion of highly paid skilled whites, and so, rather than deprive those whites of these new openings for employment by virtually closing the door to such new industries, we prefer to throw that door open to all.

In taking this view of the situation as it exists in Natal, it must be understood that we do so, because, however lamentable it may be, Natal is suffering from a legacy, in the shape of Natal-born Asiatics, and we recognise

that she cannot ultimately avoid the consequence of that legacy. The sooner this is generally recognised, and the sooner steps are taken to provide for the consequences of that legacy, and to prevent any further indiscriminate importation of Asiatics, the better will it be for the whole country.

For anyone to ignore that legacy and its consequences, would only be to act the part of the proverbial hunted ostrich, and to cajole himself into believing that the dangerous situation does not exist, because he preferred not to see the obvious.

If sentiment is to prevail in this matter, let it be a sentiment that will do credit to everybody concerned, and, of all others, not be the sentiment of the dog in the manger.

However, in the opinion of your Commissioners, the unskilled labour question cannot be satisfactorily dealt with by any one State. It is distinctly a question for the calm consideration of the whole of the South African States, and, until a common South African Policy can be enunciated, it appears hopeless for any particular State to propound a remedy for the abuses which undoubtedly exist."

In the Tea industry the figures, as supplied by one of the largest groups of Tea Estates, show the division of wages to be for twelve months as follows:—

Whites (including those in Durban Office) ...	£3,833
Coloured (including rations to Coolies) ...	£3,672

Of course the greater part of the coloureds in the case of tea and sugar planting are indentured Indians.

"Since the above was written the following figures have been supplied, as representing as nearly as could be obtained from an Estate to Estate Enquiry, the division of Wages paid during 1907, over the whole Tea Industry in Natal:—

To Europeans ...	£6,500
To Coloureds ...	£13,700

The following refers to the Sugar industry:

The wages paid on the Estates may safely be computed as 4-7ths to Indians and Kafirs, and 3-7ths to White skilled labour.

The following particulars as to the distribution of Wages annually upon three of the largest Sugar Estates in Natal have been supplied to us:—

	Whites	Coloureds
Estate A. ...	£7,000	£14,000
Estate B. ...	£9,125	£14,291
Estate C. ...	£6,600	£ 9,000

Total on the 3 Estates £22,725 £37,291

In the Sugar Refining department, "The total wages paid per annum are approximately:—

To Europeans ...	£9,000
To Coloureds ...	£2,500

The wages paid during the last 12 months in the Oil industry were divided as follows:—

	£	s.	d.
To Whites ...	3,142	14	9
To Coloureds	1,443	12	4

The following points to the need for small Indian farmers in the Colony:

Ground nuts alone remain to be considered, and these, though well suited to the soil and climate of Natal, and some other parts of South Africa, are at present a neglected crop, and, as a rule, only cultivated sparsely by natives and Indians.

The above facts show that there is undoubtedly room for a very large number of Indian workers in the various industries which are springing up on every side, the small farmer being, perhaps, the most wanted.

### Indian Patriotic Union

A meeting of the Indians residing in Sea Cow Lake was held in the premises of the Hindu Temple, on the 5th inst. There was a fairly large company and among those present were Messrs. R. Dehaloo, R. Matheu, Jack Fayers, P. S. Aiyar, S. Dhancokdhari, Lutchuman and Gareeb Panday R. Lugunpathy, L. Gabriel, Bryan Gabriel, J. M. Lazarus, and M. B. Maharaj. Mr. Gopee Pundit, occupied the chair, and said that the meeting was convened for the purpose of forming a branch of the Natal Indian Patriotic Union at Sea Cow Lake. The speaker, in a lengthy discourse, advised that an organisation of the kind was essential to the advancement of the Indian community, and concluded his address with a hope that the meeting would unanimously agree to the proposal. Messrs. Lugunpathy, P. S. Aiyar, R. Dehaloo, and Gareeb Panday also addressed the people.

The following resolution was passed unanimously: "That this meeting of the Indians residing in Sea Cow Lake endorses the object for which the Natal Indian Patriotic Union is established in Durban, and that a branch thereof be formed here."

**THE CANADIAN TROUBLE.** Reuter's London agency cables on the 7th inst. that Mr. MacKenzie King, the Canadian Deputy Minister of Labour, who has been negotiating with the Imperial Government for joint action restricting the influx of Hindus into Canada, has concluded his mission. In the course of an interview he praised the co-operation of the Colonial, Foreign, and India Offices, and emphasised the fact that the question was an economic, not a racial one. The Canadian Government believed that Indians were not suited to the country. The Government thus acted on their behalf, as well as on its own. Mr. King believed that administrative measures would be taken to prevent "Hindu" immigration.

### Indians at Delagoa Bay

#### Complete Text of New Regulations

Project of Regulations for the Policing and Superintendence of the entry, transit and egress of Asiatics in the Province of Moçambique.

#### CHAPTER I.

##### Article 1. Entry.

The entry of Asiatics into the Province of Moçambique shall only be permitted:

- I *By sea route*, through the ports of the chief localities of Districts, or through the port of Chinde, and through the fluvial route of the Zambesi River for the District of Tete;
- II *and the land route* through the Railway lines or through such other localities of the Frontier as possess an authority empowered with administrative, police, or superintendence duties.

##### Article 2.

No Asiatic shall be permitted to enter the Province, through the *land route* without possessing a landing (entry) pass granted by the proper authority.

*Section 1.* Such pass shall only be granted to those who shall be able to produce on their disembarkation (entry) the following:

1. Safe-conduct M/A, permitting their return to the District in the port of which they intend to disembark, or their visit to that port, with safe conduct granted by the proper authorities of other Districts to transact business.

2. The authorisation of entry, referred to in Article 4.

3. Certificates and documents mentioned in same, issued by any of the Consulates of Portugal in the neighbouring colonies, or a passport or any other authentic document with the "visé" from any of such consulates, permitting their entry.

##### Article 3.

The safe-conduct permitting the return to any of the districts of the Province shall only be granted to those who shall prove by official documents the following:

1. To have fixed their domicile in the Province prior to the 30th November, 1907.

2. To have had at least 3 year's effective residence in the district, save in a case of *force majeure* duly decided by proper authority.

3. That during that period they have paid to the State their taxes on immovable property, or licences for the practice of any profession or industry, as well as any other tributes with which they may have been taxed.

4. That against them no criminal process, or of bankruptcy, is pending in the tribunals of the jurisdiction of their residence.

*Section 1.* The following Asiatics are exempt from having to produce

the proofs referred to in the previous articles:

1. Those who shall pursue exclusively the functions of priest, those under contract, or the officials of the State.

2. Those who desire to leave for a limited time, from one to another district of the Province, or for any of the neighbouring colonies, to transact business.

*Section 2.* The proofs referred to in Nos. 1 & 2 of this Article, shall not be demanded from the following Asiatics:

1. Those who shall prove to be Portuguese subjects with relatives or business in this Province.

2. Those who are the owners of immovable property, duly entered at the Registry of Deeds of their respective jurisdiction, or who shall prove with documents to have capital invested in the carrying on of their business or industry, of not less than 4 million reis.

##### Article 4.

The authorisation of entry M/B, shall only be granted to the following Asiatics:

1. Those who shall prove to be the heirs of Asiatics who, in any of the Districts of the Province, have left them estate, who shall be allowed to remain the time necessary for the liquidation of the legacy, or to fix their residence if by such legacy they become proprietors of immovable property.

2. Those who shall prove to have been contracted by private persons to render the services of their profession in the commerce, art, industry, or agriculture, of recognised utility, provided that the parties interested shall prove the absolute necessity, and provided the latter shall show an authentic copy of the respective contract, and that they have lodged with the authorities a deposit of the amount of the return passage of the contracted persons.

*Section.* The Asiatics referred to in No. 2, who, upon the expiration of their contract shall have left the service of those who shall have contracted them, or who shall enter into the performance of a different occupation than that for which they were contracted, shall be compelled to leave the Province, whereto they shall not be allowed to return, save when newly contracted by such persons as shall have satisfied the conditions demanded by that number.

##### Article 5.

All Asiatics who have been allowed to enter the Province are obliged to appear at the Secretarial Offices of the Governments of the respective Districts, at the Intendancy of Chinde, or at the Administration of the Borough (Administração do concelho) of Lourenço Marques, according to whichever be the port of disembarkation, with the pass M/C, not later than 5 p.m. of the first working day following the day in which they have disembarked, or left the Lazaretto.

*Section.* This pass shall be granted by the officials entrusted with the duties of policing and superintendence of Asiatics on board ship.

*Article 6.*

The entry of Asiatics into the Province, by the land route, is only permitted to those who shall be bearers of safe-conduct of return to the district of their residence, or those who, being bearers of any of the documents mentioned in No. 3 of the Section of Article 2, shall come in transit in order to leave through any of its ports, or to transact their business in the province.

*Section.* To those who coming in transit shall not produce the documents referred to in this Article, the police, superintending or administrative authorities of the frontier may permit their entrance against the production of the passage ticket on board any ship leaving from any port of the Province or on the deposit of the amount of that passage.

*Article 7.*

Asiatics entering the Province by land route shall be obliged to present themselves before the authority who is performing the duties of administration, policing or superintendence of frontier, as well as at the Secretarial Offices of the Government of the Districts, at the Intendancy of Chinde, or at the Borough Administration (Administração do concelho) of Lourenço Marques, according to whichever be the district where they have entered, till 5 p.m. of the first working day following that of the arrival at the seat of those departments, unless they have left before that date on their journey.

CHAPTER II.

Transit.

*Article 8.*

The transit of Asiatics from one port to another along the Coast, or from one district to another within the Province, shall only be permitted when they have come before the proper authority, duly possessed of any of the documents referred to in Nos. 1 & 3 of Section of Article 2.

*Article 9.*

All Asiatics who shall travel from one administrative division within the same District, are obliged to present themselves before the authorities of the localities whereto they travel, or wherein they may have to wait.

CHAPTER III.

Egress.

*Article 10.*

No Asiatic residing in the Province is allowed to leave same without previous M/D licence granted by the proper authority, save when they shall possess a safe-conduct to return to the District of their residence.

*Section 1.* This licence shall be granted to those who shall prove, by legal document, that they have not against them any criminal or bankruptcy process pending in the tribunals of the jurisdiction wherein they reside, excepting those who intend to

go to the neighbouring colonies of the frontier to transact business there.

*Section 2.* Asiatics subject to this licence, who may be found without it, with passage taken on board any ship or railway, or who intend to cross over the frontier, shall be detained and forwarded to the proper judicial authority for the purpose of being punished for disobedience.

CHAPTER IV.

Sundry Provisions.

*Article 11.*

The following authorities are competent to grant safe-conducts, permits of entry, and licences of egress:—

In the Capital of the Province, the Borough Administrator (Administrador do concelho), and in the other districts, the respective Governors.

*Section 1.* The interested party will have to append to the application for these documents his photograph in duplicate, in order to be pasted one in the original and the other in the respective counterfoil.

*Article 12.*

The safe-conducts, permits of entry, and licences of egress, referred to in the previous article, shall not be valid unless they contain the photograph of the bearer.

*Article 13.*

The period of validity of the safe-conduct, permitting the return to any district of the Province, shall not exceed 6 months, for those who have not left it for the neighbouring colonies, nor three years for those who shall leave for another locality.

*Article 14.*

Any Asiatic possessed of a safe-conduct the time of which has expired, shall not be permitted to disembark in any of the ports of the Province, save in a case of *Force majeure* duly decided by the proper authority.

*Article 15.*

Asiatics who are covered by the conditions of Section 2 of Article 3, shall be allowed to be accompanied by their legitimate wives and legitimate minor children or those who may be reckoned as such provided they can prove that legitimacy.

*Section.* The same permission will be granted to those Asiatics whose wives are deceased, for the purpose of being accompanied by their legitimate minor children, provided they can prove their widowerhood and the legitimacy of their children.

*Article 16.*

To no Asiatic entering any district of the Province, after the date of publication of these regulations, shall it be permitted to reside therein for more than 30 days, save under special authorisation of the proper authority, excepting those who shall have disembarked under a return safe-conduct or permit of entry granted in the terms of these regulations.

*Article 17.*

Asiatics found in any district of the Province in contravention of the clauses of these regulations shall be

notified to leave the district within a period not exceeding 30 days; and should they not comply with the notification, they shall be immediately arrested and handed over to the Judicial Power in order to be punished for disobedience, and expelled from the Province.

*Article 18.*

A fee of 2,400 reis, besides the stamp necessary, shall be collected on safe-conducts and permits of entry.

*Article 19.*

The clauses of these regulations may cease to be applicable to any Asiatics whose refinement, education, uses and customs be of recognised and manifest superiority over those of the common individuals of their race.

*Article 20.*

In omitted and unprovided for and urgent cases, the authorities referred to in Article 11 may adopt such measures as they may deem convenient, reporting to the Governor-General the use they have made of that concession.

*Article 21.*

The appearance of those Asiatics who shall enter the Province by the land route, or who shall travel from one administrative division to another, shall be registered in a special book in the respective department, in which book shall be entered, besides the identity of the individual, his place of origin and his destination, as well as the description of the documents exhibited by him.

CHAPTER V.

Transitory Provisions.

*Article 22.*

The safe-conducts or any other documents without a period of validity, permitting the entry of Asiatics into the Districts of Lourenço Marques, will have to be produced by their bearers at the Borough Administration (Administração do concelho) of the Capital of the District, in order to be replaced by others, to be issued in harmony with the clauses of these regulations.

*Section 1.* The substitution shall be applied for within the unadjournable period of six months, counting from the date of publication of these regulations, and any such documents which have not been replaced within that period shall be considered null and void.

*Article 23.*

Notice of the 10th December, 1907, from the Borough Administration (Administração do concelho) of the Capital of the District of Lourenço Marques, and any other provisions to the contrary, are hereby repealed, by these regulations.

Lourenço Marques.

13th March, 1908.

The Acting Administrator,

(Sgd.) ANTONIO R.E. FONSECA.

## Transvaal Municipal Association

### Sweeping Demands

The fifth annual meeting of the Municipal Association of the Transvaal will be held in the Municipal Council Chamber at Potchefstroom on April 10. The report of the executive contains a review of the South African Native Affairs Commission, and among a number of recommendations are the following:—

That in the opinion of this association the municipal franchise should be withheld from natives and coloured persons resident in South Africa; that the law be so amended as to prohibit the sale of land within the urban areas to Asiatics, natives or coloured persons in freehold; that no land within urban areas be leased to or occupied by Asiatics, natives or coloured persons in districts occupied by white people; that white persons be prohibited from residing in bazaars and locations set apart for the occupation of Asiatics, natives and coloured persons; that Asiatics, natives and coloured persons be prohibited from residing in places other than those set apart for their occupation; that the word "natives" be taken to mean any person belonging to any of the aboriginal races or tribes of Africa, and every person one of whose parents belongs to any such race or tribe as aforesaid; that the definition of "coloured persons," i.e., persons who spring from other than a European race, be left to the Law Courts in each case to interpret; that the foregoing report, together with the resolutions which the association may adopt with regard to this matter, be forwarded (a) to the Transvaal Government with a recommendation that legislation be introduced on these lines, and (b) to the Federal Council of Municipal Associations of South Africa with a recommendation that the views of this association be adopted, and that the Governments of the British South African Colonies be requested to introduce legislation on the lines indicated.

"It has to be admitted," says the Executive, in some comments on the franchise question, "that the ownership or occupancy of fixed property is a just basis of municipal franchise and it is known that the privilege of the municipal franchise has been extended to natives and coloured persons who possess the necessary qualifications in the Cape Colony, Natal and Rhodesia. Yet it must not be forgotten that this franchise was not granted to these communities before the lapse of many centuries of civilisation. It is incumbent on the Legislature to exercise the greatest caution in dealing with the matter. Should the municipal franchise be granted, a clamour and agitation will arise for

the State franchise to be granted to natives and coloured persons. This step, we believe, will be strenuously resisted by the greater portion of the white population of this colony. The white population of the Transvaal has borne the responsibilities of government, and has contributed to the revenue of the Transvaal, in a degree altogether out of proportion to its number. In the opinion of this Committee the extension of the municipal franchise to natives and coloured persons would not only be unwise and impolitic, but altogether premature, and to sacrifice a principle of such moment for the sake of a few individual natives and coloured persons who may have raised themselves above the standard of their races, and thus by a single stroke of the pen to place natives and coloured persons on an equality to the white man in this respect, is undesirable for many reasons. It is scarcely to be expected that the space of time during which the native and coloured races in South Africa have been in contact with the white civilisation has enabled them to assume in any degree the civilisation of the European, and no one will maintain that any expectation in this direction has been realised to any great extent. In matters of municipal and political concern the native mind is still undeveloped; his reasoning faculties are still in their infancy; and to endeavour by an enactment of the Legislature to make the native and coloured races artificially equal in the eye of the law with the European would, we are sure, be fraught with danger, and resented by the whole of the white community. For these reasons we are of opinion that the municipal franchise should be withheld from natives and coloured persons resident in this colony."

In a long explanation of its attitude on the subject of the sale of freehold or leasehold property to Asiatics, natives and coloured persons, the committee points out that until the law be altered by legislation, municipalities will have very little power to prevent the mingling of the races within urban districts. "Natives," the report proceeds, "are acquiring land in urban districts very rapidly, and if prompt action be not taken in the direction approved by the vast majority of the white population of the country, the difficulty will assume dimensions which may be beyond the capacities of the local or the central authorities as far as compensation is concerned.

There are in the Transvaal approximately 1,356,800 acres of ground set aside as Government locations for occupation of natives in communal tenure, carrying a population of 123,509. On these locations the garden lots are apportioned by the native chiefs, and the people enjoy common rights in regard to water, wood and grazing. No payments are made to the Government as rent in return for the use of those lands."

The report of the South African Native Affairs Commission on the subject is summarised, after which the Executive remarks that its views on the question of land being owned or leased by natives or coloured persons are on the lines of those set forth in the following extract from the despatch of the Governor of the Transvaal to the Secretary of State for the Colonies, dated October 29, 1906, on the subject of the Vrededorp Stands Ordinance, 1906:—"Under the Law of the Transvaal no Asiatic can acquire title to land, and as, under the terms of tenure granted in Vrededorp by the Government of the late Republic, the owner of the stand is required to occupy his property, the occupation of a stand by an Asiatic would clearly be a violation of these terms. The restriction, therefore, which is embodied in the present Ordinance merely perpetuates the legal conditions which were found in existence in Vrededorp when the country was annexed to the British dominions. But there are strong reasons for retaining this restriction on its own merits. The arrangement whereby a community of poor whites was placed in close juxtaposition with the Malay quarters and native locations was not in itself a happy one, but it would be much less so if these different elements of population were massed together. The practice of allowing Europeans, Asiatic and native families to live side by side in mixed communities is fraught with many evils, and is, I am satisfied, injurious to the social well-being of all three. The policy of the Government, which aims at keeping the quarters in which the various races reside apart from one another, has my approval, and it is in pursuance of this policy that white persons are prohibited from residing in the bazaars assigned to Asiatics and in the native locations. It would have been impossible for the Government of the Transvaal to sustain the wholesome regulations, and at the same time to insist on throwing open for Asiatic occupation a township specially designed by the late Government as a workman's quarter for poor whites of Dutch nationality. The difficulty of such a course would have been all the greater seeing that the occupation by Asiatics of this quarter is not at present lawful, and that the whites themselves are not allowed to reside in the Malay and native quarters immediately adjacent. The poor whites resident in Vrededorp, who are for the most part Dutch are strongly in favour of the provision maintaining this prohibition."

Further, in the opinion of the Executive Committee, the throwing open of districts for the general occupation of European, native and Asiatic families would be deeply resented by the former class, and such a policy would not only depreciate the value of the district concerned, but would give rise to opportunities of friction between the white and coloured races.

## India and Transvaal Indians

The Indian Mail papers to hand report that, at the meeting of the Viceroy's Council held on February 3rd, the Hon. Mr. G. K. Gokhale asked the following questions:—

(a) Has the Government of India received a telegram from the Indian settlers in the Transvaal, seeking its protection and asking for its intervention in their favour against the injustice and indignities to which they are being subjected under the Asiatic Registration Act in the Transvaal?

(b) Is the Government aware of the depth and intensity of public feeling that has been aroused in this country in all quarters by the arrest and imprisonment of several Indian subjects of His Majesty the King-Emperor in the Transvaal under the Asiatic Registration Act?

(c) Will the Government be pleased to state what steps it has already taken or it proposes to take to bring this state of public feeling in India to the notice of His Majesty's Government in England and to secure for the Indian settlers in the Transvaal the protection that they seek at its hands?

In reply the Hon. Mr. Findlay said:—

(a) The Government of India have not received any telegram from the Indian settlers in the Transvaal. But they have received papers from the Secretary of State which include a telegram from British Indians in the Transvaal to the Secretary of State for the Colonies to the effect stated in the question. They have also received numerous representations from persons and bodies in other parts of South Africa and India.

(b) The Government of India are fully aware of the depth and intensity of public feeling which has been aroused in India and are grateful to the various bodies and individuals representing so many classes and creeds in the country, who have taken so much trouble to keep them informed of the views taken of the legislation affecting the Asiatics in the Transvaal.

(c) The matter has received throughout the careful consideration of the Government of India. They are in full sympathy with the Indian subjects of His Majesty in whatever part of the world they may be, and though they are obviously not in a position to pronounce authoritatively on the merits of the situation in the Transvaal, they have let no opportunity pass of keeping His Majesty's Government informed of the state of feeling in India with regard to that situation and of pleading the cause of the different sections of the Indian actually in South Africa whenever it appeared that the duties and privileges of Indian emigrants as subjects of the British Empire, were affected. The

Government of India have good reason to hope that negotiations now in progress will result in the removal of the just grievances of His Majesty's Indian subjects.

## A Dangerous Paradox

### Western Attitude Towards East

London, April 3.—Speaking on the occasion of a lecture by Mr. Richard Jebb on Asiatic immigration, Mr. Lyttelton pointed out that we are confronted with a dangerous paradox. On the one hand, the West is prepared to assert the doctrine of the open door in Asia, and, on the other hand, is to tell Asia that the Western portals shall everywhere be closed against Asiatics. He thought that the self-governing Colonies were irrevocably determined not to admit effective competition from Asiatics.

There had recently, Mr. Lyttelton continued, been a most curious development of the trade union attitude in South Africa. If the telegraphic report of the Labour Commission in the Transvaal was correct, objection was raised against Asiatic competition to white labour, and also to the competition of indigenous black labour. From the point of view of the high-minded idealist, it was strange to dispute the right of the aborigines to work.

Mr. Jebb thinks that the Indians might be allowed to have East Africa as a reserve, because the handful of white settlers did not count.

That, remarks the *Standard*, shows a singular want of insight. It would be precisely a reproduction of the early situation in Natal.—*Natal Mercury*.

## A Great Indian Scholar

We, *Indian Review* regret to record the death of Pandit Kisory Mohun Ganguly, at the age of 60. The deceased had a world-wide reputation as an Oriental scholar, having translated the Mahabharata and Charakha Samita into English. His scholarly attainments were recognised by such authorities as Sir Edwin Arnold, Dean Farrar, Sir Monier Williams, Lord Northbrook, Lord Reay, Lord Harris, Lord Connemara and others, on whose strong recommendation the Government of India granted him a literary pension of Rs. 50 per mensem, the first of its kind in India. Sir Edwin Arnold wrote to him: "Were I the Viceroy of India, I would have bestowed on you such poor honours as the highest imperial decorations could give." It was Lord Curzon who recommended the learned Pandit to the Secretary of State for the pension which was sanctioned in 1890. He was educated at the Jannai Training School, and passed the Entrance Examination at the age of 16 in 1861, obtained a scholarship

and joined the Presidency College, graduating in 1868. He was a regular contributor to the press, and was for many years associated with the late Dr. Shumbhu Chunder Mukherjee in the conduct of *Ras and Raviat*. The translation of the Mahabharata occupied 13 years. It covered 8,000 pages. The Government, recognising the value of the work, subsidized its publication to the extent of Rs. 50,000. By the death of Pandit Kisory Mohun Ganguly, Bengal has lost one of its most brilliant scholars.

## The Crime of Colour

When I entered the train at Madras, says Mr. Keir Hardie, there were two Indian gentlemen in the compartment. One of them rose as I entered and said: "Shall we move to another compartment, sir?" I stared at the man, and asked whether he had paid his fare. "Oh, yes," he replied: "but English gentlemen don't as a rule like to travel with 'natives'." Now I knew that in America the colour line was strictly drawn, but I was not prepared for this sort of thing in India. Here, he it remembered, is a people who have inherited a civilization which was older than the West had begun to emerge from savagery. Those who travel first or second-class are mostly men with a university education, and speak English fluently. Some of them are wealthy, and many of them are of ancient lineage and noble descent. And yet, travelling on a Government railway in their own country, they are treated much as they themselves treat the poor outcast pariahs.

There are carriages labelled "Europeans Only"; there are others labelled "Females." At some of the principal stations the urinal, placed as these places usually are at home, is labelled "European Gentlemen;" whilst away out at the end of the platform is a corrugated iron structure labelled "Men" at one side, and "Females" at the other. Any poor scallawag in a white skin is a "European gentleman," whilst a titled Indian with a Cambridge degree is only a "man," for whom the corrugated iron structure has to suffice. I could fill a page with cases which the reader would find it hard to believe, illustrating the way in which the colour line is being drawn.

CONGRATULATIONS. On Monday last, the 6th inst., before the Supreme Court of the Transvaal, at Pretoria, Mr. H. S. L. Polak, Editor of *INDIAN OPINION* and Assistant Hon. Secretary of the Transvaal British Indian Association, was admitted to practice as an attorney of the Supreme Court, subject to his taking the statutory oaths before the Witwatersrand District Court at Johannesburg.

## South Africa British Indian Committee

### To Oppose Natal's New Legislation

London, April 9.—The British Transvaal Indians Committee is taking steps strenuously to oppose the projected Asiatic legislation in Natal.

Mr. Ritch, secretary of the above Committee, interviewed by Reuter's Agency, referred to the tremendous increase of refusals of trade licences to Indians, and said that there was no doubt that the Natal Government was endeavouring by that means to squeeze out the Indian trader from the Colony. The Committee would bring the question before Parliament when it reassembled after the present recess—Reuter.

## Victims of Lobito Bay

### Another Batch

The *Witness* Durban correspondent writes:

April 7. This morning 429 time-expired coolies who had been recruited in Natal for Lobito Bay railway construction work arrived at Durban *en transit* for India, only a few of the number being able to claim former domicile in the Colony. They were transferred to the Bluff quarantine station for the double purpose of awaiting transport and receiving medical attention, which many of them appeared to be badly in need of before sailing for India. These Indians are about the most dejected, wretched looking crowd that have ever been seen at this port. Apart from the majority of them looking anything but fit physically, the appearance of all—men, women and children alike—was repulsive. Their clothes were wretched-looking, even for indentured Indians, and some had barely sufficient of dirty rags to cover their nakedness, while with their long tangled hair and their general filthy looks they presented a picture of barbarism that one would only expect to see far outside the bounds of civilisation.

These coolies, it is said, were all eager to leave Lobito Bay. It was difficult to glean much of a consecutive story of what their life on railway construction there had been like, but from those who could speak a little baboo-English it was gathered that they would not willingly have re-indentured for another period of service.

Asked to give reasons for leaving Lobito Bay railway service, some said there was great scarcity of water, others that the country was a bad one for sickness, that many had been sick and some had died, and they had to sleep in unhealthy bush country. Altogether, making allowances for Oriental extravagance in expressing themselves, it appeared that many of them did not speak well of their Lobito Bay

experiences, while one man said they would rather be in Natal.

The journey from Lobito Bay to Durban has, it was stated, improved the health of many of them, but at the time they were seen disembarking from the *Cluny Castle* there was hardly a face among them that could not be described as wretched. Many looked emaciated, and others had jigger fleas in abundance, which no doubt accounted for their unhappy faces.

## Facts and Comments

INDIAN MAILS. For Bombay, to be forwarded by *S.S. Benidu*, will be closed at the Post Office on Saturday, April 11, at 11.30 a.m.

Mails for Delagoa Bay, Beira, Goa and Bombay, to be forwarded by *S.S. Praesident* will be closed at the Post Office on Tuesday, April 21, at 3 p.m.

TRANSVAAL TRADING LICENCES. The Registrar of Asiatics has informed the British Indian Association that trading licences will be issued up to the end of the year in favour of Asiatics producing either voluntary certificates or certificates under the Asiatic Law Amendment Act. Asiatics unable to produce certificates can receive licences to the 30th June, provided they make application on or before the 30th instant.

A CHAMPION OF THE INDIAN. London, April 9.—The *Times* correspondent at Ottawa says that Col. Hughes entered a strong protest in the Dominion House of Commons against the proposed exclusion of Indians under the Bill amending the Immigration Act. He said he would prefer one Indian who fought for the Empire rather than a hundred Yankees who crossed the border, and immediately endeavoured to upset the existing conditions of law and order.—*Natal Mercury*.

FALLING INTO LINE. With reference to the matter of the Consolidated Municipal Act, which was before the Maritzburg Town Council on the 1st October last, when it was decided to agree to the amendment of the Dealer's Licences Act to provide for all persons being deprived of their licences having the right of appeal to the Supreme Court, the committee now recommended that the resolution of 1st October, 1907, be rescinded, and that the Council fall into line with the decision arrived at by the other Municipalities, and Local Boards in Natal, viz, that the amendment of the Dealers' Act be not agreed to.

POTCHEFSTROOM AND THE ASIATIC QUESTION. At the monthly meeting of the Chamber of Commerce, there was opposition to the passing of a resolution on the Asiatic question drafted by the Klerksdorp Chamber of Commerce, and the matter was

left in the hands of a sub-committee. The chairman hoped that Potchefstroom would continue to act reasonably on this question, and not pass resolutions hastily, in direct conflict to the attitude of the Chamber and the town as in the past. He deprecated asking the Government to place Asiatics in bazaars without compensation, as there were vested rights which must be respected if they had a sense of justice.—*Transvaal Leader*.

AN EXTRAORDINARY PLEA. His (Lord Elgin's) defenders in the Liberal Press, by way of excuse, have put forward the extraordinary plea that the grant of Colonial self-government implies the absolute annihilation of Imperial authority. If that were the case the Empire would be actually strengthened by converting the self-governing Colonies into foreign countries. As a matter of fact, however, no British Ministry has ever admitted the right of the self-governing colonies to do what they please in matters involving Imperial interests. Mr. Chamberlain frequently overruled the Australian Colonies, and even the present Ministry has summoned up sufficient courage to overrule the Colony of Newfoundland.—*Daily Graphic*.

NATIVES AND FEDERATION. Dealing with the question of native policy and federation, the *S. A. News* says:—

The Transvaal will be taking a very fatal step if she refuses to federate with the Cape Colony unless the native is disfranchised and segregated. Upon moral grounds it will be going too far to refuse not only rights and privileges of the franchise to the original inhabitants of the country, but to refuse employment as well. It would be an abuse of power. The righteous cause is always mighty, but the mighty cause is not always righteous. It would be might alone that could carry such a policy to completion, but it would be a policy in which the Cape Colony would never assist. History has shown that our native policy is not only just but wise and expedient, and on those grounds alone the Cape should be able to indicate the terms of a South African native policy. There is talk of the unification of the Transvaal, the Orange River Colony and Natal, leaving the Cape out in the cold because of her championship of the rights of the native. Even in the face of such a threat as that the Cape Colony would stand firm in her attitude, and the other colonies would call forth from the whole of the civilised world such anathemas that they would probably hesitate before definitely refusing to federate unless their native policy should prevail in all the States. In any case they may be assured that this Colony will never enter into any union without fully safeguarding the existing rights and privileges of race, class and subject irrespective of race, colour or creed.