

Indian Opinion

No 33—Vol. XXX.

Friday, August 19th, 1932

Registered at the G.P.O. as a Newspaper.
PRICE FOURPENCE.

TRANSVAAL INDIANS STIRRING

LAND TENURE, AND IMMIGRATION ACTS AND LICENCES (CONTROL) ORDINANCE DENOUNCED

PROTEST MEETING IN JOHANNESBURG

A MASS MEETING of Indians was held last Sunday, August 14, at the Osrin's Bio Hall, Johannesburg, under the auspices of the Transvaal Indian Congress, to protest against the recently passed Asiatic Land Tenure Act. There were over a thousand Indians present. Mr. C. K. T. Naidoo was in the chair.

Chairman's Speech

Mr. C. K. T. Naidoo delivered the following speech from the chair:—

"We have met on many serious occasions, but I think the present is one that presents us with a graver problem than any we have been confronted with for many years past. We are not here to consider legislation with which the community is merely being threatened, but we are face to face with what is known as the accomplished fact. For many years we were threatened with disabilities designed to drag us down to the level of pariahs because of our Asiatic origin or nationality, and the complexion of our skins. Protests and resistance backed up by the influence of friendly Indian opinion in the Motherland staved off, up to lately, the worst of these disabilities. To-day they have at last been recorded in an Act of Parliament and it is now only a question of their being put into operation by the Administration.

"To some, the more serious aspect of the matter will be the almost certain loss of their means of livelihood. To others, their invested savings will be in jeopardy, but to some, at least, of us, among whom I have the honour to count myself, what appeals over and above all else, is the national, the racial degradation that this new legislation inflicts to the full.

"It has been well said that the loss of one's purse is relatively the loss of trash. The loss of one's honour and good name leaves the loser poor indeed. In this matter, I desire to make my own position clear. True, I am a poor man in regard to worldly goods, but I think I may claim to have made some small sacrifices for the honour and good name of my people, and what I resent in regard to the Transvaal Asiatic Land Tenure Act of 1932 is the statutory insult flung at me and at you, my brother Indians, telling us in effect that we are not fit and proper persons as compared with the meanest and lowliest of the whites of this Province.

"For 30 years our people have suffered from a policy calculated to make our position in this country incompatible with the retention by us of the smallest vestige of self-respect. Attempts to segregate us have

been made again and again. Efforts, not always open and honest, have been made to eliminate us as competitors with the white community in trade and business. Hitherto, almost miraculously, we have survived these attacks. To-day, at last, the coping stone has been placed upon the legislative attempts of the past 30 years and, for all practical purposes, we are to be treated from now on as if we were lepers. We are virtually told that "if we don't like it, we can leave it," which is only another way of saying the authorities have tried in every way to kick us out of the country and have now decided to make our position so impossible that many, at least, of us, will have no option but to go.

"I do not propose to run away from South Africa which has been my home for some 43 years. I shall stay here. I shall enter my protest against the insult levelled against my people, my race and my Motherland by passively resisting this disgraceful legislation to the limit of my strength.

"What each of you proposes to do about it, is a matter for your own consciences. If you have forgotten the duty each one owes those who gave him birth, and the opportunity to bring honour to their name and memory, you may accept the position of slaves and obey the commands of your task masters. If, on the other hand, anything is left in you of the true spirit of the sons of India, then you will count the loss of worldly possessions or of liberty or of opportunities to even earn a livelihood as nothing compared with the fulfilment of your obligation to preserve the honour of your forefathers of the country of your origin and of the brave men and women who are to-day suffering in the effort to regain her freedom.

"There will be four resolutions submitted to you. Understand them and decide what shall be your attitude in regard to them in the light of the views I have ventured to express. The first two resolutions have already been adopted by the Committee of the Transvaal Indian Congress. The third and fourth are left with you to decide in addition to whether you will adopt at this mass meeting the views of your Committee. The proposers and seconders will more fully explain to you the significance of the resolutions. My duty, as chairman, is to put to you in more general terms the position as it confronts our people. I ask you in conclusion to take this matter very, very seriously and try to rise above mere personal or sectional considerations and interests. You occupy here in the Transvaal a more responsible position than I think you appreciate. You are con-

fronted with the gravest possible choice. You will have to choose between duty that may involve loss but loss that will be true sacrifice or the abandonment of honour and the finer things men should hold sacred and the danger of succumbing to cowardice, and, finally, of some day reaping the contempt of your children's children for having sold their birthright.

"Make your decision deliberately and prayerfully and may you be divinely guided in your choice."

Resolutions

The following resolutions were passed unanimously:—

(1) That the people be advised individually and collectively to abstain from filling in D.I. 29 Forms which have been circulated under the Transvaal Asiatic Land Tenure Act, 1932, or to do or take part in any matter or thing which might mean their conforming to the requirements of the said Act for the following reasons:—

(a) The aforesaid Act, virtually means, segregation of the Indian community as a race or class;

(b) It violates the letter and spirit of the Capetown Agreement of 1927.

(2) That a Committee be appointed to initiate such resistance to the Act as may be found necessary for the purpose of entering effective protest thereto.

(3) This meeting solemnly protests against the provisions of the 1931 Immigration Amendment Act which, by depriving Registration Certificates of their aforesaid significance i.e., the inherent right of bona fide holders freely to enter and reside in the Transvaal Province; has deprived the community of the last vestige of the rights for which it has strenuously battled during the last thirty years. The said Act is in direct violation of the Smuts-Gandhi Agreement of 1914.

(4) This meeting solemnly records its protest against the terms of the Licences Control Ordinance, 1932, as being a distinct violation of the Capetown Agreement above referred to and as constituting a most serious menace to non-European traders in that it confers upon Municipal licensing committees what amounts to autocratic and absolute powers.

(5) It has come to the notice of the Congress that in order to protect their interests, some people have already filled in the D.I. 29 Forms through fear. That does not mean that they accept the Transvaal Asiatic Land Tenure Act. This meeting therefore resolves that those who have filled in the forms have done so under protest. The whole Indian community gives full support in any steps the Congress will take to resist the Transvaal Asiatic Land Tenure Act.

(6) This meeting confirms the appointment of Mr. P. K. Desai as additional Secretary to the Transvaal Indian Congress.

Notice

INDIAN UNEMPLOYMENT

Will employers of Indian labour kindly notify the undersigned of any vacancies in their establishment.

WRITE:—Hon. Secretary, Sir Kurma Reddi Unemployment Relief Committee, 175 Grey Street, Durban, or Phone Central 3506.

Notes and News

ELSEWHERE in this issue is published a report of the Borough Licensing Officer, (Col. Molyneux), to the Town Clerk, in regard to overtrading in the added areas of Durban, and to the measures the Licensing Department is adopting to reduce the number of the traders in those areas. We understand there are a large number of Indian traders involved in this scrutiny of the Licensing Department in the newly incorporated areas, and they are naturally fretting about their means of existence in these abnormal times of depression, especially when they know from past experience that the Department is by no means sympathetic in its administration where Indians are concerned. The class of traders in these areas does not belong to the well-to-do. They are mostly earning just sufficient to make a bare living. These are factors to be taken into consideration while enforcing Municipal laws on these people. The Municipal authorities are no doubt anxious to improve the conditions of, and to establish order in, the new areas. We are in full sympathy with them in that, and, in so far as we are concerned, we would urge upon all our countrymen to co-operate with the Municipality in doing so. But it is necessary in these hard times not to take any such drastic action which would imperil the means of livelihood of poor people and thus add to the number of unemployed. We would only urge upon the Municipality to be lenient and sympathetic in exercising its powers and to pay due regard to the means of the persons they deal with.

TO FURTHER VULGAR

THE *Union Gazette* of August 8 contains the following notice No. 1048, by the Department of the Interior, announcing an amendment to the regulations under the Immigrants' Regulation Act, 1913:

"His Excellency the Governor-General, has been pleased, in terms of section twenty-six of the Immigrants' Regulation Act, 1913 (Act No. 22 of 1913), to approve of the amendment to paragraph 20 (1) of the regulations issued under that Act, published under Government Notice No. 1055 of the 29th June, 1928, and amended by Government Notice No. 614 of the 10th May, 1932, by the deletion of the words "one hundred" and the substitution thereof of the words "two hundred and fifty."

The deposit for a temporary permit originally was a sum not less than ten pounds and not exceeding one hundred pounds. The Immigration Officer has been empowered under the above amendment to ask for a deposit up to two hundred and fifty pounds.

GENERAL regret will be felt at the news of the illness of the son of Kunwar and Kunwarani Maharaj Singh in India who, it is learnt, is laid up with interia. The latest reports are that his condition is as well as could be expected in the circumstances. We earnestly trust he will soon be quite better and that the anxiety caused to the Agent and the Kunwarani will thus be removed.

A correspondent from Verulam writes:—The malaria epidemic was very severe this year resulting in the loss of many lives. The sugar estates were almost paralysed owing to the fact that it not only attacked Indians and natives but Europeans as well. The Indian community of Verulam and the outlying districts wish to thank Dr. Seedat and his able assistants, and Mr. Sorabjee Rustonjee for assisting our less fortunate brethren by supplying them with free medical aid. About a thousand cases were attended to and the results were satisfactory. Messrs. Choonilal Bros. are also to be con-

gratulated for lending their premises and conveying the people back to their distant homes free of charge. The following also rendered valuable assistance: Messrs Dhanjee Ramjee, S. M. Singh, M. Roopnarian and C. Kistan.

INDIAN UNEMPLOYMENT

THE meeting held at the Victoria Picture Palace, Durban, last Sunday in connection with unemployment among Indians, which was attended by the Agent of the Government of India, has revealed many things. It has revealed that over 4,000 unemployed men have registered themselves. In these 4,000, women and children are not included. It has also revealed the fact that the Sir Kurma Reddi Unemployment Relief Committee has been working strenuously to alleviate the distress of our unemployed brethren with inadequate support both from our own wealthy merchants and from the Government. Sir Kurma Reddi, our former Agent, who took a personal interest in this work and went door to door to beg for funds, was promised in all £450. Of this amount the Parsee Rustomjee Trust donated £100, Sir Kurma £25 and Advocate R. K. Khan £50, which amounts have already been paid in, but the balance that was promised by individual merchants of Durban has not yet been received. This is really unfortunate, but Mr. A. I. Kaje, the chairman of the meeting, expressed the hope that this amount would come in with the help of our new Agent. We sincerely trust that the chairman's hope will be realised.

The meeting also revealed the fact that the Durban Corporation had made a grant of £50 to the unemployment relief fund and that small as the amount is, it has not been received as yet by the Committee. Since it is granted we have no doubt it will come; but we must comment that such a beggarly sum does little credit to a highly civilised town such as Durban boasts to be and especially when, as it has been pointed out, one fifteenth of the rates and taxes go to the coffers of the Municipality from Indians.

The fact that is now well-known was also stressed at the meeting, that while relief work was opened for the white unemployed, no such step was taken for the Indian unemployed. The latter were, on the contrary, still being thrown out of Government employment to make room for the former. We do not begrudge the white men their lion share but it is indeed expected of a civilised Government that, at least, in a case of distress such as this, it would treat every section of its population alike without making any racial discrimination. But the attitude of the Union Government is, to say the least, deplorable. It has even refused the application of the Committee to open a labour bureau of Indians unemployed. The reason given for refusal is that no funds are available!

The Committee has done everything possible in the nature of self-help and will continue to do so, and we ask of the Government nothing more than we are justly entitled to. We have asked that the Government be pleased to reconsider its White labour policy which ill-behoves a good Government; we have asked it to allocate a portion of the vote of £600,000 in aid of unemployment to alleviate the

distress among unemployed Indians, which we are quite justified in doing. We have asked for the Immigration Trust Board Funds, which were derived from the Indian labourers by the imposition of a 9d. tax on them and their descendants to be utilised for this purpose. These funds, we understand, amounted to £120,000 and the use they have been put to is to paying bonuses to Indian repatriates. The Union Government certainly cannot boast of having compensated Indians who have been made to abandon their domicile in this country for it has only returned to them their own money. In asking for the use of the balance of these funds for our own purpose is certainly not an extravagant request.

We are glad to note that the Agent, Knuwar Maharaj Singh, has whole-heartedly supported the resolutions passed at last Sunday's meeting and that he has promised to make further representations to the Government on this vital question when he goes to Pretoria and that he will zealously support any practical and reasonable measures that we might take. As a practical demonstration of his hearty support the Agent has donated a sum of £10 to the Relief Fund. Sir Kurma Reddi, our former Agent, had made this question his own during the short period that he was here after the formation of the Committee, and it is a matter of profound gratification that our new Agent has promised to take as much interest in the question as did his predecessor. We hope the joint efforts of the Committee and the Agent will succeed in alleviating the distress of our poor brethren.

DEATH OF DR. P. J. MEHTA

THE very sad news of the death of Dr. P. J. Mehta, which took place on the night of August 4, was received here by cable on August 6. The late Dr. Mehta was one of the closest associates of Mahatma Gandhi. It was about the year 1887 or so when the latter was studying law in London that Dr. Mehta was studying medicine and it was at that time that they became thick friends. Dr. Mehta's home was in Rangoon where he had established a very successful practice and he was by also a diamond merchant. He was very well-to-do and any movement launched by Mahatma Gandhi not only had his fullest support morally, but he was one of the few friends of Mahatma Gandhi on whom the latter could unhesitatingly look to at any time for financial help. A word from Mahatma Gandhi's lips and the treasury of Dr. Mehta was open to him.

Dr. Mehta was one of the trustees of the Phoenix Settlement to the development of which, during Mahatma Gandhi's time, he donated a goodly sum. He had written the Gujarati translation of the life of Mahatma Gandhi written by the late Rev. J. J. Doke, entitled, "An Indian Patriot in South Africa." The late Dr. Mehta was an ardent Congress worker in Rangoon and was an advocate of Hindi being the national language of India, on which he had written a pamphlet. A few years ago when he was on his visit to Europe he had a paralytic stroke and ever since he had unfortunately been bedridden. Although he could not take active part in public affairs he

watched India's fight for independence with the keenest interest. While he was thus suffering he had an additional shock, as Providence would have it, of losing his elder brother the late Revashanker J. Mehta, in the middle of 1930, who was also alike to Mahatma Gandhi as was Dr. Mehta and whose home he even now occupies as his residential quarters whenever he visits Bombay. Dr. Mehta's death has no doubt relieved him from his agony, and let us pray that his soul may rest in peace. But great will be the suffering of those he has left behind him—and he leaves behind a widow, three sons and two daughters. Our heartfelt sympathy goes out to them and they will feel consoled in the fact that their sorrow will be equally shared by Mahatma Gandhi and by ourselves, for we feel it as much a personal loss as they.

Indian Unemployment

Meeting In Durban

The Agent's Active Support

A very well attended meeting of Indians was held in the Victoria Picture Palace, Durban, last Sunday at 3 p.m. under the auspices of the Sir Kurma Reddi Unemployment Relief Committee.

The Agent of the Government of India Kunwar Maharaj Singh was present with Mr. J. S. Bozman his Secretary and Mr. S. Mayadas.

Chairman's Speech

Mr. A. I. Kajee, who was in the chair, welcomed the Agent on behalf of his unemployed countrymen and women, and said: "We know we shall have your help in this burning question. The question is a big one and means life and death to us. Though it is twelve days since you landed on these shores I am sure you will have seen much of our distress."

"The Natal Indian Congress raised several questions with the Union Government on Indian unemployment but with no result. It was then felt that the matter should be brought to the notice of the Agent of the Government of India."

"And so, it was on a broiling Summer's day that hundreds of our unemployed marched with us, weary, footsore and hungry, to the residence of Sir Kurma Reddi, our then Agent, and within a few days an Unemployment Relief Committee bearing his name, was formed and he accepted the chairmanship. Sir Kurma then accompanied a few of us to some of the wealthy members of our community, visiting each in turn. A number of them subscribed in all £450."

"For a time the Committee issued out dry rations but as the subscriptions were not forthcoming, we decided to carry on, for the time being, a Food Kitchen at the Indian Sports Ground. This we are able to do out of the contributions in kind that we get mostly from the smaller men. The unemployed are given a full meal. The highest number we have had in a day was 234, and up to yesterday, the Kitchen having been opened on the 18th July, there have been served 2889 meals—an average of 131 meals a day. Prior to the opening of the Kitchen we had served dry rations to 149 families."

"On our unemployed register there are over 4000 men—that is without the women who are workless and the unemployed men who have not registered. In Maritzburg also an Indian Relief Committee is

at work. Unemployment in the Province is very acute."

"The White Labour Policy is being enunciated by the Union Government everywhere, thereby closing all avenues of employment to the Indian. The latest application of this policy was announced by the Railway Board but three days ago that non-European labour on the Railways is to be displaced by European labour. It is an unjust and unfair policy in that the State attempts to exclude from its service a part of its citizen population merely on racial grounds. Such a policy also must be economically unsound in the long run to the country. The Union Government within the last few days has written us that it has not the money to open a Labour Bureau for the Indian unemployed. You will remember that Parliament voted the sum of £600,000 in aid of unemployment and left the spending of it to the Minister of Labour. But so far nothing has been done for our unemployed by the Labour Minister from this vote."

"We would urge the claims of the Indian unemployed on this vote and also on the Immigration Trust Board Funds, money that was paid in connection with Indian labour that helped to build up the industries of this country which might be fittingly spent in alleviating the distress of Indian workers."

"The enforcement of the Provincial Tax against Indians without any exemptions even on the ground of unemployment and especially when Europeans who are earning £8 or less were exempted, was unjust, and the action of the Natal Indian Congress in tackling the question is bringing about some adjustment."

"Our children are not given free primary education and now that there is so much unemployment among us and many among us are living below subsistence level, the Provincial Council as an act of charity, if not of bare justice, should exempt our children from the payment of fees in any case while the present acute depression prevails in the country."

"The Durban Corporation made a grant of £50. Small as the sum is we have not as yet received it."

"And in regard to the Relief Works neither the local nor the Government authorities employ any Indian unemployed on such works."

"With the incorporation of the Health Board Areas Durban not only becomes bigger in area but it also requires a larger administration. It can, if it wills, give employment not only by way of relief works but regular work in such spheres of Corporation employment as Indians have hitherto been employed in. Not only as ratepayers but in other ways we contribute to the life of the country, and the unemployed among us have also a right as human beings to receive some consideration at the hands of the authorities."

"We are patient. We have not the vote. Our women and children suffer from want. We appeal in the name of humanity for help."

Other Speakers.

Mr. A. Christopher pointed out that of £450 referred to by the chairman as having been subscribed by the wealthy members of our community £100 were granted by the Parsee Rustomjee Trust, £50 by Mr. R. K. Khan and £25 by Sir Kurma Reddi the then Agent of the Government of India. The balance though promised had not yet been paid. The speaker urged the rich to help the poor and to remember that their existence was dependent on the poor."

Among other speakers were Messrs. B. M. Patel, Sorabjee Rustomjee, J. W. Godfrey, P. R. Pather, B. A. Meghraj, Satyadev, V. Lawrence, S. L. Singh, M. M. Gandhi and others.

licences, ~~is increasing the~~ number of traders in the new areas, which appear to be ~~benefiting~~

with shops to a far greater extent than in the old Borough (which itself is over-traded to a serious extent), the conditions cannot be said to be worse than we expected. This department will be slow to grant new trading facilities in the added areas until the number of traders there is reduced; but as from January next, when many firms at present lawfully trading without licences will be compelled to take out municipal licences, there will be a very large increase in the number of licences issued, without any increase in the number of traders.

The Agent's Activities

The Agent's time has been fully occupied from the day he landed in Durban in visiting the various people and public institutions. Both the Agent and the Kunwarani are freely mixing with Indians to get themselves acquainted with their lives and grievances in this country.

The Kunwarani has already commenced social service work and has succeeded marvellously in bringing out some of the Indian ladies from the Purda to take interest in public affairs.

LAST Friday afternoon the Agent of the Government of India, Kunwar Maharaj Singh and the Kunwarani paid a visit to the Sastri College Boys' Hostel, Leathern Road, Durban. They were accompanied by Mr. Bosman and Mr. S. Mayadas. There were about 30 guests present. Kunwar Maharaj Singh expressed his satisfaction at the work done by the boys and congratulated them on their cleanliness and good behaviour. He and his wife laid great emphasis on the need for the education of girls, and eloquently urged those present to send their daughters to school for higher education. Mr. Rooknudin assured the Agent of the Indian community's full support and requested the Kunwarani to exert her influence to improve the condition of Indian women.

The Agent of the Government of India and the Kunwarani Maharaj Singh visited the Carlisle Street Indian School last Monday. Mr. E. Thomas, the headmaster, accorded them a cordial welcome. Kunwar Maharaj Singh congratulated the Boy Scouts on their appearance. This was the first school he had visited, and he was pleased to see so many bright faces. His announcement that the school was to have a half-holiday was received with applause. The Kunwarani also addressed the pupils.

An At Home was given in honour of Kunwarani Maharaj Singh last Tuesday afternoon by Mrs. Jalbhoy and Mrs. Sorabjee Rustomjee at the Mayville Castle. There were about seventy Indian ladies including every section and prominent European ladies including the new Mayoress Mrs. O. Lea. The catering was done by Cafes Ltd., and the daughters of Mr. and Mrs. V. Lawrence gave a musical entertainment. The Kunwarani shook hands with everyone and was presented with a beautiful basket of flowers by her hostesses at the termination of the function.

The Agent and the Kunwarani were entertained to dinner on Thursday night by Mr. and Mrs. Sorabjee Rustomjee at the Mayville Castle.

The Agent will be leaving for the Transvaal on August 24 and expects to return to Durban on about the 1st of September. The Kunwarani will leave for the Transvaal on August 29.

Racial Problems In South Africa

Mrs. Josephine Ransom discusses the racial problems in South Africa in *The Theosophist*. She says: "Some theosophists are convinced that the best work, thought and effort of those members so disposed should be given to accelerating the growth of understanding between Briton and Boer. With those two strong and self-reliant groups united more closely than at present, they think the future would show a more rapid advance, especially in solving the delicate and subtle problems presented by the whole racial question. Such a closer union is most desirable and would bring to birth a people competent to contribute to the Commonwealth a fine addition: the qualities of strength and idealism, largely motivated by the desire for service to countless numbers of the 'backward' races, essaying the first stumbling steps into a civilization that is somewhat a strenuous upward climb for them."

The outermost fringe of these two leading races, consists of the 'poor whites'. They are mostly of Boer origin. They are so feckless often that they are the despair of all who work for their improvement. Curiously enough many of them are the grandchildren of those magnificent 'voortrekkers' whose indomitable courage made possible the settlement of the country. When they settled they had enough for all their needs. They paid little or no attention to the education of their children. There was hunting enough, plenty of slaves, women to marry, children to beget—among whom their lands were divided and divided yet again by their grandchildren till at last they were too small to support a family. They were not usually trained to any occupation other than farming, and manual labour was despised as 'Kaffir's' work. So these poor descendants lived and live miserably, forlorn and uninspired. They cluster in towns, breeding freely yet poverty-stricken. Farming settlements have been made for them with varying success. As education is free and compulsory, maybe the tide will turn for them and a better type emerge. They present a curious case of how the neglect of culture brings in a low brand of intellectual and moral qualities. Many are learning to work on the roads, and at first were jeered at by the Kaffers for so doing, but that is actually the first step along the road of their regeneration.

Between these and the natives are the 'coloured' people. On the 'White' side parentage is Portuguese, Dutch, French, British, and all sorts of other Europeans. Jews, Hindus, Mohammedans, Arabs, and Malays have also contributed their quota. On the 'native' side parentage is Hottentot, Bantu, Fingo, Basuto, Zulu, Swayi, and all the many other tribes of the 'Whites' met and miscegenated with them—without compunction. Such miscegenation is now unlawful; but some of it still goes on, as is witnessed in the native areas of any town where fair-haired, red-haired, more lightly-coloured children play with the natives unconscious of the unhappy future that awaits them. For the 'coloured' person is aware of strains of desire and of possibilities, with his own 'colour.' The Whites will have nothing of them, and ban them socially almost as completely as the native is banned. It is a cruel situation for many of them, particularly the 'near Whites'. In Cape Town and may be elsewhere in Cape Province, these coloured people are growing into a very self-respecting community. Many have the vote, that was arranged long ago; there is a tendency to try and take it from them, for some resent that the 'coloured' people should vote upon matters affecting

the "White" man. The Dutch gave the unhappy name of Bastards to these folk, and for a time they took and used it with some fierceness of pride. Some of them, under a capable leader named Adam Kok, tramped away to found settlements of their own, with varying success.

Those theosophists who have the welfare of the people at heart would like to see them have more than their present place in society, and a more efficient education. There are missions among them of course, and they are mostly Christians, but they need some central *alma mater* where they could find themselves, and evolve their own notions as to what should befall them, and learn to live their lives without bitterness. They must of course have their dignified place in the South African scheme of things, and be given a chance to prove themselves, to search their own hearts and know what life should offer them. Many a student of the racial problems in South Africa wonders if the future of the country, i.e., the Union, and maybe even beyond its borders, will be that of a "coloured" people. I am told that in Portuguese East Africa the Portuguese, even those in important Government positions, sometimes marry native women. Should White people visit them they permit of no question as to the courtesy due to their wives.

Statement Submitted By S.A.I.C.

To Government Of India Delegation

(Continued)

INDIAN IMMIGRATION TRUST BOARD

Law 20 of 1874 (Natal) created an Indian Immigration Trust Board whose duties were to undertake the receipt of all monies for purposes of Indian immigration. The Trust Board had accumulated a fund which, after having paid out such monies as were required for the purpose of defraying and discharging and paying all expenditure connected with or incurred in the introduction of Indian immigrants, and their return passages, and all expenses departmental and otherwise necessary in and about the reception, management, protection and return of Indian immigrants, left a sum of £120,000 or thereabouts. This amount was no more required for the above purposes, and in consequence remained idle with the Trust Board for some years. The Minister of the Interior, under an Act of Parliament, is now utilising the resources of this Fund for the purpose of repatriating Indians under the Assisted Emigration Scheme.

As eighty-five per cent. of the resident Indian population of South Africa are born in this country and as indentured labour was stopped twenty years ago, the Congress has, we submit, a legitimate right to ask for the diversion of this large sum for the uplift of our people. We would urge that the amount should be spent on the promotion of Indian education. There can be no better call on the fund than this.

OLD AGE PENSIONS

We ask that the privileges of old age pensions which at present are extended to Europeans and Coloureds be extended to Indians as well. The earning capacity of the average Indian is very limited, and an average old aged Indian earns little or nothing. Our people have contributed more than their share to the development of the country, and in proportion to their resources they contribute their share of the taxes imposed. We think these factors should justify our request.

FIREARMS

The right to grant or refuse permits to Indians to hold firearms is vested in the Commissioner for Native

Affairs in Natal. This right is invariably exercised against Indians. At each successive Conference protest was made against the discrimination made against Indians in the issue of firearms. The decision of the Commissioner is final. Genuine cases of Indians who applied for firearms for self-protection have been turned down. Indian farmers and storekeepers of substance and good character, who reside at a considerable distance from town and in inaccessible parts, require firearms for self-protection, but they are refused permission. Although the Chief of General Staff gave the assurance in a letter that permission will be given in cases of necessity, this assurance has not been observed.

In order that Indian applications are dealt with on their merits, and receive a fair hearing, we urge that there should be a right of appeal to the Supreme Court in cases of refusal.

THE "UPLIFT" CLAUSE

It has been said that the Capetown Agreement was conceived in a spirit of compromise. We accepted the Agreement, together with its advantages and disadvantages, in the full belief that it was an honest attempt at solving the Indian problem in the Union. In the words of Dr. Mafan "the Agreement afforded an honourable and friendly undertaking and a new era of peace and friendship in the true interests of both, between South Africa and India."

With this spirit pervading, the Indian community as a permanent population of this country, accepted to conform to western standards of life and agreed to the principle of equal pay for equal work. We also agreed, in order to live a happy family life in the country, to allow no children to come into the Union without being accompanied by their mothers.

Prior to this, respecting the fear of the Europeans of this country that the Indians would swamp them, we agreed to a "closed door" policy by which no further immigration from India was permitted.

While all these entailed a large measure of sacrifice on our part, we were prepared to accept, provided, in the words of Mr. Gokhale, "we lived under equal laws and that the administration of these laws was just and humane."

The "Uplift" Clause assured to us the character of a Magna Charta, and was also, in our view, a guarantee that nothing would be done to impair the noble and lofty ideals of "Uplift" contained in that part of the Agreement. In other words our position in the Union would be no worse off than it was before. That by taking advantage of educational and other facilities, coupled with a better system of housing and sanitation, we would be enabled to reach the goal set forth in the "Uplift" clause. Our expectations have fallen short of what we hoped and what we believed would be done to uplift us.

There has been, at times, a better atmosphere created, and goodwill cultivated between the European and the Indian due to the presence of the successive Agents and their work here. But even with this we cannot but feel constrained to say that the intensity of agitation against Indians has in no way lessened.

The unjust administration of the licensing and immigration laws, the tendency to tighten up laws relating to trade, residence and occupation, and the attempt to segregate Indians as is evidenced in the Transvaal Asiatic Land Tenure Bill, to make the lives of Indians miserable and unbearable, and the recent enactment of a Licensing Ordinance affecting trading rights of Indians in that Province, and the "White Labour Policy" are instances, out of many, of how the authorities wanted to pursue the old policy of keeping down or getting rid of the Indians.

We have, as far as possible, given in this statement the grievances suffered and the hardships endured under different laws and administrative acts in the Union.

Nothing short of the removal of these will satisfy the Indian community.

We desire to express to you our sense of gratitude for the deep interest you are taking in our affairs, and we trust that the information we have supplied and the views we have placed before you will be of assistance to you.

(Concluded)

Municipal Barracks Free School

The annual general meeting of the above school board was held in the Municipal Barracks School on 31st July, 1932, when annual reports of the secretary, treasurer and head teacher were presented. The chair was occupied by the president Mr. G. P. Nair.

Chairman's Speech

The chairman, in his opening remarks, thanked the members for their presence and congratulated Mr. A. Chengiah for his strenuous effort for organising a Telugu class. "As you are all aware," said the chairman, "there are hundreds of children in the barracks of school-going age who are not sent to school because their parents with their meagre earnings are unable to pay to educate them. Therefore, gentlemen, I ask you to consider the matter very seriously." In conclusion he thanked Mr. D. M. Hoosen, vice-president, Mr. A. A. Peters and the officials of the board.

The secretary's report stated that 165 children were supplied with free books, slates and various other materials. 108 children including 35 girls were in the afternoon classes. 57 children including 9 girls were in the evening classes. Tamil, English as well as Telugu was being taught.

The treasurer report stated that the subscription was very poor and asked the committee to devise means of augmenting the funds of the school. The treasurer Mr. M. D. Pillay did not stand for election. He gave six years of untiring service to the school.

It was decided to approach the town council for recreation grounds of the Indian servants of the Durban Municipality and to urge the necessity for improving the school hall which was reported by the school inspector to be unsuitable.

The following new officials were elected:—Patrons: Sir K. V. Reddi, Mr. Oliver Lea (Mayor of Durban); Hon. Life Vice-Presidents: N. R. Padayachee and A. A. Peters; President: P. G. Nair; Vice-Presidents: D. M. Hoosen, M. D. Pillay and A. Chengiah; Treasurer: S. B. Marajh; Secretary: V. Ohengiah; Executive: M. P. Pillay, G. P. Naiker, J. Abraham, D. Pillay, M. Moor-gan, M. Puckree, M. G. Reddy.

News About India

"Consistently with national honour, I would do everything that would promote conciliation and peace," says Mr. Gandhi in a letter from Yerovada prison to the Friends' delegation, London, in reply to the appeal of Dr. Tagore for a gesture of goodwill from both sides, which the members of the Society of Friends conveyed to India in February. Mr. Gandhi says, "I should yield to nobody in my desire for conciliation and peace. You may, therefore, depend on my doing nothing that would prevent them." He adds, "More I may not say from behind the prison wall." The Archbishop of York, Mr. A. D. Lindsay, Professor Gilbert Murray and Sir Francis Younghusband, in a covering letter, hope that an opportunity may be taken for some new gesture of goodwill from the side of the British Government. Private representations, it is stated, have been made to Sir Samuel Hoare but it seems

that there is little disposition on his part to propose terms which the Congress could honourably accept. It is stated that political circles in Simla hold the view that the situation has not been altered in any way by Gandhiji's letter. The phrase "consistently with national honour" is said to be far too indefinite to justify any conclusion being drawn from it.

The Conference of the Friends of India held at Whitefield tabernacle on June 19, under the presidency of Laurence Housman, passed the following resolutions: Firstly, that a settlement was impossible without the sanction of the Congress as representing the Indian people; secondly, condemning the Ordinances and expressing sympathy with the victims of police excesses as also with the Lancashire unemployed who were suffering as the result of the Government's Indian policy; and thirdly, calling upon all friends to rouse public opinion in support of India's right to independence. Mr. V. J. Patel, who was present at the meeting, moved an amendment to the last resolution, asserting India's right to "complete independence and separation from the so-called Commonwealth of Nations." The amendment was carried.

India was among the 32 nations represented in the World Centenary Congress held at Crystal Palace, London, on 20th June, to celebrate the temperance movement. Rev. Herbert Anderson said there were bright prospects of Prohibition in India, although many temperance workers were now imprisoned for picketing liquor shops. After forty-five years in India, he was impressed with the sincerity and devotion to Temperance shown by the great number of adherents in all creeds. Political power was the key to the solution of this problem. A large majority of Indians were resolved, when they got control of their own affairs, that the dring traffic should be one of the first evils to be abolished.

In The Magistrate's Court

For the District of Durban Held at Durban

Case No. 11072/32.

Between RAMNATH, Free Indian Immigrant No. 75645, of Clare Estate, Natal—Plaintiff, and SUKDAY, Nos. 8848/365/606, lately of Verulam, but whose present whereabouts is unknown to Plaintiff—Defendant.

To the above named Defendant,

Take notice that a Summons has been issued against you in this Honourable Court by RAMNATH, Free Indian Immigrant No. 75645, of Clare Estate, Natal, for Divorce a *Vinculo Matrimonii* on the ground of malicious desertion, and that an order has been made that the publication of such Summons shall be deemed to be good and sufficient service of Summons upon you.

You are hereby requested to enter an appearance to the Summons on or before the 12th day of September, 1932, and your failure to do so, a judgment will be given against you in your absence.

Dated at Durban, this 2nd day of August, 1932.

(Signed) BRIAN CAMP.
Clerk of the Court.

(Signed) J. WALKER MUNRO,
Plaintiff's Attorney.

J. WALKER MUNRO,
Plaintiff's Attorney,
Chancery Lane, Durban.