

Indian Opinion

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DEATH OF MR. THAMBI NAIDOO

AFTER a lengthy and tortuous illness Mr. C. K. Thambi Naidoo died at his residence, 176 President Street, Johannesburg, at 9 o'clock on Tuesday morning. The late Mr. Thambi Naidoo owed his fame to the Passive Resistance Struggle (1906 to 1914) of which he was one of the heroes. He was a man of not very high educational qualifications nor was he a man of wealth. He was of the middle class and a man of common sense and dogged determination. These are qualities in which even men of learning are often found lacking. It was because of these qualities that he had influence over the Tamilians in the days of Passive Resistance and became one of the staunch lieutenants of Mahatma Gandhi, who was then the leader of the movement. If Thambi Naidoo was asked by his General to do a thing or if he took it upon himself to do a thing he did it. He was not one to fear any obstacles, he was game enough to overcome them. It is perhaps not an exaggeration to say that he was one of the staunchest passive resisters. With a sturdy physique and brawny arms, he fathered many a weakling and made life in gaol easier for him. Thambi Naidoo was always there to finish his own task as well as to help those who lagged behind to finish theirs. During his leisure time he would be reading religious books or singing hymns and keeping gay those who had a tendency of being morose having never before suffered gaol life. It was indeed a sorry time for those inside prison when Thambi Naidoo was released. But he was never out long. He required no rest. One heard of Thambi Naidoo's release and within a day or two news flashed once again that he was arrested. This is the life that Thambi Naidoo led from the beginning to the very end of the great struggle in 1914. During the intervals he was the chairman of the Tamil Benefit Society which did a great deal of organising among its own people. During the great strike in 1913 as a protest against the £3 tax on Indian labourers, the late Thambi Naidoo played a heroic part. He led the women from Johannesburg and marched from place to place

throughout Natal organising strikes without any rest whether by day or by night and often without food. As he was determined so was he fearless. The Government officials had come to know Thambi Naidoo well and they never attempted to use their bullying tactics on him because they knew he was not a man to be bullied.

After the struggle the late Mr. Thambi Naidoo settled down in business. For a time he did well. But human weaknesses had the better of him which brought about his downfall.

Sharp practice in business is not an uncommon thing. Most business men say it is "only business." Many thrive on it unperceived. The sins of some are detected and they have to atone for them. It is difficult to judge who are the more fortunate. We certainly think those to be more fortunate whose sins have been checked in the present world and who have atoned for them. For they will have less to account for in the next world and those who are their prey will have been relieved. The late Mr. Naidoo, it is very painful to note in sketching his otherwise a bright career, had a downfall during his life in business for which he had to suffer nine months' imprison-



The Late Mr. Thambi Naidoo

ment. But his good behaviour in gaol won for him his freedom much earlier. But as we have hinted above many of us who lower him in our estimation have no right to do so for we know what our fate would be if the sins that we continue to commit day in and day out were to be detected. After his release Thambi Naidoo had to commence life afresh and did not take long to pick up. His bright deeds of the past eclipsed his darker ones and he won the confidence of his people once again and was elected president of the Transvaal Indian Congress. As president he fought against the Transvaal Asiatic Land Tenure Act and the Licences (Control) Ordinance both of which he held the community ought to resist. Whilst he was in his sick bed he learnt of the controversy over the Colonisation Inquiry Committee and he sided wholeheartedly with those who were opposed to the Congress participating with the Committee. The Congress

sites tried to change him but he was not one to be so easily changed. From his sick bed he attended the Conference called on the issue by the Congress and fought to the bitter end. He was a staunch supporter of the Colonial-born and Settlers' Indian Association which had great hopes in the late Mr. Thambi Naidoo. The Transvaal Indians have lost in Mr. Naidoo a strong man who, had he lived, would perhaps have once again proved his worth by his action. The Almighty has called him away all too soon for he had not yet entered his sixties. The late Mr. Thambi Naidoo leaves behind him a widow, five sons and two daughters to mourn their sad loss. We offer them our heartfelt sympathy and pray that the soul of the departed may rest in eternal peace.

Notes and News

How And Why The Indians Were Brought Here

We reproduce elsewhere in this issue a somewhat lengthy article from *The South African Sugar Journal* throwing light on the causes that have brought Indians to this country. In view of the present anti-Asiatic agitation and the talk of the Indian being a menace to this country and of driving him out the facts given in the article are both interesting and instructive. If after reading those facts the white people still wish to send the Indians out of this country we can only say that they have lost all sense of justice and fairplay.

Will It Solve The Problem

ADVOCATING the opening of the Provincial barriers *The Natal Advertiser* in the course of a leading article on "The Indian In Natal" writes:—

"The time is ripe...for men to come into the open and work wholeheartedly for the removal of those boundary restrictions that to-day confine the Indian to one part of South Africa, with results equally evil to himself and to the white people among whom he lives. We can imagine a good case being made out for the repatriation, under the most generous terms, of the bulk of the Indians of Natal to the country of their race origin. We can imagine a good case being made out for a colonisation scheme that might, with hardships to none, meet the legitimate aims of the Indians who are dissatisfied with the helotry of their lot in South Africa. But we cannot imagine any justification for the permanent confinement of the Asiatic within the boundaries of Natal. The thing is unjust to the European Natalian; it is unjust to the rest of South Africa. There can be no real South African national sentiment towards the problems that still remain to be solved, if one of these major problems is, by the consent of three partners to a compact, permanently allocated to the fourth partner.....Time and again in these columns we have said that the Indian menace need not, by any means, be the menace people make out to be and that it will continue to be under the present short sighted policy of provincial segregation."

Whether this suggestion is prompted by a desire to remove an injustice done to Indians by denying them their elementary rights as human beings or whether it is prompted by a keen sense of injustice felt by Natal in having to suffer the unwelcome burden of its Indian population all alone, we have no hesitation in saying that it is the only feasible one to settle the Indian problem, if it is the number that is the real obstacle. But judging from the attitude of the Transvaal Province towards its Indians, and they are comparatively only a handful, one is at a loss to know what really can solve the Indian problem.

Another Bishop Speaks Out

NOT long ago Dr. Karney, the ex-Bishop of Johannesburg, said some inspiring things on the eve of his departure for England about the rights of the Natives in this country. He had always championed the cause of the downtrodden. We are glad to find that Dr. Walter Carey, the Bishop of Bloemfontein, too, at an At Home given by the Mayor and Mayoress, Councillor and Mrs. Ben Samel, in order to afford the public an opportunity of saying farewell to the Bishop and Mrs. Carey before they leave for England, where the Bishop will take up an appointment with the Society for Propagation of the Gospel, was outspoken in his remarks about the Government's white labour policy. "The replacement of 100 Natives by white labourers at 1s. 6d. a day is a dirty and wicked trick, and I shall say so until my dying day, or as long as I have a kick left in me," declared the Bishop. The pity of it is that these God's good men make these statements and leave the country thus affording an opportunity to the oppressors to say, "good riddance," and the condition of the down-trodden remains just the same.

"The Indian Educator"

THE September number of *The Indian Educator*, the quarterly organ of the Natal Indian Teachers' Society, is just out. As stated in its Editorial Notes, owing to financial stringency this issue incorporates the fourth issue of last year. "That the Society's Organ cannot be brought to see the light of print once a quarter," says the quarterly, "is a serious reflection on the goodwill of all in the profession. It complains of receiving a beggarly support and trusts that teachers in particular will take a livelier and more intelligent interest in the Society's magazine. The quarterly contains the presidential address delivered at the Teachers' Conference by the acting President and the opening address delivered by Kunwar Sir Maharaj Singh, and various other articles of interest, such as "The Teaching of Geography" by Mr. F. R. Stevenson, "Some Aspects of History Teaching" by Mr. R. F. Hawksley, etc. While the quarterly is well brought out there is considerable room for improvement. It should really be an authority on all education matters containing statistical reports referring to Indian education and other relevant matters. But we agree with the Editor that this could be achieved only if livelier and more intelligent interest was evinced by the teachers themselves.

'The Indian Colonial Review'

WE have received the first copy of *The Indian Colonial Review* published at 27 Thambu Chetty Street, Madras, and edited by Mr. T. K. Swaminathan. This new Review we understand is *The Indian Emigrant* which appeared some years back presented in a new form. It is an interesting monthly dealing with general topics with particular interest in matters affecting Indians outside India. We wish the new venture a long and successful life.

S.A.P. On Indian Question

AT the South African Party Congress which opens in Maritzburg on Wednesday, November 15, the Umbilo Men's branch will ask the congress to urge the Government to "introduce at as early a date as possible, legislation to remove the provincial restraint on movements of Indians within the Union, provided always that native reserves remain barred as at present."

The Late Mrs. M. A. Karim

THE many friends of Mr. M. A. Karim of South Coast Junction will deeply regret to learn of the sad and untimely death after a prolonged illness of his beloved wife which took place last Sunday night. The funeral which took place on Monday was

attended by a large number of Indians. We extend to Mr. M. A. Karim our heartfelt sympathy in his very sad bereavement.

Mr. P. G. Singh

Mr. P. G. Singh, President of the Natal Indian Lawn Tennis Club, a well-known sportsman and a member of the Committee of the Colonial Born and Settlers' Indian Association, sailed last Monday for India where he is proceeding to bring back his parents to this country. Mr. P. G. Singh takes with him the good wishes of the Association by whom he has been authorised to visit the various leaders in India in connection with the Colonisation question and to enquire into the conditions of Indians who have been repatriated from the Union. We hope all those concerned will generously help Mr. Singh in fulfilling his mission.

Charity Begins At Home

A Reuter's message from Bombay states: "It appears likely that the Bombay Mill Owners Association, as a friendly gesture to the Lancashire delegation to the cotton conference sitting here, will recommend for two years a 5 per cent. reduction in the import duty on British cotton piece goods and a 10 per cent. reduction in the import duty on artificial silk goods."

While in other countries the duty on foreign goods is ever increasing and there is a growing tendency to support their own industries the Bombay Mill Owners appear to be too charitable to Lancashire. It is not enough that India is being bled white. It is not enough that owing to the ever-increasing population unemployment and consequent starvation is growing from bad to worse that the Bombay Mill Owners are now out to favour Lancashire. Have they yet to learn that charity begins at home?

LABOUR PROBLEM OF 45 YEARS AGO

SEARCHLIGHT ON NATAL'S ATTITUDE TOWARDS INDIAN IMMIGRATION

[An anonymous correspondent has been kind enough to send us a copy of *The South African Sugar Journal*, dated September 30, 1933, referring us to the following article appearing therein. The article reviews a booklet giving information as to the scarcity of labour in Natal in 1888 and how Natal strongly agitated for Indian labour to be brought from India. It throws light on what a blessing the Indian was in those days of need and how he is now despised by the very same people who were responsible for having introduced him after their purpose has been served. Though lengthy the article is so interesting and instructive that we offer no apology for reproducing it in extenso:—Ed. I.O.]

It is difficult for us in these days to appreciate the obstacles the Sugar Industry experienced in the past in connection with a sufficiency of labour. The public have been told much and much has been written on the subject. In this connection it is interesting to revert to the period when the industry was confronted by its most acute situation in comparison to which that of the present day is comparatively simple.

This is borne out by the perusal of a booklet given to the Editor of *The Sugar Journal* by the late Mr. John Kirkman containing a record of the proceedings, together with information collected, of a Planters' Conference held at Durban on July 13, 1888, now just over 45 years ago. At that time a strong feeling was prevalent that the Coast Planters ought to make their voice and claims heard with respect to the aspect of the Labour question as affecting their particular industries. The consequence was that at a preliminary meeting a Central Committee was formed to carry out arrangements.

This committee, it is interesting to record, consisted of Messrs. R. N. Acutt, W. Arbuckle, S. F. Benningfield, Henry Binns, M.L.A., Daniel de Pass, D. Don, T. Groom, M.L.C., F. W. B. Louch, J.P., J. Robertson, A. A. Smith, E. Snell.

Mr. Don was the convenor and Mr. E. L. Acutt, Hon. Secretary.

It should be emphasised in this respect that at the period we are dealing with practically all industries were short of labour, and the General Manager of the Natal Government Railways reported in 1887 that "native labour has been difficult to obtain during the greater portion of the year. The addition of 42 miles of railway to the Government maintenance, and the great increase of traffic have necessitated a considerable addition to the number of men employed, and at the close of the year the Indian and Native staff employed in all branches of the service was as under:—Assigned Indians, 464; Free Indians, 664; Natives, 226. The total increase over 1886 was 265 men."

A return furnished in July, 1888, gives the following specification of labour then employed:—

Assigned Indians, 390; Free Indians, 774. Total, 1,164. Assigned Kaffirs, 51; Free Kaffirs, 476. Total, 527. Grand total, 1,691.

So that these facts alone demonstrate the pressing need there existed for a supply of Indian labour.

The meeting of Planters was unanimously of opinion that the object they had in view would be best promoted by the holding of a Planters' conference with the Chamber of Commerce, Durban, on or about July 13.

This conference was subsequently held. Mr. Henry Binns presided, and amongst others the following were present:—

Messrs. J. L. Hulett, M.L.C., H. E. Stainbank, M.L.C., J. Robinson, M.L.C., J. Smith, M.L.C., T. Groom, M.L.C., A. Wilkinson, A. H. Bisset, W. Arbuckle, J.P., E. W. Hawksworth, A. A. Smith, M. Campbell, S. F. Benningfield, J.P., R. N. Acutt, J. S. Logan, S. Peachey, A. McMillan, D. de Pass, E. Essery, Jnr. Acutt, Saville, D. H. Trevor, J. Kirkman, J. Polkinghorne, P. Swinburne, T. O. Milner, J. R. Blamey, D. Don, J. Stanton, H. O. Edwards, J. T. Smith, M. Quested, W. R. Hindson, O. Reynolds, P. Flack, C. Cook, J. Robertson, J. H. Turton, T. Green, T. Garland, S. W. Bishop, J. J. Hillier (Mayor of Durban), F. W. B. Louch, Y. Folkes, T. Polkinghorne, Clayton, E. Snell, W. H. Acutt, A. Osborne, A. Mitchell, H. W. Chick.

R. Benningfield, A. F. Evans, A. Ryder, H. Bazley, R. C. Oleghorn, H. Acutt, J. F. Manisty, E. Munder, C. de Gersigny, H. P. Harrison, A. J. Sherrin, J. R. Saunders, D. MacColl, — Arundel, J. W. Stranack, and the Hon. Secretary, Mr. E. L. Acutt.

The meeting was, as the chairman explained, a most representative one. Every Coast district from the Tugela to the Umzimkulu was concerned, and the interest taken in the question was fully demonstrated by the fact that many of those present had come from long distances and at great inconvenience.

The Conference met at the planters' busiest season, and many of those engaged in the industry looked with apprehension to the gathering of the crops and the planting to follow. Labour was very scarce, as the goldfields were attracting the Natives, and railway extensions were absorbing not only Natives, but Indians.

In those days the acreage was put down at 28,968, but this did not represent the full extent of the crops. It is interesting to record that the sugar sold approximately at this period at about £14 per ton, was valued at £250,390; tea at 1s. per lb., £10,000; coffee at 100s. per cwt., £6,200; mealies, £20,000; arrowroot, £4,000; rum went for 8d. a gallon; and sundries, £6,000.

The cost of bringing out a coolie, reckoned per each male adult, was as follows:—Cost of recruiting, including agency charges in India, food and transport, £5 5s.; passage money (male), £6 15s.; women and children, £3 7s. 6d.; shipping charges, clothing for voyage, and gratuities to surgeon and compounder, etc., £1 10s., total, £11 12s. 6d. Loss by deaths, desertions and relieved, £1; interest on loans, £2; departmental expenses here (including depot expenses, 10s.), £3; Calcutta agency, 8s.; return passage fund, £4 5s. Grand total, £27 10s. 6d.

Dealing with the repatriation cry, the chairman pointed out that it was not alone the planters that this coolie question affected. It affected hotel proprietors, farmers, and such branches of the public service as the railways. From a return supplied from the latter he ascertained that at the end of April, 1888, there were employed in the various branches of the railway service 1,100 Indians. Of these 480 were assigned men and 620 were free. It was a mistake to suppose that the coolie was cheap labour, for each indentured man cost 26s. per month the whole of which the employer paid.

Mr. S. F. Benningfield moved the following resolution:—"That in view of the present short supply of labour, which is owing to many Natives of the Colony having gone to work at the goldfields, and also to the demand for labourers on the railway extension works, and lastly to the fact that Amatongas are not now coming to Natal as formerly, it is more than ever necessary for the cultivation and manufacture of Coast products to have a reliable supply of labourers from India."

This resolution, which was adopted after slight modification, was seconded by Mr. Kirkman. He said that if the importation of coolies were stopped, they, as planters, would have to shut up shop and go home, and if they had to shut up shop all he could say was that they would have no home to go to. If they could get Native labour they would be only too glad to use it; but Natives were neither reliable nor skilled in the peculiar work of sugar growing, and even if they were obtainable they would be little better than useless.

Mr. (the late Sir) Marshall Campbell pointed out the many material advantages which the Sugar industries conferred on the Colony at large. Within the past two months he had purchased for estate purposes no fewer than 65 mules from an upcountry farmer. He feared if Natal adopted a policy of excluding this importation of coloured labourers, the Colony would share the same fate as Queens-

land, a loss of trade and consequent impoverishment of its working classes.

Mr. J. S. Smith, M.L.C., also spoke in favour of coloured labourers, but, he added, he would make it compulsory on them to return home on the expiration of their time.

Mr. Hillier (Mayor) and Mr. P. Swinburne also spoke.

Mr. W. Bazley gave his experience of Natives as labourers. He had been 36 years in the Colony, and during his experience with sugar estates, he had tried for 16 or 17 years to do with the Native element, but at last was forced to admit that the Kafir was entirely unreliable. It was utterly impossible to carry on the work of a sugar estate without the aid of Indians as labourers. One fact which Mr. Bazley emphasised was that even with high wages the Native was quite inefficient.

Mr. J. S. Smith, M.L.C., in answer to a question as to what was to become of the natural increase of coolies in Natal, said a large number of them went to the Gold Fields, and still a large number returned to India.

Mr. Benningfield's resolution was carried unanimously.

Mr. F. W. B. Louch next dealt with the re-opening of the Calcutta Agency, and moved:—"That this Conference desires to impress upon the Indian Immigration Department the urgent necessity for every effort being used to comply with the requisitions of employers as soon as possible, and suggests the re-opening of the Calcutta Agency."

Mr. (the late Sir) John Robinson said, while he had no wish to damage the industry, he was not prepared to do anything that would make Natal a reserve for black aliens. Speaking as a representative of the people, he would feel himself bound to render any reasonable support to the labour requirements of the Colony, but he would be equally bound to support any proposals that would prevent a social evil falling upon the country by means of the introduction of a black alien population, and which promised to be greater than it had been in the past.

The motion was eventually also unanimously agreed to.

The following information supplied by schedules filled up by a number of producers was placed before the meeting:—

Acreage under cultivation, 28,968. The acreage returned was probably considerably less than the actual area under cultivation in the various stages, it being apparent that in a good many cases the extent was given only for that of the crop estimated for this season.

Crops estimated for the year 1888:—Sugar, 18,045 tons; tea, 197,710 lbs.; coffee, 1,317 cwt.; mealies, 35,435 muids. The returns were regarded as very incomplete as regards tobacco, rice, ground nuts and nut oil, beans and other articles.

Labour employed:—Coolies (free), 1,749; indentured, 3,424; women and boys, 870. Total, 6,043, together with 2,387 Kafirs.

The Kafir's Inadaptability

The schedule shows striking unanimity in opinion in regard to the imperative necessity of making use of coolie labour. Mr. W. B. Lyle, jun., Manager, Glendale, Victoria County, wrote stating that "although this estate adjoins the most thickly populated Native location in the Colony, I am not able to get more than half the Kafirs I require, and these I am obliged to pamper and indulge to a great extent to keep them."

Hawksworth Brothers, of Hawkswood, Alexandra County, wrote stating that in their opinion "coolie labour was necessary to Natal's prosperity." Mr. R. Parkin, Hull Valley, Alexandra County, summed up his opinion as follows:—"On the average two coolies are worth, or equal to, three kafirs for estate

work. Before employing coolies I was at one time with only three Kafirs for two months. At that time I was paying for Kafir labour 20s. to 23s. a month. The remainder of the year only averaged nine kafirs; consequently I lost a season, and canes in the ground were destroyed by weeds. To carry on I was forced to employ coolies."

Mr. Thomas C. Milner, of Redcliffe, wrote:—

"During crushing months (say six months in the year) the number of Kafirs employed is about 60. These are drawn from Zululand, it being impossible to get a gang of Natal Kafirs. This source of supplying labour at the present time is very precarious owing to disturbances in Zululand."

"If the importation of Indians is stopped, we shall at once cease to plant crops of any sort whatever, and wind up our estate and leave the country," was the emphatic comment of F. and C. P. Reynolds, Umzinto.

In their communication Messrs. W. R. Hindson & Co., Clifton, Victoria County, remarked:—"We have within the last twelve months taken over this estate with the intention of planting 200 to 300 acres. We rely upon the Natal Government supplying us with a sufficiency of coolie labour under the law now in operation. We would not for a moment think of going into this or any other industry with Kafir labourers. If coolie immigration were stopped we should abandon our present undertaking and leave the country."

Mr. (the late Sir) J. Liege Hulett, Bulwer, Victoria County, wrote:—"This estate is only just opening out. It consists of 4,300 acres of land; 29 acres of tea already planted. We purpose planting a considerable acreage, if labour obtainable, but will depend upon continuance of Indian immigration."

Mr. Thomas Greene dealt with the question at length. He said that he had heard a good deal of clap-trap about coolies doing injury to working men. Did they hurt the carpenter? No. "I never see coolie carpenters? Do they hurt the bricklayer? No. None work at that trade, only to stop holes about the mills. Do they hurt the smith? No. None work at that trade. So I cannot see what harm they have done the working classes."

Mr. James Robbins, senr., of Upton who arrived in Natal in 1850, said that all the while he had been hampered by the unreliability of Native labour.

Mr. A. Dumat, Manager of Mount Edgecombe Factory (Natal Central Sugar Co.), and father of Mr. Dumat, of Durban, declared: "I am not averse to a new attempt being made to induce or compel our kafirs to work. I feel inclined, on the contrary, to believe that it should be the duty of the united farmers of the Colony to try it; though basing my opinion on the past experience of colonies formerly laboured by Africans, I hardly believe in its success."

Mr. (the late Sir) Marshall Campbell was as emphatic in his statements as the preceding ones. He maintained that "no Coast industry could stand if it were dependent on Native labour. The Government could help us a great deal more than they do in the number of men shipped to other countries from the Eastern ports. If we had agents there, and had no petty obstructions here, we should get more labour. The Government charge a shilling fee for a pass from the Zulus from the Reserve and Zululand. This fee, though small, keeps the Native from coming here, as money is very scarce there."

Mr. Daniel de Pas, Reunion Estate, Isipingo, stated: "An effort is being made here to delude the Natal public into believing that the same reasons exist here for the exclusion of the coolie as in Australia for the exclusion of the Chinese. The Australian

diggers sought to drive the Chinese off the Gold Fields because they were 'take all and leave nothing' sort of people, but such ideas are not held in Australia to the prejudice of Indian coolies."

The Provincial Finance Commission

Memorandum Submitted By Colonial-Born And Settlers' Indian Association

(Continued from last week)

Franchise

The question of franchise has been agitating the minds of our people since 1896. Parliamentary franchise was enjoyed by us until the year 1896 and the Municipal franchise until 1924. There are a few hundred voters in the Municipality of Durban but these as times go on will drop out.

The Parliamentary franchise was taken away from us on the score that Indian voters would swamp the European voters and so was the Municipal franchise. A more glaring example of injustice to our people cannot be imagined.

We feel very strongly that in taking away the Parliamentary and Municipal franchise our people had been deprived of a legitimate right. When you are considering the question of extending the power of the Provincial Council, we do feel that the question of franchise to Indians cannot be brushed aside.

Indians own properties in nearly all the municipalities and local boards, and in the old Borough they own properties to the value of a little over a million pounds, not to mention what they own in the added areas. They pay their rates and taxes and yet they have no say in the administration of the Municipalities and Local Boards.

The cry that is often heard that the Indian voters would swamp the European voters, has been exploded many times over as to need no argument against it from us.

It is the duty of every civilised Government to treat its people equitably, and in these days of democracy we need hardly state that it would be fatal for any Government to deny franchise to a section of its people. Indians have contributed much to the development of this Province. They have made this country their permanent home and they have invested all their wealth in the country, and we urge as a legitimate right that franchise should be restored to the Indian community.

Hospitals

The Addington Hospital which is under the control of the Natal Provincial Council is the only public hospital that caters for the Indians. There is the St. Aidan's Hospital that caters solely for Indians but in this hospital the space is very limited and in consequence it cannot cope with the demand on it. Some Nursing Homes which admit Indians are not within the reach of the poor.

The Addington is looked upon by our poor people with a certain amount of fear, and this fear prevents Indian patients from taking advantage of that Hospital. This fear appears to us to be well founded, for, there is no doubt that the treatment meted out to Indian patients is not what it should be. The accommodation provided for them is very limited and not congenial.

Greater Durban has an Indian population of approximately 66,000 and it is absolutely necessary that the Provincial Council should make adequate provisions for the treatment of their sick. We also urge that provisions should be made for the training of Indian nurses and midwives.

Employment Of Indian Labour In All Provincial Works

Hitherto no Indian labour, owing to the pursuing of the White Labour policy, is used for any of the works undertaken by the Provincial Council. Indian unemployed number thousands and the question is as much acute as it is amongst Europeans. Thousands of pounds are yearly being spent for Provincial works and as we contribute to the taxation of the Province in proportion to our wealth and earning capacity we urge that employment should be also given to Indians. If Indian labour were absorbed in Provincial works, much of the distress caused through unemployment would vanish.

The Imposition Of Personal Tax Shall Be On-Equitable Basis

We raise an objection to the imposition of the Personal Tax, but we do say that the Tax should be raised from those who are in a position to pay it. The earning capacity of the majority of our people is very low. Men employed in coal mines, railways and harbours, sugar estates and the municipalities earn about £2 a month with rations. We need hardly point out that it is unjust to ask those men to pay the Personal Tax. In order that no hardship is brought to bear on the poorer classes of our people, we suggest that men earning less than £4 per month should be exempted from payment of the Personal Tax.

Summary

We beg to summarise our observations as follows:—

- (1) Increased facilities for education of Indian children, so that the considerable number that is not receiving education may be admitted to schools.
- (2) Increased subsidy of £7 7s. per child for primary education and £10 10s. per child for secondary education.
- (3) The calculation of subsidy on the estimated attendance for the current year.
- (4) The lowering of the age of admission from 7 to 6 years.
- (5) Provisions for medical inspection of school children and the establishment of school clinics.
- (6) Conversion, at the present of the larger Government Aided Schools into Government Schools and the gradual conversion of all Aided Schools.
- (7) The necessity of the Natal Provincial Council apportioning a portion of its revenue for the education of Indian children.
- (8) The paying of fees of Indian women teachers attending Domestic Science classes.
- (9) The restoration of Franchise to Indians.
- (10) Increased hospital facilities for Indians and provisions for the training of Indian nurses and midwives.
- (11) Employment of Indian labour on Provincial works.
- (12) Exemption of all Indians earning less than £4 per month from payment of the Personal Tax.

(Concluded)

Fountain Of Wisdom

—Our strength depends solely on truth. No matter how you behave in your business dealings, you will never in the interests of the community think of swerving from the path of truth. In attempting to deceive you will be working your own ruin.—MAHATMA GANDHI'S MESSAGE TO SOUTH AFRICAN INDIANS.

—We have yet to learn the simple truth that we cannot possibly use power to protect ourselves unless we use that power also to protect others.—SIR NORMAN ANGELL.

The Teachers' Representations

A deputation from the Natal Indian Teachers' Society, consisting of Messrs. T. M. Naloker (president) spokesman, S. M. Moodley, and the secretary Mr. R. Regnath appeared before the Provincial Finance Commission and tendered evidence. A memorandum was submitted. The following is a summary of their presentations:—

1. The extension of Grant-in-Aid to schools on the waiting list.
2. The establishment of new schools wherever desirable so that a higher percentage of Indian children of school-going age receive education.
3. Free and compulsory education be extended to Indians at the earliest opportunity, and as a preliminary step no fees be charged in Government primary schools.
4. That the Union Subsidy in respect of Indian education be increased to £7 7s.
5. That the basis of subsidy to the Provincial Government be on gross enrolment, and on the current year's figures.
6. That separate and enhanced subsidies be paid for secondary education and the training of teachers.
7. That the age of admission be reduced to 6 years.
8. That provisions for technical, industrial and agricultural education be made.
9. That the larger Government Aided Indian Schools be taken over and controlled by the Government immediately, and others be converted as early as possible.
10. That medical inspection service be extended to Indian schools.
11. That some pension or provident fund scheme be inaugurated for teachers in Government Aided Schools.
12. That a subsidy to cover payment of salaries to vernacular teachers be granted.

Asiatic Land Tenure Act Commission

Evidence of Mr. Mahomed Essop Gathoo

(Continued from last week)

Mr. BRINK: Mr. Gathoo, I believe you have been Chairman of the Government Indian School at Burghersdorp?—Yes.

Are you still Chairman?—Yes.

You take an interest in the educational affairs of the Indian community?—Yes.

Do you remember the first Indian school that was established in Ferreira's town?—

CHAIRMAN (interposing): Is Mr. Gathoo himself a trader?

Mr. BRINK (to witness): What is your occupation?—Merchant.

I believe you carry on your business in Vereeniging, don't you?—Yes, at present.

You come to Johannesburg regularly?—Yes.

How often?—Every week, or sometimes twice a week.

Have you interests in the Malay location in Johannesburg?—Yes.

Property interests?—Yes.

When did you come to the Transvaal?—1895.

Do you remember the first Indian school in Johannesburg. Where was it established?—Ferreira's town.

When about—what year?—1913 or 1914.

You guaranteed the rent for 12 months, I believe do you remember it?—Yes.

Has the school been moved from Ferrairas?—Yes brought to Newtown.

Is it in Newtown or Burghersdorp—which township is it in?—First it was removed to Newtown, and now to Burghersdorp in that new building.

The school was moved from Ferrairastown first to Newtown, and now it has been moved to that new school in Burghersdorp which the Commission saw?—Yes.

Now when you came to the Transvaal in 1895, where did you live?—In the Indian location.

Where was the Indian location in those days?—Near Braamfontein station whereabouts the market is now.

That is now called Newtown, I believe?—Yes, now called Newtown.

That is where you lived?—Yes.

You had a shop I think also in the same location?—Yes.

When did you move? During the War did you leave Johannesburg?—In 1904.

Where did you move to?—I went to the Malay location.

CHAIRMAN: That was when the old Indian location was burnt down—that was the plague year?—Yes.

Mr. BRINK: Did you have a business in some other part after 1904?—In 1902 I kept the market just opposite the gas-works, the tram-sheds, on lease.

You had a lease on a building?—It was a vacant ground and I took on lease.

Did you build on it?—No, I did not build. You kept the market on the open stand?—Yes.

Did you have sub-tenants on the property?—Yes. Were they Indians?—All Indians.

Did they also hold a market there—did they also sell their goods on the open stand?—Yes, and they were living also there.

Where did they live?—It was in another stand, Market Street; they were living in Market Street.

They were living in Market Street on another stand?—Yes.

This place you had, on what corner was that, or between which streets?—Between West and Becker Street and President Street.

Between Becker and West Streets, on President Street. Were you living in the Indian location yourself?—Sometime I was here also living at that place.

From 1902 onwards where did you live?—Then I went to the Malay location. I had business there. And I sometimes lived in Becker Street as well.

How long did you remain on this stand?—From 1912 to 1922.

That is the stand on President Street between West and Becker Streets?—Yes.

Was a building put up on the stand at any time?—There were six stands and there were buildings on Becker Street on some stands.

Did you occupy all those buildings?—Yes. Roundabout this area were there other Indians living in this locality in Johannesburg?—Yes, all Indians were living in the neighbourhood.

All Indians were living roundabout where you were?—Yes, up to the Pass Office. Indians were living up to Sauer Street and then a little upwards too. Upwards, that means higher than Sauer Street, in President Street.

In President Street east of Sauer Street?—Yes. And down to where?—Down to the Pass Office.

Were there many or just a few?—Down towards Sauer Street there were plenty, and upwards a few.

Down westwards of Sauer Street there were plenty, and eastwards a few?—Yes.

The municipal market was then where we now

have Beckett's stand—on the open space opposite Beckett's?—There was a fruit market, and there was some vacant ground around the market, and there were a lot of these Dutch people, farmers-trolleys coming on the stand there—wagons.

A lot of Dutch farmers' wagons on the vacant ground, selling things?—Yes.

Now in President Street, do you remember where Mr. Camroodin had his business?—Yes, I know.

Where was that?—They had one shop which is where now is Gratus & Gratus, in President Street; it belonged to Mr. Camroodin.

I understand that is President Street, corner of Simonds Street?—Yes. Another one in President Street near the Star Office. Another they had in Sauer Street, facing the new Library building.

Now do you know where the Transvaal Tattersalls now is—corner of Fraser and President Streets?—Yes.

Do you remember who was in that building?—No. Is it the corner?

It is the corner of Fraser Street, opposite the Standard Bank, I think—or the Standard Bank is in the building?—If I am not mistaken there was M. S. Cooyadia's business place there in 1902.

CHAIRMAN: In Fraser Street?

Mr. BRINK: Corner of Fraser Street and President Street.

CHAIRMAN: Is the object of this to show that at that date the Indians were more in the centre of the town?

Mr. BRINK: My object is to show your lordship that in asking for the line to be drawn from Sauer Street we are certainly not exceeding a fair limit—that the Indian used to be found further eastwards, and now they have retired to Sauer Street and westwards of that. We are not asking beyond that.

CHAIRMAN: In the days of the open market there were Indian shops looking out on to it; his evidence is for the purpose of calling attention to that past situation?

Mr. BRINK: Yes—and that they retreated to Sauer Street. (To witness): You know where Suzman's, the cigar and tobacco merchant, now is in Sauer Street facing the Library?—Yes.

Whose shop was that?—I do not remember who was there, but I know that Mr. Camroodin's shop was just next to that building.

Now before the Boer War were there Indian shops in these parts—President Street and Sauer Street—along that way?—Yes. I am talking about 1895.

So even before the Boer War the Indian shops were in that part?—Yes.

Since the Municipal market has been shifted have the Indians retired westwards of Sauer Street?—Yes.

Now, do you know the township of Burghersdorp?—Yes.

How long would you say have Indians been living in that township?—Also since 1895.

Have there been Europeans living there too?—Yes; it is mixed.

To what extent? Can you give the Commission any idea of to what extent the Europeans and Indians were there. Which were the larger, the Europeans or the Indians, in the early days?—That I cannot say.

Were there few Indians or many Indians there?—There were plenty.

(To be continued)

Colonial Born And Settlers' Indian Association

Verulam Branch

A meeting of Colonial Born and Settler Indians was held at Shri Gopallal Temple Hall, Verulam, last Saturday afternoon. Mr. Raghavjee Rughnath presided.

Messrs. A. Christopher, M. M. Gandhi, P. R. Pather, S. L. Singh, Ajam Haffejee and D. S. Chetty were present from Durban. Mr. Christopher explained in English, Mr. S. L. Singh in Hindustani and Mr. D. S. Chetty in Tamil the objects of the Association.

On the motion of Mr. Vrajilal Raghavjee of Messrs. Chunilal Bros. it was decided to form a local branch of the Association. The following officials were elected:—

Chairman: Mr. V. Raghavjee, Vice-Chairmen: Messrs. Jutha Jeewa, Babu Talwantsingh, Dhaujee Ramjee, G. H. Maiter, V. Moonseamy, Raghavjee Rughnath, R. T. Singh, Panjavarnum, S. M. Ismail, Raghunandan, Andhee Sav. Jt. Hon. Secretaries: Messrs. B. Sooban, and N. Raghavjee, Treasurers: Messrs. L. Rajkoomar, Prahlad Raghunandan. Committee: Messrs. Lalbiharee, M. Remkilawan, R. Soobhug, R. Jagai, Nifikir, Ram Narain, G. Rambaran, L. Madhusingh.

The meeting terminated with a vote of thanks to the chair. The Durban friends were then entertained to tea at the residence of Messrs. Chunilal Bros.

Indian Study Group

A very interesting and educational lecture on "The Geography of India" was delivered by Mr. R. W. Martin, B.A., a member of the Sastri College staff, on Wednesday, November 1, at 7:30 p.m., at the Parsee Rustomjee Hall. Mr. V. Sirkari Naidoo was in the chair.

The lecture, as one would imagine from the nature of the title, was far from the usual cold and dry geographical facts such as climate, vegetation, the river and mountain systems. Those are the property of the class-room. The lecturer gave clear reasons for the physical formation of modern India. In doing so he traced its development from millions of years ago. Reference was made to the recent Himalayan expeditions and geological research work. The meeting terminated with a vote of thanks to the lecturer.

The Indian Study Group, which has for its aim, the study of Indian literature, art, philosophy, music, science and religions, will meet again on the 15th Nov. 1933, when papers on the above topics will be read out by the members of the Group.

All interested are invited by the secretary to attend.

The Late Mr. V. J. Patel

Meeting At East London

A Mass meeting was held under the auspices of the British Indian Union, at the Hindoo Society Hall, 23 McLean Street, East London, on Monday evening October 23, at 3 p.m., to mourn the death of the late Mr. V. J. Patel, former Speaker and President of the Indian House of Assembly, and to express sympathy and condolence to the bereaved family.

There was a representative gathering of Indians. Mr. D. B. Parhoo who was in the chair paid a high tribute to the self-sacrificing services rendered by the late Mr. V. J. Patel to his country.

Among other speakers were Messrs. I. A. Timothy, L. Gopal, D. Jeewan and P. Bagwan.

A resolution of sympathy was passed unanimously.

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Mr. H. S. L. POLAK:—I well remember the gallant support you gave and were instrumental in procuring in the critical days of the South African troubles before the War, and ever since the problem of the disabilities and state of Indians abroad has been ventilated in the *Review* with unfailing regularity.

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