

Indian Opinion

VOL. VI.

PHENIX, NATAL, SATURDAY, AUGUST 1ST, 1908

No. 31

Contents

EDITORIAL COLUMNS:—	Page
Two Points of View	341
"The Clearer Vision"	341
Imam Abdul Kadir Bawazeer	342
Tamil Tenacity	342
Anti-Indians at the Cape	342
OTHER ARTICLES:—	
Indians in Southern Rhodesia	342
Leaders Imprisoned	343
The Transvaal Trouble	344
More Hawkers go to Gaol	347
The Assault Case	347
The "National" Convention Again	348
A Colonist's View of British Indians	348
Lord Milner on Coloured Races	349
Capetown Chamber of Commerce	349
Asiatic Passive Resistance	350
Natal Parliament	350
Late News	352
CORRESPONDENCE:—	
The Immigration Question	350
Taxes on Indians	350

Indian Opinion

SATURDAY, AUGUST 1ST, 1908.

Two Points of View

It would not be difficult to understand the inwardness of the Asiatic struggle now raging in the Transvaal at its highest, if we were to consider the different standpoints from which General Smuts, as representing, let us hope, only a part of the European Colonists, looks at the Asiatic question, and the standpoint from which Indians look at it. Both apparently agree that unlimited Asiatic immigration to the Transvaal should be stopped, as it has been stopped, and that the domiciled Indians should have their status guaranteed, and that their position should be made bearable. But General Smuts considers that, ultimately, even the resident Indian population should die out. He accepts it at present as a necessary evil. General Botha said as much immediately after the compromise. Hence the attitude of the Transvaal Government on the rights of pre-war refugees, and the question of the entry of British Indians possessing high educational qualifications and the utter disdain of representative Indian opinion.

Indians, on the other hand, accept the prohibition of unlimited immigration, in obedience to Colonial prejudice and Colonial sentiment, but consider that those who are entitled to remain in the Colony should be able to live decently, should prosper, and multiply. They think that the restrictions that are

now put upon their movements and on their civic liberty should be removed, until their status corresponds with that of the European colonists. Hence their opposition to the abrogation of the rights of pre-war refugees and to the prohibition of the entry of Indians of high attainments. Thus the expression "Vested rights of resident Indians should be respected and their status guaranteed" has a different meaning for the two parties, and, until either the European Colonists accept the Indian view as to the rights of domiciled Indians, or Indians accept the general Colonial view and, therefore, resign themselves to civic extinction and, ultimately, to total withdrawal from the Colony, there never will be any peace, and there will always be disputes over any compromise that may be effected. If Indians wish to have their status recognised after their own fashion they will have to prepare themselves for much greater sufferings than they are undergoing even now. Their courage and readiness to suffer imprisonment will, no doubt, bring about repeal of the Act and satisfaction so far as the return of pre-war residents and the entry of educated Indians is concerned, but it will even then be open to General Smuts to continue the hostile policy that has been in vogue since 1885, unless he finds British Indians ready to checkmate him at every step.

"The Clearer Vision"

THERE are times when even the mildest-mannered of men is tempted to break forth profanely in order to relieve his soul's oppression. It is difficult, indeed, to refrain from the blunt expression of one's feelings when perusing such an effusion as the following from the *Standard of the Empire*:

It was evident that when the other South African States began to legislate with a view to restricting the immigration of Asiatics Rhodesia would have to follow suit. It would otherwise have become a dumping ground for all immigrants who could find no shelter elsewhere. Warned, however, by the trouble in the Transvaal, Rhodesia has provided a simple and effective method of registration and granting of certificates which offends Asiatic feeling as little as possible, and leaves a wide discretionary power to the Administrator. It furthermore permits Asiatic settlers to leave the country for a year without thereby incurring any loss in their position. The whole idea of this legislation seems to be to regulate Asiatic immigration, and not in any sense to exclude it altogether.

The calm *insouciance* of the writer of the above paragraph almost takes away one's breath. The few lines simply teem with a complete ignor-

ance of facts, and a cool disregard of Asiatic sentiment, to such a degree, indeed, that one is impelled to ask whether the "Empire" referred to in the paper's title is not some figment of the imagination of a denizen of Alice's Wonderland.

We can quite understand the Chartered Company's inspired doctrine of the "dumping ground." We have heard that fallacy declaimed too often to be deceived by it again. Rhodesia, contrary to the scribe's statement, has learnt absolutely nothing from the Transvaal trouble. Its mental attitude, in fact, is too Bourbon-like to be pleasant. The measure referred to is far more drastic than the Transvaal Act, and offends Asiatic sentiment grossly. As for the "wide discretionary power" left to the Administrator, in our opinion, the day is past for the handing over of any community to the autocratic mercies of an individual. And then, we are told, this measure "permits" Asiatic settlers to leave the country for a year without thereby incurring any loss in their position! Why, they can, at the present time, leave the Colony for a decade, secure in the knowledge that their position is not endangered. But what intolerable insolence to be asked to congratulate ourselves because all our rights and self-respect are taken away, and in exchange we are "permitted" to remain away from the Colony for a whole year, without being totally excluded. The man who wrote this paragraph must have been cursed with a monumental lack of humour, or he could never have read the Ordinance. And these be the "teachers" of Empire!

The above effusion, however, is mild as milk compared with the strong drink that Mr. Francis Bancroft offers us in a letter addressed to the *Standard*, and reproduced in another column of this issue. From him we learn a great deal about "the clearer vision"—whatever that may be. He makes mince-meat, it would appear, of Lord Milner's argument that the Colonists should study the Indian question from Indian experts, thereby obtaining a more intelligent knowledge of how to deal with the problem in South Africa. And Mr. Bancroft does this by the easy expedient of informing the noble lord that, in point of fact, he does not know what he is talking about, that it is "we Colonists" who are going to settle this colour question satisfactorily, and that by regarding all non-whites as coloured, without in any way differentiating between them. We are regaled with "what the Colonists say" to the Indian settler—but never a word do we hear of the In-

dian settler's reply. Possibly Mr. Bancroft has never heard this. It would not surprise us very much, for there seems to be quite a lot that he has never heard of. He tells us, indeed, that the Colonist is "far-seeing," but he does not tell us whether the object of his "foresight" is pure mirage or not. Nor is it necessary. It is sufficient for Mr. Bancroft to dub himself "Colonist," to inform us, beyond all shadow of a doubt, exactly what he "foresees" and the scientific manner in which he does it. Of course, Mr. Bancroft does not suffer in the least from race-prejudice, and his colour-vision, too, is perfect. We had almost said that he saw all things *couleur de rose*, but that the colour problem would thereby have raised its ugly head once more.

As we said at the beginning, it is difficult to discuss some things temperately. That is why, on the one hand, we have ill-educated boys throwing bombs by way of protest. But, in the alternative, a little humour carries one a long way, and the best method, perhaps, of treating the *Standard* scribes is to laugh at them good-humouredly.

WE HAVE NO DOUBT THAT OUR readers will appreciate the very fine partrait of Imam Abdul Kadir Bawazeer which we publish with this issue as a supplement, of Imam Abdul Kadir Bawazeer, the respected Chairman of the Hamidia Islamic Society and assistant priest of the Hamidia Mosque. Mr. Bawazeer has greatly endeared himself to his compatriots by suffering imprisonment, as he puts it, for the sake of his country and the honour of the community. Though the imprisonment lasted only four days, it told on his constitution, he having never been inured to hardships. Mr. Bawazeer belongs to a very ancient and honourable Arabian family. His father migrated from Arabia and adopted India as his home. He now occupies the high position of assistant priest of the Juma (Friday) Mosque of Bombay. On his mother's side, Mr. Bawazeer belongs to the Konkani clan, and thus occupies a unique position among the Indians in South Africa. His great work for the Hamidia Islamic Society is too well known to need recapitulation. Mr. Bawazeer, we understand, intends to re-start hawking. He thinks that his place is at the Johannesburg Fort so long as the Act remains on the Statute Book, and so long as his poorer brethren are being sent to gaol.

MR. THAMBI NAIDOO IS IN THE Johannesburg gaol now for the third time, and that for the sake of his country. He came out of gaol only last Saturday. It

will be remembered that he went out hawking to invite prosecution. Not satisfied with four days' imprisonment, he re-started hawking on Monday last. The result was that he was prosecuted and sentenced to be imprisoned with hard labour for 14 days in default of paying a fine of £2. Mr. Naidoo left his wife and children, his wife being in an interesting condition. We think that very few Indians will be found in South Africa who are prepared to do what Mr. Naidoo has done. He is moreover, the sole wage-earner in his family, and has to earn his bread from day to day. It is pleasing to be able to recall the fact that, during the last crisis, the Tamils remained staunch and true almost to a man. They suffered imprisonment cheerfully, and, after they had once made their resolution, they manfully carried it out. Lord Ampthill considered the Tamils to be the most common-sense, and the most practical race in India. We see Lord Ampthill's opinion verified in most departments of life in India, and the Tamil section of the community in the Transvaal has worthily followed up the tradition. We congratulate Mr. Naidoo on his rare courage, and we congratulate the Indians in South Africa on possessing such a man.

ELSEWHERE IN THIS ISSUE WE reproduce a report from the *Cape Times* detailing the happenings at a recent meeting of the Anti-Indians at the Cape. The Capetown Chamber of Commerce. We gather therefrom that a member of the Chamber moved a resolution calling upon the Cape Government to introduce legislation to stop Indian licences, on the lines of the Natal Bills. In doing so, he made a number of statement so wild as to raise a doubt as to his knowledge of even the elements of logic and fairplay. Such a string of inaccuracies and exaggerations has not emanated from one source for many a long day. We are told that, in three years, there were 103 Indian insolvencies at the Cape, but not the number of European insolvencies within the same period. It is conveniently forgotten, too, that practically the whole Indian community is composed of traders, whereas the European community contains all sorts and conditions of men and women. Normally, then, the ratio of Indian insolvencies to population might well be greater than that of European insolvencies to population. As a matter of fact, the official figures, which we have quoted from time to time, demonstrate exactly the contrary, the condition of affairs being very favourable to Indians. Then we are informed that Indian insolvencies are not genuine ones, but that the European merchants are robbed and that the proceeds go to India. It is not a little strange that, in spite of this, the European merchants are

hypnotised into giving Indians better terms than they do to Europeans. Surely they can be depended upon to know their own interests best. Mr. Libermann, the late Mayor, pointed out very pungently that they could not be protected against themselves. A similar statement was made recently in the Orangia Parliament, where Transvaal business men and Orangia farmers were the parties concerned. The Chamber showed its appreciation of the resolution and the arguments adduced in its support by passing on to other business. The Cape anti-Indians evidently do not carry much weight amongst sensible men.

Indians in Southern Rhodesia

Mr. Ritch Points the Moral

Mr L. W. Ritch, Secretary of the South Africa British Indian Committee, writes to the English Press as follows:—

In the matter of the Asiatic Ordinance just passed by the Legislative Council of Rhodesia, you will, I trust, permit me to point out that the assurances received by Reuter's Agency as to the innocuous character of the measure bear a curious resemblance to the utterances of the gentlemen who were responsible for the introduction of a similar Ordinance in the Transvaal.

In that case, as in this, we are told that "special care has been taken to make the legislation against Asiatics called for by the white population . . . as little distasteful as possible," and the Government were equally emphatic in disclaiming any desire to hurt the feelings of those affected thereby. We know, however, that in the result the character of the Registration Ordinance proved to be such as to make forfeiture of worldly possessions, and even imprisonment and deportation, preferable to the bulk of the Indian community to compliance with the law.

The text of the Rhodesian measure will doubtless be published in due course, and while it is to be hoped its provisions are as harmless as Reuter's representative has been given to understand, it is significant that the cable addressed to me by the British Indians concerned indicates quite the reverse from their point of view. May I be allowed to add that, granting, as British Indians in the Colonies do grant, the Colonial right to limit Asiatic immigration, it cannot be regarded as other than regrettable that Indian feeling generally should at this critical time be irritated by the imposition of differential and insulting restrictions upon the liberties of our Indian fellow-subjects already lawfully resident within the Colonies.

Leaders Imprisoned

Great Meeting in Johannesburg

Stores Closed

No Hawkers

On the 23rd, ult., all Indian business throughout the Transvaal ceased for the day, as a mark of respect towards the Chairman of the Hamidia Islamic Society, Imam Abdul Kadir Bawazeer, and the other Indian leaders who had been sentenced to imprisonment with hard labour for hawking without licences, as a protest against the Transvaal Government's breach of faith. Indian Hawkers and Pedlars ceased their rounds, much to the discomfort of those European housewives who depend so entirely upon the services of these men.

A large and enthusiastic meeting of over 1500 persons assembled in the precincts of the Hamidia Mosque, Fordsburg, and listened intently to the addresses delivered by Mr. Gandhi and other speakers. A few delegates from Reef towns attended, though none were specially invited. Mr. Essop Ismail Mia presided. Amongst those who addressed the meeting were Mr. N. V. Shah, who spoke in English and Gujarati, Ismail Patel, Omarji Sale, and Moulvi Ahmed Mukhtar. The following is the full text of Mr. Gandhi's speech:—

I shall read to you telegrams that have been received from several parts of South Africa in reply to the request of the British Indian Association and the Hamidia Islamic Society that all our brothers throughout South Africa should close all Indian business—stores as well as hawking—out of regard for the Chairman of the Hamidia Islamic Society, who is also the Assistant-Priest of the very Mosque under whose shadow we are standing this afternoon. The response received has been most generous, and it shows how well the different portions of the Indian community in South Africa have been knit together. I think we may congratulate and thank the Government upon having, perhaps unconsciously, assisted us in doing this wonderful thing. I think that a new spirit has been infused into Indians throughout South Africa, and if that spirit continues I think that we shall have to thank the Government for it. Last January, when we embarked upon the passive resistance struggle in earnest, the ground had been prepared for close upon 16 months, but it was only in the month of January last that General Smuts and his co-Ministers were able to test the reality of the feeling that underlay the whole Indian agitation against the Asiatic Act, which, rightly or wrongly, Indians considered constituted an attack on their self-respect, their honour, and their religion, but perhaps the finishing touch was not put upon the whole thing when the prisoners were sud-

denly discharged owing to the compromise. That finishing-touch, in my opinion, is being placed upon the whole thing on this occasion. Evidently, General Smuts has been informed by some enemies from out of our own camp that the agitation last year and during the month of January was mostly manufactured and that I was principally instrumental in keeping the fire up. I think that General Smuts has now, by this time, come to understand that the agitation was not manufactured, that the movement was absolutely sincere and spontaneous, and, if I had any part in connection with the movement, the part that I played was that of a humble interpreter between the Government and my own countrymen. I was undoubtedly the first man to inform the community of what the Asiatic Act meant, I was the first one undoubtedly to point out that it bristled with objections, religious, and on the score of the community's honour, but, having done that, I claim to have done everything that it was my duty to do. It was the Indians themselves who recognised the importance of the objections that I ventured to place before them, and they decided solemnly and sincerely not to accept the Act. And here we are to-day in order to emphasise our objections, and we find also that one of the best men in South Africa among our own countrymen, the respected Chairman of the Hamidia Islamic Society, has chosen to go to gaol rather than enjoy the liberty that he had received owing to his having received the voluntary registration certificate. He chose to suffer with his humbler countrymen, the hawkers, and he felt that he himself would place himself in the same category and suffer imprisonment for the sake of the honour of India, for the sake of the hawkers themselves, whom the Government wanted to have in their grip; and we have assembled this afternoon to do honour to that beloved fellow-countryman of ours, as also the others who have gone with him to share the miseries of a gaol-life. It is true that the imprisonment is to last only four days,—but is it *only*? Indians, who have not been used to a gaol-life, who have never been able to accommodate themselves to the hardships of life, to them even a day's imprisonment is a great thing, and does not sentiment count for something in matters of this sort? We and the European Colonists have known all along that Indians would rather pay large sums of money in fines than go to prison. That feeling has been shared universally by the Indians in South Africa, and, yet, to-day we find the respected Chairman of the Hamidia Islamic Society, we find other prominent Indians, willingly going to gaol, not because there is artificial agitation, but because they think sincerely that India's honour is at stake, they feel that their self-respect is going to be lost, if they do

not stand up and give a proper fight, and that fight not a fight with any weapons but the cleanest. The cleanest weapon that we have discovered in self-defence is the weapon of passive resistance, is the acceptance of a gaol-life or whatever the Government may choose to impose upon us for a breach of its Laws which we cannot, as human beings, accept. The telegrams that the British Indian Association and the Hamidia Islamic Society have received are from Pretoria, Durban, Fortuna, Warmbaths, Volksrust, Ermelo, Potchefstroom, Zeerust, Klerksdorp, Standerton, Middelburg, Salisbury, Christiana, Rustenburg, Kimberley, Nylstroom, Roodepoort, Lichtenburg, Lydenburg, Vereeniging, Pietersburg, Ventersdorp, Heidelberg, Capetown, and Springs. I daresay there are more telegrams still lying at the offices. I shall venture to read a few of these telegrams. The purport of all is sympathy and support to the cause of the British Indians, and decision to close all business throughout these places.

Mr. Gandhi then read the telegrams. Continuing, he said: These telegrams show that the Indians are absolutely unanimous in the Transvaal, and the incarceration of the Chairman shows also that there is absolutely no difference of opinion between Mahomedans and Hindus, that all the different races of India who are in South Africa have met in a common cause and well have they met, seeing that the difficulties that surround one portion of the community surround all the other portions of that community. Gentlemen, our own position is absolutely clear. Our friends have advised us and told us that we should wait, that we should not take strong measures, and that we should not take any step that might be irrevocable. I do not quite understand the meaning of this advice. I do know this, that the question of the burning of the registration certificates should not be definitely decided until we know exactly the legislation that the Government intend to pass. That we have done. Beyond that it is impossible for the Indian community to go. The Government have put a barrier between those who have taken out voluntary registration certificates and those who are now coming into the country, and who are entitled to come in. The Government ask them to submit to the Law. It is impossible for these men to do any such thing at all, especially when their rights have been safeguarded under the compromise. What are these men to do? Are they not to trade until they have received their registration certificates? Are they to live upon the charity of their fellow-countrymen? I think that it is utterly impossible. Then these men must honestly earn their livelihood, and the only advice that it was possible for the British Indian Association to give these men was to trade

in spite of the refusal to issue licences on the part of the Licensing Officer. The hawkers and storekeepers whose licences ended on the 30th day of June are also in a similar plight. They are now called upon by the Government to submit to the Asiatic Act so far as licences are concerned, before licences can be issued to them. Are they then to sit still? Are they not to trade until it pleases the Government to bring forward their legislation? It is not we who are waiting, or who can afford to wait. It is utterly impossible for us to take up any such position. We are taking no irrevocable step, but we are taking every step that we must take in self-defence. If we are to live in this country as honest citizens, if we are to earn our livelihood honestly, then it is absolutely necessary that we carry on our usual occupations, and for these occupations are required licences, and, if the Government will not issue these licences, it is necessary for us to trade without them. Some hawkers have already taken out licences. I understand that 300 have had licences issued to them without submission to the Asiatic Act. Four hundred have taken out licences by giving thumb-impressions. They did not know what they were doing. They did not know that they were submitting to the Asiatic Act by giving thumb-impressions. The balance have now come to know what the Government intend to do. Are they, again I ask, to sit still and not carry on their occupation? It is utterly impossible. It might be asked why should prominent Indians go and take up hawking and force matters. The answer is obvious and very simple—it is not possible for these men to sit still and remain in their homes, when they see poor hawkers, who perhaps do not understand the position just as well as the leaders do, suffering. I think that the leaders would have failed in their duty if they had not come forward and taken up hawking for themselves, in order that they might be able to direct their poorer countrymen, in order that they might be able to explain the real position to their poorer countrymen.

I understand that, this afternoon, Superintendent Vernon and a detective went amongst some of the Tamil members of the Indian community. He asked these men to produce their registration certificates, and I understand also that there was hard swearing indulged in by one or other of the officials. I understand that it was Superintendent Vernon who used an expression unbecoming for me even to repeat. I will not repeat that expression. I do say this that, if my countrymen have the courage of their convictions, not a single Indian will show his voluntary registration certificate. The British Indian Association has called in all these registration certificates, in order that the poorer, the humbler, members of the community might be protected, and, if they have

to go to gaol for non-production of registration certificates, I do hope that they will go to gaol, and thus teach a lesson in civility to the police. I shall never forget the scene that was enacted before the Courthouse when Mr. Sorabji was sentenced to be imprisoned with hard labour for one month. I cannot easily forget the hustling that took place, the assaults that took place in front of the Courthouse, under the nose of the Magistrate as it was. I cannot easily forget how the Constables, without the slightest provocation, without any warning being given to the British Indians, assaulted them, how they roughly handled them, and how they roughly shoved them from the verandah of the Courthouse. That shows what a bitter struggle is before us. That shows also how cheaply we are held in the estimation of the police, if not in the estimation of the citizens of the Transvaal and of South Africa. It is necessary then for British Indians to show in quiet, in dignity, in perfect calmness, in a perfectly law-abiding spirit, to show that they are not here to suffer such indignities, that they are not here to have their liberties trampled under foot, and that if all these things are done in the name of His Majesty the King-Emperor, we are here also humbly to protest, and we are here also as British citizens to suffer for it, and to show the whole world what things are possible and done even in the British Empire, even under the British flag. We have been nurtured in British traditions. We have been told that even a lamb is free.—*The lamb can go with the lion* is a literal translation of a verse I was taught when I was a youth, when I was of a school-going age. That verse has not yet been effaced from my memory. I do say here such a thing is not possible, that British Indians, because they are docile, because they are humble, because they do not want to tread upon anybody else's corns, are being spat upon, are being ill-treated, and now we have got the Asiatic Ordinance to fight, which is intended to take away the very last vestige of self-respect from us. It is because we feel these things that we have met here to honour our countrymen who have gone to gaol, that those who are here may also have that courage, may also have sufficient self-respect in them to go to gaol, to suffer the same hardships, and if you do that, as surely as I am standing here today, a day will come when we shall regain our liberty, when we shall regain the full rights attached to British citizenship, when we will be respected even in the Transvaal as men, as human beings, and will not be treated as dogs.

INDIAN MAILS. For Colombo, Calcutta and Madras, per s.s. *Umfuli*, until 7-30 a.m., August 4. For Bombay, per s.s. *Gouverneur*, until 3-30 p.m., August 4.

The Transvaal Trouble

Prisoners Released

✓ On Saturday morning, at 7 a.m., Imam Abdul Kadir Bawazeer, Mr. G. P. Vyas, and the other leaders who had been sentenced on Wednesday, were released two hours before the usual time for release. It is presumed that this was done in order to prevent any demonstration on the part of the Indian community. However, that did not prevent the reception of the ex-prisoners, who returned to the gaol-gates at the appointed hour, and were welcomed by their many friends. Amongst those present were Messrs. Essop Ismail Mia, M. K. Gandhi, and other prominent leaders. Rev. J. J. Doke and Messrs. H. Kallenbach, G. Desai, and H. S. L. Polak were also present. The principals then drove to the Hamidia Mosque, where refreshments were served by the hospitality of Mr. Essop Mia, and afterwards Messrs. Imam Abdul Kadir, G. P. Vyas, Mahomed Ebrahim Kunke, G. K. Desai, M. G. Patel, M. D. Desai, Omarji Sale, Hajee Habib, Essop Mia, and M. K. Gandhi addressed those present. The burden of their speeches was that the struggle should be continued at all cost.

Prison Fare

The following letter has been addressed to the Director of Prisons, Pretoria, by Mr. Essop Ismail Mia, Chairman of the British Indian Association, under date 24th ulto.

Eight British Indian prisoners, who were imprisoned for hawking without licences, were discharged today, and they have reported to my Association that, at the Johannesburg Gaol, for the morning meal, they were offered mealie-pap, which they did not take at all, never having been accustomed to it. Consequently, they had to be satisfied with only rice at noon, and beans, if beans were available, for supper. These men were hard labour prisoners.

My Association begs to draw your attention to the fact that British Indians, as a body, are not used to mealie-pap at all, and it is most difficult for them all of a sudden to take to that diet. In view of many more Indians suffering imprisonment in connection with the Asiatic struggle, I think it is but right for my Association to ask you to change the diet scale for British Indians. My Association does not ask for any favours, but simply for a substitute which will be in keeping with the habits of British Indians. As the matter is rather urgent, my Association will be obliged if you will be good enough to give it immediate attention.

Meeting at Vereeniging

The Vereeniging correspondent of the *Transvaal Leader* writes:

All the Indian places of business were closed yesterday as a mark of sympathy and regret for the chairman of the Hamidia Islamic Society (Imam Abdul Kadir), who is suffering imprisonment, together with other Indians, for hawking without the necessary licence.

A meeting of Indians took place here, yesterday, at which Messrs. E. M. Patel, M. D. Bharoochi and E. M. Asvat, three prominent local merchants, spoke. It was decided to hawk, in spite of the refusal of licences. To-day many well-educated Indians were seen hawking in the township unmolested by the police.

Rev. Doke's Views

Rev. J. J. Doke, under date the 25th ult., sends the following letter, summing up the situation, to the *Transvaal Leader*:

The experience of the last few days can have left no one in doubt as to the determination of the Asiatics to suffer until a just settlement is reached. They have no intention of resisting the authorities by force. They argue every point in Court, and when they fail to convince they submit to suffer for the convictions which they hold. Up to the present only a few hawkers, who were not allowed to take out licences, save under the Asiatic Law Amendment Act, have suffered in the Fort. Some of these were influential Indians who had no need to trade like this; but having advised "passive resistance" they put themselves voluntarily within reach of the law, for the sake of heartening the poor man whose hiring is involved. But in a little while, probably only a few days, as things are going, a more acute stage will be reached.

The Asiatics have determined to call in and destroy all their licences and certificates, so that the police may be face to face with a population of some thousands who have no such documents to show. Then I suppose, for a time, the prisons will be full again.

It is well to look at the position fairly. The Asiatics have been patient. They have waited a long time for a settlement, and they have been kept—one cannot help fearing—deliberately in suspense. At first they had complete confidence in the promise of the Government to introduce a Bill with the object of repealing the Asiatic Law Amendment Act, should they register voluntarily. The anticipation of this, to which they attached so much importance, was used by the Colonial Secretary, according to his own statement, to obtain the voluntary registration of all. These are his words on his Richmond speech:—"The Indian's second contention was that they would never register until the law had been repealed, that the law was an indignity and a disgrace. He had told them that the law would not be repealed so long as there was an Asiatic in the

country who had not registered, and likewise men the leaders of the Indian community had waived the question of repeal. Until every Indian in the country had registered the law would not be repealed." (*Transvaal Leader*, February 6). Since this speech by General Smuts a great deal of correspondence has passed between him and the Asiatic leaders, but the promise has never been repudiated—although frequently referred to—until now. Now it has been repudiated and again grudgingly offered on conditions which were intolerable. This is a disingenuous and unworthy move, and no one will be surprised that the Asiatics resent it, and that their confidence in the Government has been destroyed. On the one hand, we have the straightforward acceptance of the position by these men, and their loyal observance of the conditions agreed to by their leaders. On the other hand, we have the action of the Government over which we blush, and would gladly be silent.

I repeat the Asiatics have been patient, but they cannot go on indefinitely waiting for some word from Pretoria. They feel that they must bring matters to an issue, and they are going to do so, not by rioting, nor by violence, but by returning so far as is possible to the position in which the compromise found them. General Smuts refuses to give back the application forms. So they have determined to destroy the licences which he has issued to them, and thus allow the law to take its course.

Now, what can be done? In that Richmond speech immediately after the compromise, General Smuts frankly stated his difficulties. He had mentioned different alternatives open to him in dealing with the "passive resisters," then he said:—"Take the first alternative—putting the Indians who refused to register over the border. It was not easy putting them over the border. . . . It was a very difficult international question—a question which would have given rise to serious complications—and the Government, after full consideration, decided that that course should not be adopted. The next alternative was to put the Indians in prison. He had sent every leader to prison, and hundreds more as well; and it had no effect. The policy of imprisonment was a very good policy as a threat, but every sensible man knew it was a policy which could not be carried out in this country. He defied any Government to put 10,000 men in prison here. There were not prisons enough, and it was a physical impossibility, and it was also a moral impossibility, because he thought it would injure the reputation and prestige of the white people of the Transvaal."

Well, the conditions are unaltered to-day. If it was impossible in February it is impossible now. What is the use of pushing these matters to

the hopeless extreme? Why does not the Colonial Secretary meet the Asiatic chiefs and discuss the position with them? Why does he ignore communications from those intimately acquainted with the subject? These are questions to which one can find no adequate reply.

Meeting in Cape Town

A special meeting of the South African Indian Association was held at the Association Hall, Hanover Street, on the 21st ult., to consider a telegraphic message received from the British Indian Association, Johannesburg, conveying the intelligence that Mr. Sorabji Shapurji, a cultured and educated Parsee gentleman, had been sentenced by the Transvaal judiciary to one month's imprisonment, with hard labour, for contravening the provisions of the Asiatic Act.

Mr. Ebrahim Norodien (the President of the Association) took the chair. Among others present were Messrs. Hadjee Sullaiman Shahmahomed, Mahomed Abrahams, Feroz Khan, Morar Dala, Rattanjee Nowrosjee, Hormasjee Mancherjee Surtee besides the principal officers of the association.

Mr. Norodien briefly explained the position at present existing, and the apparent reasons which had brought about a changed front on the part of the Government of the Transvaal. He deeply regretted the fact that natives of British India, loyal subjects of the King, who had every right to look to the protection of the law in every country, and to the protection of the dear old flag of Great Britain throughout the King's dominions, should find themselves in such dire straits in the British Colony beyond the Vaal. He regretted this all the more in the present condition of things in India.

A resolution of sympathy with Mr. Sorabji Shapurji and other imprisoned leaders was passed, and it was resolved to send a copy to His Excellency the Governor of the Cape.

Telegrams of sympathy were also sent to the British Indian Association, Johannesburg, and the Hamidia Islamic Society.

Messrs. Hadjee Sullaiman Shahmahomed, Mahomed Abrahams, Morar Dala, Shaw Panday, J. A. Dabolia, Hassen Ahmad, Rattanjee Nowrosjee, S. Casimali, H. M. Surtee, Esuff A. Patel and Abdulla Adam were the speakers.

British Indian League

A large meeting of the British Indians of Cape Town and suburbs was held on the 23rd ult. There were many prominent members of the Indian community present. Mr. Adam H. G. Mahomed, the president of the British Indian League, was in the chair, and was supported by Mr. A. Cader, the secretary. There were present on the platform Messrs. J. M. H. Gool, H. O. Ally, M. H. Bar-

iyozaman, E. Booly, M. Enus, Chagan Lali, Faker Ismail, Meer Azab, Mahomed Arif, Shamsoodin, M. Hoosain, and others.

The Chairman explained that the meeting had been called for the purpose of expressing sympathy with their Transvaal brethren, who were suffering from the rigorous administration of the oppressive laws of that Colony. Many prominent members of the Indian community had been arrested, and amongst them were the chairman of the Hamidia Islamic Society and a Parsee gentleman of high education and of great respect.

The Chairman then proceeded to move the first resolution, which was as follows:—

"That this meeting of citizens of the British Empire, resident in Cape Town, firmly and emphatically protest against the bitter injustice now being suffered by their fellow-countrymen in the Transvaal, in consequence of that Colony's class legislation, which is fast becoming intolerably oppressive."

Mr. Cader seconded the resolution. The second resolution, moved by Mr. J. M. H. Gool, and seconded by Mr. Chagan, was as follows:—

"That the Indians, resident in Cape Town and suburbs, in order to mark their sympathy with their countrymen who are unjustly suffering from the oppressive laws of the Transvaal, be requested to close their shops tomorrow, to abstain from all secular affairs, and to repair to their mosques and temples to offer up prayer on behalf of their suffering compatriots."

The third resolution was moved by Mr. H. O. Ally, and seconded by Molvi Badiyozaman, and was as follows:—

"That the previous resolutions be forwarded to His Excellency the Governor, for transmission to the Secretary of State for the Colonies and to the Secretary of State for India and to the High Commissioner of South Africa, and that the president of the British Indian League be instructed to transmit the resolutions to the Viceroy of India."

A Visit of Sympathy

On Tuesday morning, after Mr. Thambi Naidoo had been sentenced for the third time, Messrs. M. K. Gandhi, Moulvi Ahmed Mukhtar, Imam Abdool Kadir Bawazeer, H. S. L. Polak, and Rev. J. J. Doke called upon Mrs. Naidoo, to express their sympathy with her in her difficult position, and the admiration that they feel for her husband's courage and fortitude. Mr. Doke offered up a brief prayer asking for help, and Moulvi Sahib told Mrs. Naidoo that his co-religionists were all praying for her husband's welfare.

Prison Treatment

The Indians who went to prison last week state that they were, on the whole, very considerably treated by the gaol officials. On arriving at the gaol, however, they were required to stand on the cold floor of the reception cell bare-footed for some hours, the prison regulations not allowing socks and sandals to Asiatics except with special permission. Some of them are still suffering from swollen feet due to this first experience, which was, however, remedied after the first day.

Representations on the subject have been officially made by the British Indian Association.

More Meetings

On Sunday afternoon, at 2 p.m., a large assembly of British Indians congregated around the Mosque, Fordsburg, and listened intently to a number of enthusiastic speeches, delivered by Messrs. Essop Mia, the chairman, M. K. Gandhi, Imam Abdul Kadir Bawazeer, Bhanjee, P. N. Naidoo, Omarjee Sale, Moulvi Ahmed Mukhtar, Thambi Naidoo, H. M. Gandhi, M. D. Desai, M. G. Patel, G. K. Desai and others. The meeting was enthusiastic, and a number of voluntary registration certificates and hawkers' licences were handed over to the officials of the British Indian Association.

In the morning, a meeting of the Konkani section of the community was held, whereat a committee was appointed to collect funds for the carrying on of the struggle.

On Sunday evening, the Gujarat Hindus entertained the ex-prisoners at their hall in 13th street, Vrededorp. Besides these, there were present, Messrs. Essop Mia, Moulvi Ahmed Mukhtar, M. K. Gandhi, Osman Ahmed Effendi, H. S. L. Polak, G. Isaac, Leung Quinn (chairman of the Chinese Association), and H. M. Gandhi. A number of interesting addresses were delivered by, amongst others, Messrs. Essop Mia, M. K. Gandhi, G. P. Vyas, G. Isaac, Leung Quinn, M. E. Kunke, Imam Abdul Kadir Bawazeer, N. V. Shah, G. K. Desai, M. G. Patel, Goshlia, and Javerbhai.

Another Parsee Detained

On Tuesday a message was received in Johannesburg that Mr. P. B. Dorabji had been detained at Volksrust, for not giving his finger-impressions upon demand. Mr. Dorabji is the oldest Parsee and one of the oldest Indians in the Transvaal. He is nearly sixty years of age. He holds many documents of identification and is well-known to a large number of Europeans. A later message announced his release, but the detention must have been a severe shock to him, as his health is very delicate.

Mr. Dorabji is one of the pre-war day figures, and was well-known to the Boer officials under the old regime. It is stated that he was the recipient of special concessions from the late President Kruger. He has always stoutly opposed, as a Parsee, the principle of finger impressions, contending that he and his confreres were quite capable of giving well formed signatures, and should not be called upon to do anything more. The arrest, it is stated, has caused an intense feeling of resentment amongst the Indian community. They do not blame the Volksrust officials, but the system which obtains, whereby even in little matters the authority is centralised in the Registrar's Office at Pretoria.

The Chinese

The Chinese Association have decided to adopt similar tactics to those pursued by the Indian community, with the intention, of forcing their case on the attention of the Government and the public. With this object in view Mr. Quinn, the Chairman of the Association, and several members of the executive started hawking in town this morning.

Kimberley Meeting

A Mass Meeting of the British Indians of the Diamond Fields numbering about 400, was held in the Indian Association Hall, on 24th ulto., in order to consider the present position of the Transvaal Indians in view of the recent action on the part of the Transvaal Government. Mr. A. S. D. Pillay presided, and the proceedings were most enthusiastic. Amongst those present were Messrs. V. Samy, M. Samy, S. R. Naidoo, K. Samy, O. Chocklay. Messrs. A. S. D. Pillay, P. Dawson, O. Chocklay, T. S. Trevedi and Patel addressed the meeting.

Resolutions of protest and sympathy were passed and sent to Lord Selborne and the British Indian Association.

✓ Hamidia Islamic Society

On Tuesday evening last, a meeting of members was held in the hall of the Hamidia Islamic Society, Johannesburg, presided over by the Chairman, Imam Abdul Kadir Bawazeer. Some two hundred persons were present, including the officials of the Society, Mr. Essop Ismail Mia, Chairman of the British Indian Association, and Messrs. Osman Ahmed Effendi, M. K. Gandhi, H. Kallenbach, and H. S. L. Polak.

After introductory remarks, a resolution was moved by Mr. Osman Ahmed Effendi, congratulating Mr. Harilal M. Gandhi and Mr. Thambi Naidoo, on their arrest and imprisonment; and Mr. Abdul Gafoor Fazandar proposed a resolution sympathising with and congratulating Mr. and Mrs. Gandhi on their son's imprisonment.

More Hawkers go to Gaol

In "D" Court, Johannesburg on Monday, before Mr. P. C. Dalmahoy, three more Indians were charged with hawking without licences. Mr. Shaw prosecuted, and Mr. Gandhi appeared for the defence.

The first case to be taken was that of Ramaswamy.

After formal evidence had been given for the prosecution, Mr. Gandhi called Mr. Jefferson, Chief Licence Inspector to the Johannesburg Municipality.

Mr. Gandhi: You have received a list of exemptions?—Fourteen.

Mr. Gandhi: Will you produce that list?

The Magistrate and Public Prosecutor both interposed and objected to its production.

Mr. Cramer: I have no objection to Mr. Gandhi asking if the accused's name is on the list.

Mr. Jefferson: It is not on the list.

Mr. Gandhi: Does this mean that I cannot see the document?

The Magistrate (to Mr. Jefferson): Are you permitted to show the document?—No, sir.

Mr. Gandhi: But it must be a public document. Have you been prevented by the authorities?

The Magistrate (interrupting): I'm not going to allow it, Mr. Gandhi; that is final.

Mr. Gandhi: Have you been prevented by the authorities?

The Magistrate: Mr. Gandhi, for the last time, I will not allow this. Are you disputing my authority.

Mr. Gandhi: I am not disputing your authority, but my clients are poor men, and it means a loss of 10s. to them every time Mr. Jefferson is subpoenaed.

The Magistrate: I'll note your objection.

In answer to the Magistrate, the witness said that he had received the list from the Town Clerk, who had received it from the Registrar of Asiatics.

Mr. Gandhi further asked whether the witness had been prevented by the authorities from giving the list.

The Witness: I have been told not to publish the list. This is my general instruction.

Addressing the Court Mr. Gandhi said that he held it was a most curious position that here they had a list which applied to the whole community, and which could not be produced. He thought it very remarkable that they were not allowed to see it. He had to subpoena Mr. Jefferson at the expense of his clients in every case to ascertain if their names appeared on the document. He thought it within the jurisdiction of the Court to say whether Mr. Jefferson should produce the document.

The Magistrate (to the accused): You have had plenty of warning to get a licence, and you will not do it.

You are fined £1, or seven days' imprisonment with hard labour.

Alimia was then charged with a similar offence, and Mr. Gandhi put Mr. Jefferson into the box and made another unsuccessful endeavour to have the list put in. He asked that the Magistrate would note his request that the list should be produced.

The accused was fined £1 or seven days' imprisonment with hard labour.

Kanji Morar was then placed in the dock, and Mr. Gandhi again called Mr. Jefferson.

Mr. Gandhi said that he did not wish to speak disrespectfully to the Court, but it was a matter of very serious importance and expense to his clients to call Mr. Jefferson for every case,

The Public Prosecutor suggested that the Crown might call Mr. Jefferson.

Mr. Gandhi said that even if Mr. Jefferson was called by the Crown, it would still be very unfair to his clients, as the names of Asiatics were very frequently mixed up. He also wished to refer to the fact that the penalty had been increased, although the cases were exactly on all fours with the previous cases.

The Magistrate imposed a fine of £1 or seven days' imprisonment with hard labour.

In each case the accused elected to go to prison.

Harilal M. Gandhi Sentenced

On Tuesday several more hawkers' cases in connection with the Asiatic Amendment Act were heard. The first charge was preferred against Hira Mawji, of having traded without a licence.

Formal evidence as to accused's having been hawking within the municipality without a licence was given, and the accused, who pleaded guilty, was fined £1, with the alternative of seven days' imprisonment with hard labour.

The next accused to be placed in the dock were Harilal Mohandas Gandhi (son of Mr. M. K. Gandhi), Thambi Naidoo, and Govindasamy Kistnasamy, who were all described as "Indian hawkers." They pleaded guilty.

A sergeant of the police gave evidence that he had arrested the accused, who were hawking fruit in Bellevue East without licences.

Mr. M. K. Gandhi, who defended, said he did not propose to call witnesses, but to make a few remarks. He had been weak enough on the previous day to protest against the increase of the penalty, but in this instance he had had a long conference with the prisoners at the gaol, and he had been requested to ask for the severest penalty. The accused had acted as they had done with deliberation. Naidoo had been in gaol last week, having been sentenced to four days' imprisonment for hawking without a licence.

The Magistrate: There is a pre-

vious conviction against Naidoo?

Mr. Gandhi: Two previous convictions under this Act; one for hawking without a licence. Continuing, he said that the other accused also instructed him to ask for a severe sentence. If a light sentence was imposed, as soon as they came out they intended to repeat the action. It would be a saving of time to give them a long sentence and it would be better for the sake of their health if they had a sustained term.

T. Naidoo was fined £2, with the alternative of 14 days' imprisonment, with hard labour, and H. M. Gandhi and Kistnasamy were fined £1 or seven days' imprisonment with hard labour.

Three other British Indians, named Sinnappa Rangasamy Pillay, Sooppa Veerasamy Naiker and Charlie Singli, were then charged.

They all pleaded guilty and were fined £1 or seven days' imprisonment with hard labour.

In each case the accused elected to go to prison.

The Assault Case

Accused Severely Punished

On Friday, the 24th ultimo, Mansuk Madee, alias Maula Bagas, was brought before Mr. H. H. Jordan, in 'B' Court, Johannesburg, charged with assaulting Mr. Essop Ismail Mia, Chairman of the British Indian Association, with intent to do grievous bodily harm. It will be remembered that a preparatory examination was held, and the accused was committed for trial. The Attorney-General, however, remitted the case to the Magistrate for final hearing. The accused, who was defended by Mr. Van Diggelen, pleaded not guilty.

The evidence given by the Crown witnesses was read over to the accused, and passed unchallenged.

After evidence for the Defence had been led, Mr. Van Diggelen addressed the Court, alleging conspiracy in regard to the witnesses for the Crown, and charging the complainant and Ebrahim Dowd with perjury.

The accused was found guilty, and, in passing sentence, the Magistrate said that it was very clear that the assault had been committed. The District Surgeon's evidence showed that the assault was a very serious one, and that a number of pieces of bone had to be removed from the wound. There appeared to have been a falling out among these people over the registration, and the evidence showed that there had been an unprovoked assault of a very serious nature. These people must be taught that they were not allowed to take the law into their own hands. He (the Magistrate) would take into consideration the fact that the accused was labouring under some imaginary grievance. He would be sentenced to six months' imprisonment with hard labour.

The "National" Convention again

We have received the following, purporting to be a copy of a circular letter addressed by the Chairman and Secretary of the so-called "National" Convention, enclosing a form of Petition, in support of the Government action in regard to the treatment of Transvaal Indians:—

48 Tudor Buildings,
Pretoria,
17th July 1908.

Dear Sirs,—The public press has no doubt sufficiently informed you that a recrudescence of the "Asiatic question" has occurred.

This Committee, aware of the gravity of the situation, and the necessity of strengthening the hands of the Government, has once more determined to appeal for the support of the public of the Transvaal.

We are therefore directed by the Central Executive of the Transvaal National Convention (Asiatics) to forward you a copy of a petition which it is proposed to present to the House of Assembly as soon as possible.

Would you kindly be good enough to get it signed by as many respectable citizens as you can and invite, in this connection, the co-operation of any other public bodies in your town. On completion please forward the signed documents either to this office or to your member for presentation to the Legislative Assembly within, if possible, 10 days.

We are further directed to ask if you would be good enough to forward a contribution to the funds of this Association to enable it to carry on its work. There are office expenses, expenses in cabling to the Imperial Authorities and friends co-operating in England, and other unavoidable expenditure in carrying forward our work of getting this question finally and satisfactorily settled.

In connection with this contribution, this Committee does not ask for a large sum but for a sufficiency to enable it to carry it on. Will you kindly therefore, direct your attention to this urgent matter and forward what you can afford.

Yours very faithfully,
(Sgd.) R. K. STOVEDAY, (Chairman),
" HENRY LAMB (Secretary).

The Petition

HUMBLY SHEWETH

1. That there has always existed a strong and consistent desire on the part of the white population of the Transvaal to restrict the influx of Asiatics and those known as Arabs and coolies, particularly in view of the large and increasing Native population and the consequent ever growing intensity of the question.

2. That for the due consummation of that policy the Government of the late South African Republic passed a

series of measures which, owing to force of circumstances, it was found difficult to forcibly and adequately execute.

3. That in consequence, and in defiance of the recognised intention of the law, large numbers of Asiatics entered and settled in the Transvaal.

4. That since the annexation of the Transvaal, their numbers, by surreptitious and illegal means, have been considerably augmented.

5. That the Legislative Council, under Crown Colony Government, recognising the strength and danger of this immigration, passed Ordinance No. 26 of 1906, consent to which was stayed by the Imperial Government, pending the grant of Responsible Government.

6. That the first Act of Transvaal Parliament, under Responsible Government, was to pass a similar Act, Law No. 2, 1907, by the unanimous vote of both Houses, and which received the Royal Assent.

7. That the said Act, while fully recognising vested rights and respecting the presence of those Indians who were legally domiciled in the Colony, has had the effect of preventing further Indian immigration.

8. That the said Act provides for the registration of such legally domiciled Indians and, in order to establish their identity, required that their application for registration should be accompanied by finger impressions.

9. That the large majority of the Indians not only refused to comply with the Law, and openly challenged its enforcement, but prevented others of their race from obeying the same.

10. That in order to meet the wishes of the Imperial Government, the Government of this Colony, after repeatedly extending the time for registration, accepted the offer of the Indians, to register voluntarily after the terms of Registration had expired, and that 7,680 Indians so registered and received certificates.

11. That these Indians now claim that the Government undertook to repeal Law 2, 1907, and when they were informed that the allegation was absolutely unfounded, applied for the cancellation of their certificates.

12. That an application was recently made to the Supreme Court by an Indian, duly registered, for the return of his registration certificate on the allegation that the Government had broken its promise under which it had been given; but the Court refused the application and stated that the allegation on which it rested had in no way been proved.

13. That some of these Indians now openly state that they intend to burn their certificates and defy the law.

14. That such defiance of the law can only have a disastrous effect upon the Native population, is harmful to the due preservation of law and order, the best interests of the colony, and should not be permitted.

Wherefore your Petitioners pray that the Law may be strictly and justly enforced.

A Colonist's View of British Indians

What "We" Say

The following letter, addressed by a Mr. Francis Bancroft to the *London Standard*, seems to be the *ne plus ultra* of the European Colonist's arrogance of outlook regarding the rights and status of British Indians in British Colonies:

In common with other Colonists, who, like myself, listened with interest to Lord Milner's address before the Royal Colonial Institute, I could not but deplore his remarks on the attitude of the Colonists on the Asiatic question, which is, of course, dominated by the "colour" question. That Lord Milner failed to supplement his remarks by pointing out this important fact appeared to me and to other Colonists present as unjust to our fellow-Colonists in South Africa. Lord Milner's assertion was that the Colonist's notions of Indians were lamentably crude and ignorant to the point of not recognising the slightest difference between the Indian gentleman (sometimes a nobleman) and the raw coolie, whom Colonists, his lordship remarked, classed alike under the term "nigger," and his suggestion was to the effect that Colonists might, if they only would, learn a great deal as to the status of the Indian gentleman from members of the Indian Civil Service.

This was no doubt kindly meant on the part of Lord Milner, but may I, as a Colonist, venture to point out that ignorance on the part of the Colonist is not, as his lordship stated, the cause why Colonists mete out similar treatment to the Asiatic, be he of high birth or of low extraction? Colonists do indeed recognise the difference—and without the aid either of Indian civil servants—but they deliberately and of set purpose make no difference in their treatment of Indians as a class, for the reason which Lord Milner, in common with all men and women who have approached the pressing and insistent problem of "colour" in the sub-continent, must and does understand.

To the Colonist alone, perhaps because of his vital need of such insight, has been granted the clearer vision on the matter of "colour." To the Colonist there is ever an imperative need underlying these apparent prejudices, the reason, Sir, being one which Lord Milner, in justice to the Colonist, should have stated. The great problem of "colour" will not, it is true, be solved by his Majesty's advisers, nor by any learned body of statesmen, but by the Colonists themselves. The Colonist looks to his own generation and to his children.

who will live in the future as South Africans in South Africa, and perceiving the absolute and essential need that his race should be perpetuated a white race rather than a population of half-breeds, the Colonist lays down a broad general principle which necessitates the classing of the Indian gentleman with the lower-born Indian coolie. He acts in this way not from ignorance as to any distinction in their status, but because on this point he is far-seeing; and, if I may venture to say it, the Colonist in this matter sees with a clearer vision than his lordship himself.

In effect the Colonist says to every Indian would-be settler of whatever status he may be, "You may settle in South Africa, provided you are healthy, able to support yourself. You may settle here, but on the distinct understanding that you will be classed among the 'coloured' people. We have here two great races, white and coloured. You are labelled among the 'coloured,' and as such, under the laws governing the 'coloured' races you will have to conform." The Indian, be he high-born or of humbler status, recognises the situation. Still he comes, and settles in Johannesburg, Cape Town, or Durban, for he recognises that he can make money out of South Africa. He does make money, but he is not satisfied, and complains to those only too willing to listen to him that, though a gentleman, perhaps even noble, he is classed by the Colonists on a plane with all other coloured people.

Lord Milner on Coloured Races

Their Treatment within the Colonial Empire

Speaking at the Royal Colonial Institute, London, on the 16th ulto., Lord Milner dealt somewhat fully with the problem of closer union within the Empire. Among other things, he discussed at some length the attitude of the self-governing colonies towards the coloured races, and said that he regarded this as an evidence of one of the dangers we ran from the fact that colonial acquaintance with, and interest in, our dependent Empire was still so limited. If there was more interdependence there would be less misunderstanding. He had often thought, when confronted with some outburst of anti-Asiatic prejudice in South Africa, what an enormous difference it would mean if there had been only a few men in the country, themselves South Africans, who had been members of the Indian Civil Service, for his experience was that the coloured races under British rule had no stouter champions than British officials who had lived and worked among them. (Cheers.)

Capetown Chamber of Commerce

And Asiatic Traders

At the monthly meeting of the Cape Town Chamber of Commerce, on the 13th ulto., says the *Cape Times*, Mr. Govey, in accordance with notice of motion moved: "That this Chamber views with satisfaction the legislation the Government of Natal proposes to introduce during the present session of Parliament to regulate and ultimately withdraw altogether licences for Asiatics to trade; and resolves that the Chambers of Commerce of Natal be informed that this Chamber is in full sympathy with this movement; and, further, that a deputation of the Management Committee wait upon the Prime Minister to recommend that a similar measure be introduced for the consideration of the Cape Parliament during the present session. This Chamber further resolves that a copy of the above resolution be communicated to the Prime Minister of Natal." The mover said his reasons for moving such a resolution was, because the matter had become very serious throughout the country, but more so in the Peninsula. With a view to acting in harmony with the other States, who were moving in the matter, it was desirable that a move should be made at once. He would first of all like to look at the character of these people. Everybody who knew anything of Indian life knew that these people were the lowest characters possible, and even in India were not of a high caste; in fact, they were a very low class. They did not labour, but preyed on the merchants and the people who traded with them. They corrupted the coloured classes. The authorities in the Transkei would not allow them to trade there. They had ousted all the old Colonial traders, and were gradually doing so with the coloured hawkers. They paid no taxes, and the man who collected the income-tax from them would be lucky. He did not think this question should be classed as the survival of the fittest. No European could compete with them. The Indian had one virtue—he did not propagate his species. Continuing, Mr. Govey proceeded to give figures showing that in the past three years 103 Indians had become insolvent, with liabilities amounting to £109,255. Seventy-nine of those insolvencies had occurred in the Cape Division, accounting for £83,102. Now these insolvencies had not been incurred through the depression, but the money had been sent out of the country, and the trader in this country had to suffer. Fortunately, non of these Indians had started as wholesalers. They were not likely to do so, when they could do the traders of the Colony for £30,000 a year. It had been said that the traders should not give them credit well, if they had

did not do so, they would soon have the Indian wholesaler settling here, and that would be worse for the merchant. The Natal Legislation was not harsh; it was, on the contrary, very fair and reasonable. There were two Bills—one was that after 1908 no new licence should be granted to an Arabian trader, and no business should be transferred from one Indian to another. The other Bill held that after 1918 no Indian shall be allowed to hold a licence, and any Indian then trading would be bought out by the Government. He regretted that the recent deputation to the Colonial Secretary had been introduced by three members of Parliament. They wanted to air their grievances, but, to his mind, it was the merchant who should have been doing that. There was no method of stopping these Indians arriving here. Only the other day an Indian was fined £30 for landing without permission, and it was paid for him. He anticipated that there would be a lot of trouble in introducing this matter, and he knew he would be assailed with cries of "They're Britishers," but there were enough Britishers in this country who required to be helped without allowing these nondescripts to settle here.

Mr. Burningham White seconded the motion, and said that, as he had had an extensive knowledge of Indian traders, he was able to speak on the subject. He at one time did business with 500 Indians, but he was glad to say that he did not do business with one now. There was no doubt but that there were a few good, decent Indians, but the majority of them were half-castes, who came from the hills, and were enticed to this country in the belief that gold was picked up in the streets. "And so it is," continued the speaker, "for they lift it from the merchant." If (continued the speaker) this money was lost in fair business, one would not mind, but a lot of it was taken to India when they went on their pilgrimage—for they were a very pious race. (Laughter.) There was no doubt but that the Indian was a slim customer, and the majority of them had mistaken their vocation—they should have been lawyers. The speaker, continuing, proceeded to deal with the methods adopted by the Indians in evading their liabilities. He thought it was their duty to fall in with and support Natal in the action they were taking.

Mr. Liberman said, as he was not a man of science he could not say what caste these Indians were. All the Indians who had arrived in this colony in the past three years were British Indians. The influx of Indians was diminishing yearly and the Indian population was decreasing. If the merchants were being taken in, they were responsible for it for giving credit. Everybody would be honest if his pocket was full, but human nature was human nature, and

others would do the same if they were pressed. It had been said that the Indians contributed nothing to the taxes of the country. The majority of them were ratepayers. He did not think they would be justified in that chamber in calling on these British Indians to clear out of the country. There was no doubt but that Natal was becoming overcrowded with Indians, a quarter of the population of Durban was composed of Indians, there being some 16,000 Indians there, whilst in the Cape Division there was hardly a thousand. His advice to merchants who were taken in by Indians, was to take steps to prevent it in a proper way. He did not think it would be advisable for them to interfere with the liberty of British subjects. He did not wish to move anything against the resolution, and suggested that the matter should be sent to the Management Committee to consider.

Mr. Wiener said that there seemed to be little sympathy with the motion, and he moved that the previous question be considered.

Mr. Wiener's motion was agreed to.

Correspondence

The Immigration Question

The Editor INDIAN OPINION.

Sir,—I wish to draw public attention to the case of *R. Lalloo vs. Rex*, reported in the press. The case, which, fortunately, has been now considered by the Supreme Court, shows most clearly that the Immigrants Restriction Act does not prohibit the entry of those Asiatics who can comply with the education test. The summons issued against Lalloo charged him with contravening Section 25 of the Immigrants Restriction Act, in that he, being unable to write in European characters, having insufficient means to support himself, and being the minor child of a prohibited immigrant, was himself a prohibited immigrant. Had he, then, been able to satisfy the education test, assuming that he had sufficient means to support himself, he would not have been prevented from entering the country. Sir William Solomon, in giving judgment, said "His (Sergeant Mansfield's) evidence was that the prisoner could not write any document in a European language, and there was no denial of it. Sergeant Mansfield could only have obtained the information either by asking the Accused to write or by the Accused telling him that he could not write in which case it would have been a farce to call upon him to write a document in English characters."

It will, therefore, be seen that, according to the learned Judge, the Immigrants Restriction Act does not debar Asiatics possessing educational qualifications from entering the coun-

try. In the light of this judgment, the British Indian contention is absolutely upheld and strengthened by the incarceration of Mr. Sorabji, who lawfully entered under the Immigrants Restriction Act, but became a criminal because he would not submit to the Asiatic Act.

There is, therefore, nothing new in the claim brought forward by the British Indian community in insisting on the retention of the right of entry on the part of educated Asiatics under the Immigrants Restriction Act. It is General Smuts who demands from British Indians their consent to an abrogation of that right, which Indians are in honour bound to resist.

I am, etc.,

M.K. GANDHI.

Johannesburg,

24/7/08.

Taxes on Indians

To the Editor INDIAN OPINION

Sir,—“Verb Sap's” correspondence on the £3 Licence is very wise and should be further assisted by the leading and influential Indians so that we may put an end to this obnoxious Licence. An attempt ought at once to be made, otherwise the situation will become difficult, and the result will be that we will have hundreds of our brethren hanging round our doors for support and assistance. I have personally noticed several cases in which they appear to be totally unable to pay the Licence; and widows with children who have not a soul to obtain for them their daily bread, are starving, but they are compelled by the Government to pay all the same. Surely some concession must be made in these deserving cases?

I hope to see some more of “Verb Sap's” type who will tackle the matter and thus make the homes of these people happy, and they will be rewarded by the “King of Kings” when the time arrives.

Yours, etc.,

NATAL BORN.

Asiatic Passive Resistance

With further reference to our previous intimations in connection with the Book on which Mr. H. S. L. Polak is occupied, we beg to announce that it has been decided to postpone the issue of the work, in view of the renewal of the trouble in the Transvaal, an account of which will be duly incorporated in the Book on its appearance. Further subscriptions for the Book will, therefore, be received, for which an official receipt will be sent as before.

Natal Parliament

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Indian Trading Licences

July 23.

The House resumed in Committee on the Indian Licences Stoppage Bill.

Mr. HAGGAR moved an amendment to the definition clause, so as to provide that “The term Asiatic shall be taken to mean any natives of Asia or any persons belonging to the class usually designated in this Colony as Banyans, Arabs or Arab traders.”

Mr. Haggar's motion was carried.

Mr. McLARTY objected to the phrases “natives of Asia” as being too embracing, including, as it would, European natives of Russia in Asia and other undesirable persons. He moved the inclusion of “Chinese and Japanese.”

The amendment was lost.

It was agreed that, throughout the Bill, the word “Asiatic” should be substituted for “Indian.”

The following new clauses were added, on the motion of Mr. MORCOM:—

“5. Except in so far as is provided in this Act, the discretion of the licensing officers and Appeal Boards appointed under the provisions of the Act, No. 18, 1897, ‘to amend the law relating to licences to wholesale or retail dealers,’ shall not be affected or diminished.”

“6. The provisions of this Act shall not apply to any person specified in the exemptions contained in Act No. 2, 1903, entitled ‘To Amend the Indian Immigration Amendment Act, 1895.’”

Some discussion took place as to whether the Bill under the new clauses excluded Natal-born Indians.

Several members spoke against the new clause, and held that it would defeat the object of the Bill by allowing Natal Indians to acquire licences.

Mr. BRUNNER moved that an additional clause be added, after the new clauses, to the effect that they would not apply to Zululand or the Northern Districts.

The MINISTER for RAILWAYS and HARBOURS pointed out these portions of the Colony were already covered by other regulations.

Mr. SCHOFIELD gave notice that he would move that the chairman rise to obtain the ruling of the Speaker on certain points.

Mr. McLARTY said Clause 6 would absolutely kill the Bill.

Mr. CONNOLLY said that if the Bill passed as it stood it would absolutely defeat their objects. He moved that the Chairman leave the chair.

The motion was defeated.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY said the Bill was not as drastic as they wished it could be, or as the circumstances seemed to demand.

Mr. O'Meara's motion that Clause 6 be expunged was lost, and the Clause was passed.

July 27.

The House resumed in Committee on the Indian Licences Stoppage Bill.

Mr. SMYTHE's amendment, to the effect that the provisions of the Act should not apply to persons born in Natal previous to the passing of Act 17, 1897, or persons introduced into Natal under the Indian Immigration Acts, was brought on.

Mr. TAYLOR strongly opposed the amendment.

Mr. SMYTHE claimed justice for the Indians that had been brought to Natal in the past and induced to stay.

Mr. MCLARTY thought that Mr. Smythe's amendment and the clause introduced by Mr. Morcom last week were on all fours, and that both would defeat the object of the Bill.

Mr. WYLIE said he would vote for the Bill as it had been originally introduced, but not if it were to be knocked about.

Mr. O'MEARA said the Government ought to stand by their Bill, or allow it to go out altogether.

Mr. EVANS said he thought that, in hindering these people from making a living, they would be taking a wrong step. He asked why European artisans and professional men should not be protected, as well as traders.

Mr. TAYLOR said an Asiatic trader had told him that he could keep his staff of seven, and his wife and three children, on 4s. a day. This man asked him whether, under those circumstances, a European could compete with him, and he (Mr. Taylor) replied that he could not, unless he were like the man who fed his horse on one straw a day. (Laughter.) He held that the Indians were too well treated here to return to their own country. He hoped the Bill would be passed without amendment. If the Home Government would not accept it, they could send it back again.

Mr. EVANS thought they ought to be just to the Indians born in this country. He held that if Europeans led a strenuous life they could compete with these people.

Mr. O'MEARA said it was impossible for the white boy to compete against the educated Indian.

The MINISTER for RAILWAYS and HARBOURS hoped the Colony would adopt the principle of one licensing officer for the whole Colony, to be appointed by the Government. He thought the Indians born in the Colony had as much right in this respect as the natives, and if they had included natives in the scope of the Bill it would never be passed by the Imperial Government.

Mr. MCLARTY in criticising the attitude taken up by Mr. Connolly, said that that gentleman would object if the Indians encroached on the railway system. Because a few railway men wanted to buy a cheap shirt at Ladysmith, he wanted to keep the Arab stores open there;

but they should spend their money with the white trader. He pointed out that thousands of white boys could get nothing to do in the Colony. He thought members would lose sight of the awful future of the Colony if they passed the Bill in its present condition. They had got to face the Imperial Government at some time or other. Let them do it now.

Mr. HYSLOP could not see any justice in refusing a man a licence simply because he had not a white skin. It was simply a question of self-preservation, and on that ground the object of the Bill would have his support.

After further discussion, the amendment was lost, and clause 6 was struck out.

This clause provided "that the provisions of the Act should not apply to any person specified in the exemption contained in Act No. 2 1903, entitled 'To amend the Indian Immigration Amendment Act, 1905.'"

The Bill was reported as having passed through Committee with certain amendments.

July 28.

White Men's Work

On the motion of the COLONIAL SECRETARY, the Indian Licences Stoppage Bill was read a third time and passed.

Mr. HAGGAR gave notice to ask the Minister for Railways and Harbours: Will the Minister, in accordance with the resolution passed last session, take steps to prevent work usually given to white men being given to Indians on the N.G.R.?

July 29.

Mr. ROBINSON presented a petition from 500 British Indians, favouring the abolition of indentured Indian labour.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY asked that the Indian Immigration Prevention Bill should stand down for a fortnight. He said that it was the intention to appoint a Commission, to consist of members of the House, with the object of obtaining an interim report before the end of the session, so that amendments might be introduced to existing Acts. If the Commission could not finish its labours before the end of the session, then the question of Indian labour would be referred to them.

The order having been called on, the DEPUTY-SPEAKER ruled that the order—the commitment of the Bill—should be proceeded with, or the order should be expunged.

The House went into Committee on the Bill.

On the first clause being read, the MINISTER for RAILWAYS and HARBOURS moved that it stand down.

Mr. SMYTHE and other members pressed for a fuller explanation of the intention of the Government in regard to the Bill.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY said the Government thought it possible that

several amendments to existing legislation could be brought forward by a Commission after a few days' consideration, and they could then consider the advisability, if the Commission had not completed its work, of referring to it also the larger questions.

The motion that the clause stand down was carried.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY then moved that progress be reported.

Mr. SMYTHE wanted to know if the Colonial Secretary had not misled the House in regard to the Bill. Never during his Parliamentary experience had a Bill been referred to a Commission while Parliament was sitting. It was clearly understood that the Bill would be withdrawn, and referred to a Commission during the recess.

Mr. Evans confirmed this understanding as far as he was concerned. If the matter were referred to a Commission, it would mean that the Bill would be shelved.

The MINISTER for RAILWAYS and HARBOURS said that the Government intended to do exactly as had been stated. The Government had no intention of interfering with the labour of the Colony until the Commission had reported that that labour could be dispensed with. Amendments were required to the Indian Immigration Acts, and the Government would be pleased to get an intimation from the Commission as to what amendments could be introduced, so that those amendments might be made during the present session.

Mr. Winter also thought that the Colonial Secretary had misled the House. He hoped the Government would withdraw the Bill, and appoint a Commission.

Mr. Evans said they had trusted to a broken reed. The Government's intentions were not honest. He had lost faith in the Government.

Sir LIEGE HULETT understood that the Government had desired to get the principle of the Bill approved of. He had understood also that the Bill would be withdrawn and referred to a Commission. It would be perfectly in order, however, to do what the Government proposed.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY thought the Commission should be first appointed and a decision come to as to what they should do with the Bill.

Mr. WINTER pointed out that a vast amount of evidence would be required, and the Commission could not report within eight or ten months.

The MINISTER for RAILWAYS and HARBOURS said the desire was to have the Commission representative of every shade of opinion. As soon as the Commission was appointed, the Bill would be withdrawn.

Mr. SMYTHE could see no reason for postponing the order instead of withdrawing the Bill. The House would have nothing to do with the appointment of the Commission. It would be appointed by the Government.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY was prepared to accept a postponement for only a week, if the House desired it.

Messrs. PALMER and HAGGER objected to the withdrawal of the Bill.

The motion to report progress was carried, those voting against the motion being: Messrs. Taylor, Robinson, Evans, Haggar, Yonge, Connolly, and Palmer.

July 30.

Mr. Haggar's Questions

Mr. HAGGAR asked the Colonial Secretary: Is it a fact that the last report of the Protector of Indians contains no reports from the Indian medical officers; if so, why have these reports been excluded?

The reply was: The hon. member will find the reasons given in full in the report of the Protector of Immigrants for 1907.

Mr. HAGGAR also asked the Colonial Secretary: How many employers of Indians have during the past year had Indians taken away from them in consequence of cruelty? How many employers have been threatened in consequence of their cruelty?

The reply was: Three in each case.

Indian Immigration

The COLONIAL SECRETARY moved that the Indian Immigration Prevention Bill be struck off the notice paper. (Hear, hear.)

On a division the motion was carried.—*Natal Mercury.*

The Late Sir Jamsetjee Jejeebhoy

A Reuter telegram from Bombay, dated June 17, says that the death is announced, at the age of 55, of Sir Jamsetjee Jejeebhoy.

By the death of Sir Jamsetjee Jejeebhoy, fourth baronet, the important, progressive, and loyal Parsi community of Western India has lost its acknowledged leader and the Indian society of Bombay its social head. Sir Jamsetjee Jejeebhoy worthily maintained the high traditions associated with his honoured name. The first baronet, his grandfather, was of humble origin, but won fortune as a merchant and fame as a philanthropist in the early Victorian period. The "J.J. Hospital," as it is familiarly called, is one of many evidences of his princely and catholic munificence in Bombay, where his fellow-citizens erected a statue in his honour during his life-time. He was one of the first natives of India to be knighted and to be made a Freeman of the City of London, and he was the first subject of the Crown of non-British birth to be created a baronet. Under the terms of a special Act of the Viceroy's Council, each successor to the baronetcy has dropped his own name and taken that of the founder of the family. A son of the second baronet, the late Sir Jamsetjee, then Mr Cowanjee Cursetjee Jejeebhoy, succeeded his father, the third baronet, on his

death, without surviving male issue, in 1896. He filled the position with dignity and tact, and took the active part in the general affairs of the loyal town and island of Bombay appertaining to his great influence. He was a member of the municipal corporation and a Fellow of the University, and had served as Sheriff of the city. He was, of course, president of the Parsi Panchayet funds, which amounts to upwards of 40 lakhs of rupees, the income being expended for charitable and other communal purposes. Of late new problems, or at least old problems in a new form, have agitated the Parsis of India, among them being the question of the admission of proselytes, such as ladies of European birth desiring to enter the Zoroastrian fold on marrying Parsis. In such matters, Sir Jamsetjee's attitude was one of cautious progressiveness; and he was ever anxious to uphold the best traditions of his people. Quiet and unassuming in bearing Sir Jamsetjee perhaps scarcely gave those only slightly acquainted with him an adequate impression of the strength of character and soundness of judgment which characterized him. He had the full confidence and the unqualified esteem both of the Government and of the people of Western India. He maintained the family reputation for catholic benevolence, and both at Mazagon Castle, Bombay, and his country seat near Poona entertained his friends and gave large receptions from time to time in accordance with the family customs.

The late baronet married, in 1869. Goolabai Rustonji Wadia, and is succeeded by his son, Mr. Rustomjee Jejeebhoy, who is 30 years of age, and who will now, in accordance with the Act, take the precise name of his predecessors in the title.—*The Times.*

Draft Gold Law

The Colour Clauses

The *Transvaal Leader* of the 16th ult., writing editorially, says:—

When the new Mining Law comes into Committee a clause, No 128, which deals with colour, will call for the careful consideration of Parliament. The clause lays it down that no coloured person shall live on proclaimed mining ground except in locations, Asiatic bazaars or places set apart for the employees of the whites on the ground; and the penalty for non-compliance with this is a fine or a month's imprisonment. It is understood to be the intention of the Attorney-General to protect existing rights in the event of there being any; but it is doubtful if the real object in view—waiving for the moment discussion as to its feasibility—would be secured by a provision of this kind in the Mining Law at all. The difficulties are obvious.

MR. CAMA ON "ZOROASTRIANISM" Mr. N. A. Cama, who is an official in the Johannesburg Post Office, read an interesting paper on "Zoroastrianism," at the Masonic Hall, Jeppe Street, Johannesburg, on Thursday evening, the 23rd ult., under the auspices of the Johannesburg lodge of the Theosophical Society. Mr. Cama was well received, and an animated discussion followed the reading of the paper.

THE BISHOP OF LAHORE ON THE UNREST IN INDIA. The Bishop of LAHORE, speaking at the annual festival of the Southwark Diocesan Board of Missions, held at Richmond recently, said that they were faced with a great crisis in India at the present time. They were all much dismayed by certain recent occurrences, and a thrill of horror had gone through the country at the revelation of the state of affairs in Calcutta, such as he should never have dreamed to exist there when he left three months ago. He did feel that the maintenance of order was the very first duty that we owed to that great land. But almost more urgently he would say, Do not let us think that we can stop there. Do not let us suppose that all we have to do is to sit on the safety valve, to repress disorder, to smite upon the head any who attempts to take up a prominent position. That would not serve in the long run. What we needed to do was to realize that a new life was coming to the birth in India. We had to do not merely with the agitator, with local outbursts, and the like; there was a position of extraordinary interest and wonderful possibilities of development, such as no country had been faced with before all down the pages of the world's history. A new life was indeed coming to the birth. Had we not been trying to bring in new thoughts, new standards, new ideals of life, new conceptions of God and of society, and were we to expect all that to go on endlessly, producing no result, no craving for larger and fuller and stronger life?

Late News

[SPECIAL TELEGRAMS]

Johannesburg,
Thursday.

Three more men have been sentenced at Johannesburg to seven days' imprisonment with hard labour for hawking without licences.

A similar case was heard at Krugersdorp, which was defended by Mr. Polak. A fine of ten shillings or five days' imprisonment was imposed. They chose to go to gaol.

The Krugersdorp White League has forwarded a petition to the National Convention (Asiatics) urging more strict enforcement of the Registration Law.