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THE AFGHAN WAR.

London, May 28.—In the House of Commons to-day, Mr. E. S. Montagu, Secretary of State for India, in reply to a question, stated that he understood that about 400 deaths had resulted from the recent riots in India, and about the same number of persons had been injured. These included eight or nine Europeans. The damage done amounted to nearly £1,000,000.—(Reuter's Special Service.)

London, May 30.—The India Office announces that for some weeks the centres of the recent disturbances have been quiet.

Three tribunals are sitting in the Punjab for the trial of persons in connection with the riots, each tribunal including two experienced judicial officers. Up to the present, eight persons have been sentenced to death and executed. The action taken restored order in the Punjab.—(Reuter's Special Service.)

Simla, May 27.—Reuter's special correspondent at Peshawar says that British arms, followed by British rupees, had a wonderfully pacifying effect on the occupied territories on the Khyber front.

The local peasantry, who at first fled, are first returning, and are busy with the almost record harvest. Supplies are arriving freely, and the peasants naively say that if we promised not to tax them they would welcome British rule.

Meanwhile, peace reigns on all fronts and the Fast of Ramadan, which commences on May 31, will prevent the enemy

actively fighting.—(Reuter's Special Service.)

Simla, May 28.—An enemy column from Khost, under the command of Naidar Khan, have engaged in operations against the village of Thab. These Afghan regulars are stated to have rations, but Naidar Khan's followers are subsisting on food obtained by begging from the Wazirs.

The enemy occupied spinwam, and our consequent withdrawal was carried out satisfactorily.

Reports from the Upper Kurram state that some Afghan tribesmen yesterday attacked Chapri near Piawar Kotal, but were driven off by the local militia, who killed a number of their assailants without sustaining any casualties.

Our troops at Chaman captured an Afghan frontier post at Spin Baldak on May 26. The forts were subjected to a thorough bombardment, after which the towers on the ridge commanding the forts were assaulted and taken. The main gate of the village was blown up and the capture completed by our assaulting troops escalading the walls, where they had been breached. The garrison offered a stubborn resistance, and the bulk of it was either killed or captured.

No change is reported at Dakka.—(Reuter's Special Service.)

Simla, June 4.—A letter from the Ameer Amanulla, to the Viceroy, Lord Chelmsford, explains that the outbreak

was due to certain misunderstandings, and explains that disorders and disturbances in India, especially the unruly demonstrations at Peshawar, had reached a pitch obliging the Amir to dispatch troops to protect his frontiers. The Commandant of the Afghan Eastern Army, considering certain points to be included in his own territory according to maps and plans in his possession proceeded to carry on some diggings as a precautionary measure, whereupon the British troops violated Afghan territory which obliged the Amir to declare war.

Meanwhile the Afghan Envoy, Abdurrahman, reached Kabul, explained matters to the Foreign Secretary, and impressed upon him the necessity of desisting from war.

As it became apparent that the events and movements which had taken place were accidental and undesirable, the Ameer put off the publication of the proclamation of a holy war, and referred the matter to the National Council, which decided to send an envoy to India to offer an explanation and stop the fighting.

After taking exception to the aeroplane attacks on Kabul and Jellalabad, the Ameer emphasises that he does not desire old friendships to be broken or that bloodshed should lead to perpetual enmity. He affirms his Government desires an honourable and dignified peace, and suggests that delegates be appointed to conclude peace at earliest date.

In reply the Viceroy expresses pleasure at learning that the Ameer is sincere.

anxious for the cessation of fighting, but gives an explicit recital of the news of Afghan hostility, and violation of British territory, and reminds Amanulla of the chance he gave him at the eleventh hour. However, actuated by knowledge of his inexperienced youth and mindful of our obligations to his late father, Lord Chelmsford agrees to an armistice provided: (1) That all Afghan troops are withdrawn from the frontier to 20 miles from the nearest British forces; (2) That the British forces remain where they are, continuing all military precautions, but to take no offensive action; (3) Aircraft will not bomb Afghan forces, but are to have the freedom of air vision.

The Viceroy proposed that the Afghans return unhurt any aircraft or air-men forced to descend within Afghan limits. The Ameer is to inform all tribes that he asked for the cessation of fighting, and forbid aggressive action by them against the British. The Viceroy emphasises leniency of terms, and invites the Ameer to accept them. If he does so General Barrett will arrange a meeting of Afghan Generals to sign the armistice, then selected officers will discuss the final terms of peace. If the Ameer refuses to agree to the terms the consequences will rest on him, as unlimited resources of British can only mean one thing.—(Reuter's Special Service.)

Simla, June 4.—The Wazirs are believed to be looting Nadir Khan's transport.

The situation in Tochi Valley is more quiet. The tribal Lashkars are dwindling, and the total of scattered parties remaining is estimated at 1,500. Bodies of Mahsuds and Sherannis are reported to be invading the Derajat border west of Dera, but Ismail Khan's column has moved to meet them.

There is no change on the Dacca front, save for occasional sniping north of Kadul River.

The people of Kaffiristan, it is reported, recently organised a raid, and looted

5,010 head of live stock from the Afghans in the Asmar district.

Sadar Abdul Qudus, whom the Ameer sent to Kandahar to take command in Southern Afghanistan, arrived at Debrai, 18 miles from Chaman, with a body of Afghan troops. He has written General Barrett, saying he has received from Kabul orders regarding the cessation of fighting.

A similar message has been received from Nadir Khan. Both commanders have been informed that provided they do not remain in British territory, and do not engage in hostilities, we will suspend operations pending acceptance of our conditions by the Ameer.—(Reuter's Special Service.)

Simla, June 8.—The risings in southern Waziristan are spreading from Tochi.

After Nadir Khan's advance focussed on Jandola, an advanced British post, Kabsud Lashkars interrupted the communications with our nearest post at Kirgi. Jandola, though not heavily attacked, was seriously threatened. The tribes, confident of its fall, attempted to open negotiations, but our garrison was firm.

This, together with our punitive measures at Miranshah and the failure of the Mahsuds and Wazirs to make an impression on our posts at Murtagh and on the Dersjat border, disillusioned the tribesmen. Nevertheless, Jandola is not an easy proposition.

Our aeroplanes, which are combining bombing with reconnaissances, report a decrease in the number of tribal Lashkars. The situation is now regarded as easier.—(Reuter's Special Service.)

Simla, June 3.—The heights south of Thal, on the left bank of the Kurram River, have been cleared of the enemy.

The Afghan troops are reported to have retired from Biland Khel, on the right bank of the river, but the hill called Khapiango, opposite Thal on the other side of the river, is held by a force of Afghan irregulars with guns. We des-

troyed one of these guns by a direct hit.

A large body of tribesmen is reported to have collected on the hills north-west of Thal.

The situation in Miranshah is much improved. In the fighting on Sunday in this district the enemy suffered some 100 casualties, about 30 being killed.

There is no change in the situation on the Derejal border, where there are still some Wazir and Mahsud Lashkars.

The report from Quetta states that our aeroplanes effectively bombed the enemy camp at Dabrai, 15 miles from Chaman.—(Reuter's Special Service.)

Publisher's Notice.

Owing to a breakdown we were unable to publish our issue of last Friday's. In this issue we have joined two numbers. We crave the indulgence of our readers for any inconvenience they may have been put to.

The Indian Unrest.

NO SYMPATHY WITH AFGHANS

Loyalty of Army and Police

GANDHI'S CAMPAIGN FAILS.

London, May 30.—A statement from the India Office says that the British Raj if considering the withdrawal of martial law in five proclaimed districts. There has been no indication of sympathy with the Afghan aggression, which had the effect of rallying all the martial and rural classes in the Punjab to side with the Government.

The Indian army and police remain absolutely staunch throughout the Punjab villages, and except for disorderly elements the Punjab villages were not affected by "Satyagraha," as the movement is largely described, especially, in northern India, on account of its violent character. Gandhi's attempt to revive the day

of mourning and to close the shops in Bombay did not succeed.

Bengal, Madras, Bihar, Orissa, Assam, the United Provinces, and Central Provinces remained perfectly tranquil.—(Renter's Special Service.)

THE AMRITSAR ROITS.

Death Sentences for Bank Murders

London, June 1.—In the Amritsar National Bank murder cases in connection with the recent disturbances there, 20 persons have been sentenced to death. The Ameer's letter asking for cessation of hostilities has reached Simla.—(Renter's Special Service.)

ASIATIC TRADING.

Transvaal Council's Protest.

Pretoria, May 24 (Reuter).—In the Provincial Council to-day, Dr. Nathan moved: "That this Council, having learned with great apprehension that it is intended to validate illegal registration of a large number of companies formed for the purpose of holding land on behalf of Asiatic shareholders, thereby evading the provisions of the existing laws, urges upon the Parliament to the Union not to pass any measure having the effect of such validation."

To this Advocate Pirow moved: "That the Council emphatically protests against the half-hearted provisions of the present Asiatic bill before Parliament, and is of opinion that the only satisfactory solution is the immediate restriction of Asiatic business to the existing locations and the ultimate repatriation of all Asiatics."

Mr. Pirow said that in the Krugersdorp area in 1902 there were 14 Asiatic traders, whereas to-day there were 251. He recognised that if the amendment were carried it was taking a very important step in inter-Imperial policy and, international status; it might even cause trouble in India, but the Nationalists had nothing to

do with what happened in India.

The Rev. Mr. Hattingh said that when the Nationalists came into power they would repatriate all Asiatics, even those born here.

Dr. Nathan deprecated the introduction of controversial matter. His motion was most moderate, and merely asked that the existing law be maintained.

On a division Mr. Pirow's amendment was rejected by 28 votes to 10, and Dr. Nathan's motion, with an amendment addendum, proposed by Dr. Adam, "and further protest against the legalisation of all licences granted to Asiatics in townships or proclaimed land up to May 1, 1919," was unanimously carried.

Transvaal Indians' Protest.

Appeal to Governor-General.

Johannesburg, May 29 (Reuter).—There were about 2,000 Indians present at the open-air mass meeting this afternoon to protest against the proposed legislation.

The Chairman of the British Indian Association, who presided, in the course of his speech, said the crisis through which they were passing was one of the most momentous in the whole of their history. He need not go into details of the disabilities with which the community was threatened. To sum up the situation in a way they would best understand, he said the new law stamped British Indians of the Transvaal as pariahs. It reaffirmed in cold, calculated, unmistakable language that they, because they were British, Indians, were inferior not only to their European fellow-subjects, but inferior to any kind of European. It told them that once more in the history of the Transvaal they were to be branded as undesirables and to carry the mark of helotage. They appealed to his Excellency the Governor-General to exercise the powers vested in him, and to veto this measure. They appealed to him in the name of justice, of

fair play, and of righteousness. They appealed to him in the name of India and the Empire. They appealed to him in the name of the dead and maimed sons of India who had laid down life, limb, and health to assist the Empire during the great crisis through which she had just passed, and they prayed his Excellency, also, that dishonour should not be brought upon the name and fair fame of the Imperial Government, as surely they must be brought if the measure received the Imperial assent. To make such a return to even the humblest of Indians' children after the sacrifices of life and treasure that India had made could only be a stain upon the fair fame of the Empire.

The resolutions passed included one of protest against any further disabilities being imposed and for the removal of existing disabilities, and another appealed to the Governor-General on the lines mentioned by the chairman.

The Chairman also said, in the course of his address, that if, however, as they confidently hoped would not be the case, the Imperial sanction should be granted to the proposed legislation, they there assembled solemnly vowed that they would resist its enforcement by every constitutional means. The responsibility was entirely on the Government whether the Indians would be compelled for their very self-preservation and maintenance of their self-respect, to take extreme measures. They realised the seriousness of the step and all that it involved.

To Subscribers.

All subscribers whose subscriptions are in arrear are hereby requested to kindly forward same without further delay. It is unnecessary to state that by so doing they will enable us to continue our work without hindrance. In these days, when prices are ruling high in the market, it is no easy matter to run a journal; and with subscriptions being long overdue and unpaid one could well imagine the difficulties that have to be weekly overcome. We hope this intimation will not be overlooked.

The Asiatic Amendment Bill.

Discussion in Parliament

Gandhi-Smuts Settlement.

CLASSEN welcomed Mr. Malan's movement of a Commission. He deplored, however, that the Indians had nothing towards the upbuilding of Africa, and he would therefore vote against provision of the Bill to operate in 1914.

PAPENFUS, replying to Mr. Malan, said he did not agree that the Government if agreed to, would affect Indians who had not been aware of the Gandhi agreement, because he considered every Indian was aware of the settlement.

Mr. BEZUIDENHOUT said that in coming to the bill, they would be leaving rights illegally required. The Gandhi agreement had been respected by the Government, and should be respected by the Indians.

Mr. DUNCAN said he did not recall the Smuts-Gandhi agreement as an agreement or an assertion that no more licences should be obtained after 1914. The agreement was a protective agreement, under which an undertaking was given that the law should be adhered to with due respect of vested rights, and that the Gold Law would not be put into force against the Indian community. The matter of 1914 or 1919 was a very small one in comparison with the greater question, which was at issue. If the amendments on the paper were carried, most serious interference with the Indians would result. He urged the Government should not step into a matter of the kind without the fullest and most careful inquiry. He was not looking at the matter from the Imperial point of view, but speaking from a South African point of view. He feared that by accepting the amendments, South Africa would find itself in a very serious position from which it would be extremely difficult to extricate themselves.

Sir ABE BAILEY said he did not recall Mr. Malan or Mr. Duncan realising the matter in the country or in the House. He was quiet in favour of the Commission, and he hoped would sit very soon. Referring to Mr. Merriman, who, he said, made a personal and factious attack on him last night, Sir Abe said he could remember ever having made a mistake. He had voted against any measure proposed by Mr. Merriman. As for his (Sir Abe's) advocacy of Krugersdorp, he said that Krugersdorp had done much towards bringing about a sound Indian policy

in South Africa. He was opposed to the Indian because he was underselling the white man; so that there was hardly a white trader left in Natal or on the East Coast from Aden southwards. If people went to Natal they would find Natal almost an Indian reserve, an Indian dependency, and if this invasion was allowed to go on, the position would become entirely serious. At the next elections the cry of the Indian policy would undoubtedly be raised, as the Transvaal was groaning under the Indian invasion. All parties were asking the Government to take steps, and even the Provincial Council of the Transvaal, the only body through which the Transvaal public could make itself heard, was urging that steps should be taken, and that the steps should be more drastic than those proposed in the bill, because it was felt that the Indians were eating the vitals out of the country and out of the inhabitants of the country. For that reason he appealed to the House to pass the proposed amendment.

Col. CRESWELL said he was going to vote for the bill. If the Government was going to adopt a policy of making this country a white country he would welcome it, but the Government was willing to allow coloured labour to be brought in. He did not think that General Smuts had any right to make the agreement with Mr. Gandhi. It seemed to be an arbitrary proceeding to deprive people of rights that the municipalities had given them with their eyes open without giving them compensation.

On Mr. Papenfus's amendment fixing the operation of the Act as from July 7, 1914, instead of the 1st inst., Sir A. Bailey challenged a division, whereupon the amendment was negatived by 49 votes to 37. The minority consisted of the Nationalists, together with Messrs. Sampson, Madeley, Oosthuizen, Mayer, Papenfus, B. I. J. van Heerden, Cilliers, Claassen, Blackwell, Kolbe, Sir Abe Bailey, Messrs. Louw, Myburgh, Geldenhuis, Grobler (Barberton), Bezuidenhout, Pretorius, Rennie, McAllister, and Dr. McNeillie. Col. Crosswell, Mr. Boydell, and Mr. J. Stewart voted in the majority, as did all the Natal members. The clause as amended was adopted.

Col. COLLINS moved a new Clause 2, whereby the authorities in the Transvaal, who had the issuing or authorising of trading licences, might, without reason assigned, refuse the application of any

Asiatic who was not engaged in trade on the 1st inst. He urged that there was a danger that unless they closed the door now the Indians, being unable to obtain licences on the Reef, would gravitate to the country districts.

The sitting was suspended.

The House resumed in Committee on the Asiatics (Land and Trading) amendment Bill.

Capt. RENNIE moved a series of amendments to Clause 2 prohibiting companies in which Asiatics hold a controlling interest, from acquiring land after the 1st of this month. He proposed that such prohibition should be confined to companies formed since July, 1914, and that the prohibition should not apply to the ownership of property acquired since July, 1914, and that companies which had acquired land since July, 1914, should dispose of such land within two years, under pain of compulsory liquidation. Capt. Rennie, in explaining his motion, said his object was to bring the position back to what it was in 1914, when the Smuts-Gandhi agreement was arrived at. It was true that the agreement did not deal with Indian companies, but it was since that agreement that land had become possessed by Indian companies, which unquestionably was an evasion of the law. He commented on the fact that land held by Indians deteriorated the value of surrounding land, which degenerated into something of the nature of a location.

Mr. NATHAN moved an amendment to Capt. Rennie's third amendment so as to make it apply to companies which had acquired land contrary to the law of 1885, which forbade the holding of land by Indians.

Mr. ALEXANDER opposed the amendment, as he saw no reason for the liquidation of such companies. How would the House justify such action if the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court held that the companies had acted in their right?

Mr. DE WET said he would like to remain within the four corners of the compromise. He pointed out that the law of 1885 said that it would be unlawful for Indians to hold property, but it did not say what would happen if they did get property. The Minister, proceeding, said that he had absolutely no sympathy with the companies which were at present still trying to get property. He moved a further amendment to that of Capt. Rennie, thereby requiring Asiatic companies which acquire land after May, 1919 (instead of July, 1914), to dispose of their holdings in the terms specified.

Mr. ALEXANDER complained that those members who were opposed to the

Indians had departed from the compromise.

To meet Mr. Alexander's objection Mr. ROTH moved a still further amendment leaving it to the Courts to decide the period within which such property should be disposed of.

Mr. NATHAN pointed out that this would make the provision more stringent.

Mr. BLACKWELL contended that it could not be called unfair to deprive Indians of what they had acquired in violation of Law 3 of 1885, and the Smuts-Gandhi agreement.

Mr. BISSET argued that the Government must have been aware of the existence of these Asiatic companies since 1914. The decision of Judge Ward in 1916, moreover, was that these companies were legal. He denied that there had been a breach of the Smuts-Gandhi agreement that Mr. Blackwell alleged, or that General Smuts intended to recognise only vested rights existing in 1914.

Mr. ROTH moved his amendment in a revised form, thereby providing that any company which acquired fixed property since the 1st inst. should dispose thereof within two years from the commencement of the Act, or within such further period as might be fixed by a competent Court, and on its failure to do so such fixed property might be sold by the order of a competent Court.

Mr. ALEXANDER said there was nothing in the Smuts-Gandhi agreement with reference to companies holding land, although such companies were in existence at the time.

Sir ABE BAILEY said he could not understand Mr. Alexander's warm defence of the Indians. That attitude would not do the hon. member any good, and he drew the attention of the House to the fact that Mr. Alexander had been a member of a Select Committee of the Cape House in 1908, which had come to the conclusion that the Indian shopkeepers were ousting other shopkeepers, including the Malays and coloured people, and that their methods were open to criticism. He hoped that Mr. Rooth would recognise the feeling of the House, as expressed by yesterday's divisions, and that feeling was that the Indians were not going to be allowed to throttle the white people of this country. He moved an amendment to the effect that companies registered before 1914 should not be allowed to acquire further property.

The CHAIRMAN pointed out that this was already included in the other amendments.

Sir ABE BAILEY withdrew his amendment, and concluded by saying that the Indians appeared to be awake at night, thinking out schemes how to evade the law.

Capt. Rennie and the Minister of

Justice withdrew their amendments.

Capt. RENNIE, however, moved a further amendment substituting July 1, 1914, for July 1, 1919.

Mr. ROTH moved an amendment to Sir Abe Bailey's amendment, under which Indians would not be allowed to hold mortgages on property otherwise than as security for a bona fide loan or investment in the ordinary course of business.

Sir Abe Bailey agreed to this, and withdrew the second part of his amendment relating to a controlling interest on businesses.

The above amendment was agreed to.

On the original provision in the bill being put (to the effect that the clause should not apply to the ownership of fixed property acquired by Asiatic companies before the 1st inst.) this was adopted as against Capt Rennie's amendment fixing the date as July, 1914. The voting was 60 to 22.

On Mr. Rooth's rider as to the disposal of land acquired since May 1, 1919, being put, it was adopted by 53 votes to 29, and Capt. Rennie's amendment that the date should be July 1, 1914, was negatived.

The bill was reported with amendments, the consideration of which was set down for Wednesday.

Notes on Parliamentary Discussion

The *Natal Mercury's* parliamentary correspondent writes:—

Capetown, May 15.—The feature of the sitting has been a long and interesting discussion on the report of the Select Committee with regard to the disabilities of British Indians in the Transvaal. The House is evidently divided into two parties, one of which accepts the report as a fair compromise, while the other accepts the report with a proviso, namely, that vested rights of British Indians shall be respected as they stood in 1914 at the time of the Smuts-Gandhi agreement. As to business licences and trading sites acquired, whether by leave or purchase, since that date, the party referred to decline to fall in with the recommendation of the Select Committee that these, too, should be recognised. Mr. Alexander and Mr. Duncan were the chief spokesmen of the first party, while Sir Abe Bailey led the other. The difference between the two parties is limited. It appears to be a matter of 71 businesses—not enough in Mr. Duncan's opinion to make it worth while that we should expose ourselves as a European community to a colourable, if not absolutely probable accusation of having gone back on our word. Mr. Drew

developed Mr. Duncan's arguments by inquiring if it was worth while for the sake of 71 businesses—"a little thing" Mr. Duncan had called them—to give pretext to Indian agitators here for stirring up trouble in India, and thus embarrassing the Imperial Government. It would be suicidal, thought Mr. Drew, to allow unrestricted Asiatic competition, and hardly less unwise to encourage overseas complications by appearing anxious to break away from our bond. Mr. Alexander thought there was a possibility in the desire to be just to the Asiatic of becoming unjust to the European. The Bill giving effect to the report was read a second time without opposition, but there will evidently be a sharp debate in committee on the question of the new business. Probably the bill will pass in toto, but on the condition stipulated for by Dr. Davis, that this is positively the last validation of debatable trading rights of Asiatics, and the lawyers give the assurance that the bill in that respect is watertight.

The vote on the Asiatic bill having been taken, the House for a third time considered the question of going into Committee of Ways and means on the taxation proposals. Mr. Oliver took occasion to support the claim of the alluvial diggers to be exempted from export tax. He did so quite composedly, having the feeling, as he said, that the cause was virtually won. Mr. Orr got the opportunity soon after 10 o'clock to reply on the debate, and remarked that he would be glad to knock off the duties provided he was guaranteed a revenue of six millions from Customs. Regarding Mr. Baxter's demand for bringing under Excise the brandies employed to fortify wines, he was obdurate. Such brandies, he said, were exempted everywhere in the world. On the point of the export tax he referred to undefined economic authorities who, he said, he had consulted before deciding to apply the impost to the alluvial diggers. Their advice was, he said, that the buyers would pay and the diggers escape. An amusing passage occurred between Mr. Orr and some of the Nationalists, whom he rallied on having supposed that the diggers would be simple enough to let the buyer score both ways—taking 10 per cent. off his price when he acquired the diamonds from the producers and adding 10 per cent. thereto in passing them on to the consumers.

If the majority of the House went so far with the Minister as not to believe that the buyers could collect the tax twice, the ejaculations of many revealed their conviction that he was able at least, to leave the burden of it on the digger. Mr. Orr entered into various arguments to

prove that the tax could not affect producers, none of which appeared to alter opinions. Col. Creswell, incidentally was called to order by the Speaker for interrupting expressions of dissent from beyond the gangway against the wall of which he was leaning, with arms resting in its top. This little incident had an amusing effect on the House, without detracting from the Colonel's composure. Mr. Orr concluded with the intimation that he could not see his way to modify his export tax as proposed, the objectors had to be content therewith, pending their chance to renew opposition in committee.

Eventually Mr. Baxter's amendment was withdrawn, and the motion for the House to go into committee was agreed to, the committee stage being set down for to-morrow. The House rose at 10.45.

Capetown, May 21.—The struggle which took place on Thursday last over the question of Asiatic trading licences was resumed this evening in Committee. A good deal of warmth at times characterised the discussion, particularly in the course of some exchanges between Mr. Blackwell and Mr. Alexander. The first-named of the two members laid down the position that the British Indians lost, for practical purposes, any trading rights they possessed in the Transvaal under the Volksraad Besluit of 1886. This resolution, he considered, shut them up to trading in assigned locations or bazaars. Mr. Alexander, in reply, said that Sir Jas. Rose-Innes read the Besluit to apply, not to the business places, but only the residences of the Asiatics. As to the Gold Law of 1908, which is generally understood as barring the occupation or ownership of land by Asiatics in proclaimed gold areas, Mr. Alexander further showed that Mr. De Villiers assured the Imperial Government in 1908, he being then Attorney-General of the Transvaal, that there was nothing in the Gold Law which took away any right or privilege possessed at that time by any coloured person. Sir Abe Bailey complained that the bill recommended by the Select Committee had not the two-sidedness which was necessary to a compromise; it gave everything to the Asiatics, who, in his opinion, gave up nothing. Mr. Roeth, the chairman of the Select Committee, represented, on the other hand, that they gave up a good deal, since from the present time onwards the bill would deprive them of the right never hitherto disallowed, of taking out new licences. "Only existing licence-holders and their successors in the same town" are henceforth to be recognised in terms of the bill.

debate is still being eagerly raged over the trading rights of Asiatics in the Transvaal. The Minister of Justice, speaking this evening, referred to a shoal of telegrams which he had received on the subject—most of them telegrams of protest against the passing of the bill now before the House. It seemed to Mr. De Wet that the persons who saw the bill to be dangerous to the European traders could not know what its provisions were. He described its effect as restrictive inasmuch as it would prevent the issue of any new licences to Asiatics within the gold areas.

It may assist the public comprehension of the question to make clear what is and is not being contested in this debate. In the first place nobody proposes to interfere with business and trading rights or with any fixed property whatever which belonged to Asiatics in the Transvaal at the time of the Smuts-Gandhi agreement. Secondly, a considerable section of those led by Sir Abe Bailey, whom Mr. Blackwell conspicuously and ably supported, have objected to the recognition of licences and land purchases of a date less remote than the above-mentioned agreement. The Committee of the Whole House decided this afternoon against the view of this party, agreeing by 49 votes to 37 that all business and purchases of fixed property by Asiatics up to the 1st of the present month should hold good. Thirdly, though the clause in the bill which disqualified Asiatics from acquiring land on and after the 1st inst., will not get the votes of all the members of the House, it is not only certain to pass, but will most probably do so without a division. The device by which the Asiatics have purchased as companies is here chiefly aimed at. Fourthly, there remains the question of the Asiatics trading in the Transvaal outside the gold areas. Are these persons to continue to be eligible for licences? Col. Commandant Collins has on this point submitted an amendment, which members are discussing while these words are being written. He proposes that the licence-issuing authorities—a phrase which includes Municipalities and Government officials such as Receivers of Revenue—shall be empowered to refuse, first, any application of an Asiatic for a new licence; and secondly, the transfer of an existing licence to an Asiatic. The amendment specially stipulates that the disclosure of the fact that the applicant is an Asiatic shall count in law as adequate justification for the refusal. Commandant Collins has given his amendment the last-named feature because municipalities which in the past have refused licences to Asiatics avowedly and solely on the ground of their race have been held by the Courts to have acted

ultra-vires and have been compelled to issue the licences.

Sir Abe Bailey had also an amendment, the effect of which, if adopted, would have been to put the coloured person of South African origin resident in the gold areas in the same position as the Asiatic, but this was ruled by Mr. Speaker to be outside the scope of the bill, which relates exclusively to Asiatics. Yet another amendment has been put on the paper by Sir Abe, one by which he aims to block the practise of white men who become nominal purchasers of land, the real buyers being Asiatics, to whom they pass a mortgage bond for the amount of the purchase. It is probable that this proposal will be voted on this evening. Sir Abe desires yet further to prevent companies of Asiatics from transferring any land to any other company in which a controlling interest is held by one or more Asiatics. If the voting on the question of the interests acquired subsequent to July, 1914, is any index, these amendments are not likely to be adopted. The Minister of Justice has expressed himself strongly against the withholding of new licences outside the gold areas. In his opinion it is a panic amendment, promoted by the delusion that hundreds of Asiatics are walking about the Transvaal with capital ready in their pockets wherewith to start new businesses. One effect of passing it would be, he has remarked, to imperil the bill, the passing of which is necessary, as he went on to show, in order to stop the acquisition of land by Asiatic syndicates. He read to members some official telegrams received by him to-day, giving the information that Asiatics had registered nine different new properties since the first day of the month. The Commandant's amendment would further have the effect of preventing an Asiatic legitimated by the bill and by previous laws in the ownership of a given property from transferring it to another of his race.

Mr. De Wet, before concluding his speech, reinforced an appeal made by the Acting Premier in the afternoon that the House would allow further inquiry before widening the scope of the bill so as to cut off the rights of British subjects not only in the gold areas, but throughout the Transvaal. Mr. Malan had adumbrated a Commission; Mr. De Wet intimated his preference for a Select Committee as being a kind of body in better touch with Parliament, fair to all parties in its composition and likelier to frame reports which would afterwards pass substantially into law. It was Mr. Malan's meaning that the inquiry, to the external form of which he is, I find, indifferent, should embrace the Asiatic question as

affecting the whole of the Union. There appears to be a growing feeling in the House that no local or piecemeal settlement can be satisfactory, and may be mischievous. A point which Colonel Creswell emphasised is the necessity of making the prohibitions of the bill incapable as far as they go of being evaded. He also demanded the assurance that Asiatics cannot to-day drift into the Transvaal. The Acting Premier immediately replied guaranteeing the Colonel that the bill absolutely precludes any extension of licences to Asiatics in the gold areas. On the second point—that of the alleged infiltration of Asiatics—Mr. Malan also replied that the existing law forbade their migration between the Provinces. Not only so, but he further stated that the Government would continue to administer this law exactly as it stood on the law book. An alternative policy which would, I gather, be acceptable to the movers of the amendments above referred to, is that of facing boldly the whole question of Asiatic trading and seeking a solution along the lines of national expropriation. There could be no outcry, it is thought, on the ground of injustice of such a scheme were carried through on reasonable terms, and the bill might be worth facing for the sake of the country's future. Commandant Collins has this idea in his mind, and Sir Abe Bailey endorses it, provisionally, as a constructive suggestion, which it may be worth the people's while to think about. There would be obvious difficulties—in giving such a policy a Union-wide application. The Cape has not wish to get rid of its Asiatic traders, and expropriation in Natal might be prohibitively dear, but in the two Northern Provinces the proposal above outlined might perhaps be practicable.

Capetown, May 23.—The bill dealing with the business licences and land purchases of Asiatics passed this afternoon through Committee, no very material alterations being added to it. Cupts. Blackwell and Rennie with Sir Abe Bailey tried

hard for the dislodgment of all Asiatic companies from land bought by them since July, 1914; but the Committee of the whole House decided by 53 votes against 29 that their amendment to the effect indicated should be retrospective no further than the first of this month. Much argument had to be heard before the vote could be taken, but it did not increase very greatly information on the subject, what was already common property. Mr. Alexander, however, looked up and read to the Committee the salient part of the judgment of Mr. Justice Ward on the question whether or not a company of Asiatics can legally hold land. In so doing he added, doubtless to the knowledge of some, and refreshed the memory of others. Sir Abe Bailey for the other side of the argument quoted the finding of a Select Committee of 1908, as to the killing effect of Asiatic competition on the businesses of colonised men and Malays. Judge Ward's finding it appeared was briefly this, that a Chairman might not own land (some Chinese claims as it happened were, before him), but that a company of Chinamen were not a Chinaman. The law he concluded did not prevent Asiatics from purchasing land.

An amendment was passed blocking the nominal tenure of land by a white man who was merely the dummy for an Asiatic owner. This alteration had Sir Abe Bailey for its author, but the Committee at the same time adopted a way proposed by Mr. Rooth whereby the bonafide loan of Asiatics on landed security were safeguarded. Mr. Rooth's fidelity to the compromise unanimously arrived at in the Select Committee of which he was chairman, and his skill in disarming or reducing opposition have been favourably remarked throughout the House; some members probably found that the test rather severe, and one of them, Mr. Jonhert broke down under it. He certainly abandoned his fellow committeemen on several divisions, doubtless under strong pressure from the Nationalist Party, to which he belongs, but he recorded no opposing vote against them.

Unquestionably the Bill would have been changed much more for the worse against the Asiatics, but for the strong and unswerving support which the Government lent to it. Mr. De Wet's utterances on several critical occasions had a manliness and definitiveness which commanded the respect of those who were in conflict with his views. He and his Ministerial colleagues had a twofold motive; first they felt that until the people affected had been given an opportunity to state their case before a court of inquiry it would be unfair to extend the scope of the Bill so as to take away the existing rights of Asiatics outside the gold areas. This has now been done in respect both of licences and land purchases as from the first of this month; secondly, they had to regard the difficulty which would be caused to the British Government by possible trouble in India arising out of trouble created here.

Alarm In Transvaal

Conference to be Held

Johannesburg, May, 22 (Reuter).—The Potchefstroom Chamber of Commerce has sent the following telegram to the Minister of Justice and other members of the Assembly: "We are organising a Conference on the Asiatic question, representing all the Western Transvaal towns, to be held here next week, and we desire to emphasise the increasing seriousness of the position, which is rapidly becoming a matter of life and death for a large number of the European population. We protest against the legalising of evasions of the law since 1914, and ask that the restrictive provisions of the bill to be passed by Parliament should apply to the whole of the Transvaal, and not alone to mining areas, it being highly important that the transfer of licences or renewals to other business sites should be prevented throughout the Province. The least that can be done to check the menace to the whole of the white population is to ensure that no further licences be granted to Indians. The encroachments of recent years are having the most detrimental effect upon many towns, and it is feared that it is not generally realised by members of Parliament that the danger is even far more serious in country districts than in the large urban areas."

The shop assistants here are strongly opposing the grant of further trading licences to Asiatics, and at Potchefstroom they urge that their livelihood is in jeopardy and their occupation becoming a blind alley.

The Dharma Vir

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No. 16

THE AFGHAN WAR.

Simla, June 7.—There is no change north of Kabul River.

On the Dakka front, the Peshawar district mostly suffered from minor raids by Gataps and Hethis tribes living across the border.

Nadir Khan's withdrawal and the Ameer's request for the cessation of hostilities are having a good effect on the tribal situation. On the Khost border, Lashkars, composed of the Orakzal and Zaimukam clans, who collected east of the Kurram River, are now disappearing. The enthusiasm of the tribes in the Toinsi Valley is waning.

The trouble in South Waziristan has spread to Zhob, and led to risings among the Sheranuis in Mando Khel. The withdrawal of the outposts at Moghal Khot and Mirali Khel were carried out under great difficulties. The garrisons of these places concentrated at Fort Sandeman, in order to be ready to deal effectively with any trouble in that locality, also with the assistance of loyal troops to prevent the disorders in Shentari from spreading any further. Sheranuis and Mahsuds twice attacked Braband on the Derajat border, but failed to capture it. An attempt to capture Chendhwani was repulsed.—(Reuter's Special Service.)

Simla, June 10.—Reuter's special correspondent at Peshawar says that numerous reports are to hand from Jellalabad to the effect that increasing unrest prevails among the Afghan army. There is no discipline at Kabul, where the people agree that power rests in the hands of the soldiers. The Kabulis are afraid to discuss events, and it is impossible to discover what is happening in the Royal Palace.—(Reuter's Special Service.)

Simla, June 9.—Reuter's Simla correspondent reports that Afghan troops are still active on the Polwas border. Nadir Khan has reached Matur with the Afghan troops and tribesmen he incited to rise.

The Lashkars at Derajat are reported

to be dispersing, but Azai, a post 15 miles north of Tank, has been attacked by Bhattannis and Mahsuds. The situation at Zhob has improved, but gangs of tribesmen are still about in the localities which remain unsettled.—(Reuter's Special Service.)

Simla, June 10.—The Afghans, who were dispersed near the villages, are reported to be returning in small parties to Jellalabad since the air raids ceased.

Afridis and other bad characters have established themselves at Kajari, south of Jomrud, and have made some minor raids into the Peshawar district.

The withdrawal of Afghan troops from Puiwar has commenced, presumably on receipt of orders to cease fighting.

Our Tochi column is continuing punitive measures against offending Waziri villages. A special column reached Jandola yesterday encountering no opposition. The garrison was well, and had sustained only a few casualties. They severely punished the enemy with rifle and gun fire.—(Reuter's Special Service.)

Simla, June 15.—Reuter's correspondent states that the Hazara, Peshawar, Bandu, Nonat, and Berajal areas are reported quiet, and the situation at Zhob is satisfactory, except for minor disturbances between sections of the Kheran tribe.

Quetta reports that the Afghan camp is pitched at Murgha, eight miles north-east of Chamaac.

Reuter's special correspondent at Peshawar, telegraphing on June 15, says a senior Afghan official, escorted by a couple of troopers, brought the Ameer's reply yesterday, through our lines at Dakka. The contents of the reply are not yet announced.—(Reuter's Special Service.)

Simla, June 13.—A force of 1,500 Mohmands has proceeded to Rasawal for the purpose of molesting our foraging parties.

Our aeroplanes have bombed the Drazindo-Sheranui country, which has since been evacuated by the enemy. An aeroplane visited Musa Khel, Lakuband, and Fort Sandeman, and helped to clear the situation at Zhob where, owing to telegraphs having been cut over a great area the post had been isolated.

On the 7th column of Gurkha Militia proceeding from Mina Bazaar to Fort Sandeman, it was attacked by tribesmen and sustained slight casualties. Two thousand tribesmen attacked a defence post in Fort Sandeman vicinity, but were dispersed, sustaining casualties.

An action is reported to have occurred at Musa Khel. The enemy withdrew after cutting off the water supply.

The Afghans are entreneing themselves in a position on the Taklit Hill commanding the Kandahar Road.—(Reuter's Special Service.)

POSITION IN THE PUNJAB

Martial Law Withdrawn.

Simla, June 9.—The Viceroy, on the recommendation of the Lieutenant-Governor, with the approval of the General Officer Commanding, abolished martial law in the Punjab (all areas) to-day, and in the Lahore Civil Cantonment on Wednesday, except on railway lands, for military reasons.

The village of Sodber, south of Peshawar, which was suspected of harbouring bad characters, was surrounded by cavalry and several arrests made.—(Reuter's Special Service.)

Indian Unrest.

Twenty Condemned to Death.

London, June 7.—Reuter's Simla correspondent reports that 20 persons, accused of murdering British bank officials at Amritsar in the recent disturbances, were court-martialled and sentenced to death.—(Reuter's Special Service.)

THE DHARMA VIR.

Friday, June 20 1919

THE ASIATIC AMENDMENT BILL.

Since the first part of this article was written, the Asiatic Land and Trading Bill has been amended in the Senate in so far as the issue of new licences is concerned. This amendment has been adopted by the Legislative Assembly in order not to endanger the bill. Notwithstanding this amendment, the Bill is still unacceptable to our community. The provision rendering it illegal for Indian Limited Liability Companies to own land is an undoubted interference with an existing right, and, therefore, should never be accepted by Indians if they desire to remain as respectable citizens in this country. Once an Indian is admitted to enter the Province there must be no curtailment of his citizen rights as compared with another. South Africa is an integral part of the British Empire, and as such, is not justified in discriminating in a most humiliating manner against the people of another integral part. Furthermore, some consideration ought in humanity to be paid to the rights of the Colonial Born Indians who know no other home than South Africa. To deprive them of elementary human rights is most astounding and unjust. Even assuming that Mr. Gandhi was a party to an agreement constituting such deprivations, the Government must remember that there was a large section of the Indian population of South Africa which repudiated Mr. Gandhi's agreement at the time. Mr. Smuts, being cognisant of such repudiation, is seriously at fault for accepting Mr. Gandhi as the representative of the entire Indian population of South Africa. The Smuts-Gandhi agreement is therefore not binding on the people. For ourselves, we have no doubt that but for Mr. Gandhi's vague and inconclusive agreement we would not find ourselves in this situation to-day. During the discussion in the

Legislative Assembly, one responsible Minister said, that Mr. Gandhi had also agreed that there should be no enlargement of existing rights. This is a very serious statement spelling death and ruin to Indians. What right had Mr. Gandhi to bind the future actions of his countrymen we fail to understand! Notwithstanding this statement by a responsible minister, we find, no repudiation coming from the Gandhi Party in this country, whose reasoning powers appear to be clogged by blind and unreasoning admiration for a man who acted autocratically in dealing with our matters and brought us to such an impasse. Salvation will only come by wholesale repudiation of the Smuts-Gandhi Settlement.

RICE.

The mass meeting of last Sunday has not been held too early. The merchants, in their fiendish greed after wealth, have at last turned their profiteering proclivity towards the necessities of the poor class Indians. To sell rice which costs £1. 15s. 3d per bag at £3 10s 0d is something unbearable and exasperating. When the earnings of the poor class Indian is taken into consideration the action of the profiteer becomes nothing but a scandalous crime of the most aggravated and extraordinary nature. It is most imperative now than hitherto, in view of the prevalence of Influenza, which needs ample nourishment for successful combating, to take immediate action. For the last three months the quantity of rice arriving in this country averaged 22,000 bags per month. In pre-War days the average was 25,000. The shortage, therefore, is not considerable and the moderate rise in price is unjustifiable.

High Price of rice.

Local Indians' Protest.

Government Action Requested.

In connection with the shortage of supply and high price of rice, a mass meeting of Indians of Durban and district was held at the Royal Picture Palace, Victoria

Street yesterday afternoon, at 3 o'clock Mr. S. Emmamally presided over a fairly large gathering, and among other remarks said the inflation of the price of rice was due partly to the unfortunate and unavoidable famine in India, caused by a very poor crop and partly to the holding up and controlling of rice in this country by speculators. The letter received from the Collector of Customs that the importations of rice from India during the first three months of this year were 16,600 bags per month, shows only a shortage of about 5,000 bags per month. If the Government could assist them in getting the 5,000 bags referred to, the threatened famine could be stayed for at least a little while, or until such time that India was able to rise up to the occasion. Proceeding, the speaker said that a number of resolutions would be submitted for the consideration of the meeting, and he sincerely hoped that the speakers would use language of moderation when dealing with the various aspects of the question at issue.

The following resolutions were then put to the meeting and were unanimously carried:—

1. "Durban and district Indians assembled at mass meeting, whilst strongly protesting against the unwarranted rise in the price of rice and other Indian commodities, respectfully venture to request the Union Government to prevent the holding and controlling of rice by the speculators, and thus prevent undue and scandalous profiteering."

2. "This mass meeting of Durban and district Indians most respectfully beg to draw the attention of the Governor-General of India to the fact that, in view of the restrictions placed upon the exportation of rice, there is a famine in this country, and that unless the restrictions are either entirely removed or relaxed, the condition of the poor unfortunate Indians would be unbearable. This meeting ventures to think the Viceroy should look after the interests of the Indians abroad."

3. "That a committee of five men, consisting of Messrs. S. Emmamally, C.V. Pillai, R. M. Naidoo, V. S. C. Pather, and Leo. R. Gopaul, be appointed to interview the authorities in this connection."

The meeting terminated with a vote of thanks to the chairman, and also to Mr. Rawat for kindly placing the hall at the poorer class of the Indian community."

The Asiatic Amendment Bill.

Discussion in Parliament

Gandhi-Smuts Settlement.

Capetown, June 4 (Reuter).—On the House resuming this evening, consideration of the amendments on the Asiatic bill was continued.

Mr. MALAN (Acting Premier) appealed to Col. Collins to withdraw that part of Clause 2 providing that receivers of revenue could refuse the granting of new licences to Asiatics in areas outside the proclaimed areas. He pointed out that the question as affecting the matter beyond the proclaimed area had not been investigated by the Select Committee. Besides, this was the first time in any legislation of the Union, any of the community would be disqualified by name. He promised a full inquiry into the whole Indian question in the Union after the session, and trusted the clause would be withdrawn.

Sir ABE BAILEY said he regretted the appeal of the Minister, who was asking members to go back on the recent decision. Since the passing of the clause he had received large numbers of wires and letters from people he did not know at all, asking him to stand by the attitude he had taken up. The clause meant that the outside areas would be placed on the same basis as the gold areas. Everybody in the House agreed to stand by the 1914 agreement, and whether or not the word Asiatic had been mentioned the fact remained that it had to come some time.

Sir Abe proceeded to refer to Mr. Hamel's statement before the Select Committee that Mr. Polak, too, had understood that there would be no Asiatic immigration, but apparently the policy now was to hush up while the country was getting browner and browner. Sir Abe referred to the attitude of the extremists in India, whose real object was the overthrow of British rule in India. The Act-

ing Prime Minister now promised a Commission. Commissions had been going on since 1885, and all the while the Indianising of the towns of South Africa was going on. Very soon they might have Indians claiming the vote, and Indians would be setting in the bays like musical directors directing their supporters what to do. The members who now advocated the cause of the Indian were the same, who had given the coloured people the vote, with the result that at least 25 seats in the Cape were controlled by the coloured vote. In the towns they saw how the Indians had over-run everything, how they lived like ants in dozens in one house.

If they wished to keep South Africa a white country they must now put down their foot and put a stop to this Indianising of South Africa.

Col. COLLINS declined the Prime Minister's request to withdraw his clause, which he held was absolutely essential.

The clause on being put was agreed to without a division.

The Bill as amended was adopted.

The Bill was read a third time and sent to the Senate.

House of Assembly.

The House proceeded to consider the amendments made in Committee to the Asiatics bill.

Mr. ALEXANDER, on Clause 2, submitted that it was in direct conflict with Clause 1. Clause 1 laid it down that Asiatics at present having trading licences and their successors were allowed to trade, while Clause 2 laid it down that revenue officers could refuse to issue licences. He asked Mr. Speaker's ruling whether the clause was in order. He argued that every licence when it was granted was a new licence.

Col. COLLINS (Ermelo) held that

Clause 2 was quite in order, as it only referred to new licences. He submitted that where a transfer of a licence was concerned no new licence was involved.

Mr. NATHAN supported Col. Collins, and pointed out that there was a definition of the words "new licence," in the Liquor Law which pointed out that a new licence was a licence in respect of premises not licensed before.

Mr. SPEAKER said the House was not quite fair to Mr. Speaker, who should not be asked to interpret a law.

After having heard members on both sides, he was not prepared to rule, and left the matter in the hands of the House.

The sitting was suspended till 8 o'clock.

In the Senate.

Capetown, June 10 (Reuter).—In the Senate this afternoon, the Committee stage of the Asiatics (Land and Trading) Amendment bill was continued.

Considerable discussion took place on Clause 2, providing for the refusal of trading licences for Asiatics in any part of the Transvaal, some Senators entering a strong objection to the proposal.

The MINISTER OF JUSTICE, replying to the criticisms, said he hoped the question would be solved by just principles and not by panicky legislation by few telegrams. He (the Minister) did not ask himself what India or Canada or Australia was saying, but what was his duty towards South Africa. (Cheers.) He disclaimed the suggestion that the bill was class legislation. It simply continued the position laid down by the Republican Law of 1885.

Senator BREBNER hoped the clause would not be expanded. The bill did not take away any rights, and the longer the position continued the more difficult it would become.

Senator WHITE was of opinion that the power given to municipalities to refuse licences without assigning reason was unjust. He admitted, in reply to an interjection, that he had voted for it in the Transvaal, but he had now come to the conclusion that it was unfair. "Let hon. Senators appeal to their minds and for goodness sake," concluded Mr. White, "do not let it be said that this House ever passed a clause which constituted an injustice to the individual."

Senator WHITESIDE prophesied that if the clause were passed they would soon have another bill to tighten it up, because the definition of Asiatic in the Transvaal Act 36 of 1908, mentioned in the clause referred only to males, and thus there was nothing to prevent females taking out a licence. He opposed the clause as an in-

justice, and pointed out that the Indian trader in the country districts was there because he was supported by the farmer as the cheapest market.

On a division the clause was rejected by 18 votes to 7.

The bill then passed through Committee, and was reported.

What India Wants

Mrs. Besant's Vapourings

London, June 10.—Mrs. Annie Besant, who has recently arrived at London, leading an Indian deputation urging reform, in discussing the Indian unrest, states that the Indians do not want separation, only Home Rule.

She declares that the Indian revolutionary party was supported by German money, which has been used for many years to promote unrest. Even before the war money was spent freely on German propaganda, which was carried on largely by German missionaries. The first results were the revolutionary movements in the Punjab and Bengal. At present India, having no Home army or navy, is unable to defend herself, and could not reasonably expect Home Rule, but, given a chance, she could in 40 years be able to protect herself from invasion.

A Vedic Wedding

Banquet in Durban.

A beautiful Vedic Wedding took place at Hattingsprint on 7th June 1919. The contracting parties were Mr. S. D. Shanker of Durban and Miss Ramkor, daughter of Mr. C. Jevan of Hattingsprint. Mr. Bhawani Dayal officiated. Many congratulations were received.

A banquet was also held in Durban at the Tamil Institute. A large number of guests assembled and the banquet was a great success. Speeches were made by Mr. Meharchand Prabdyal, B. A. Megrajh, B. L. E. Sigamoney, J. M. Francis and others. Mr. Shanker suitably replied. Mr. Bhawani Dayal presided.

Another Wedding.

A very pretty wedding was solemnized at Hathorns Hill Pietermaritzburg on the 24th May, according to the Hindus, when Messrs. Munoo Mungal and Kuneo Mungal were joined in matrimony with Mr. E. G. David's Niece's Shri Mati, Chandrawati and Lakhpathi.

The bridegrooms are well known residents of Ladysmith, and are very

keen sportsmen. The Pandal, where the marriage ceremony was performed, was tastefully decorated with flowers, evergreens and flag bunting by Messrs. Ebrahim Seepee, Soobiah Moodley and Roberts. Prominent members of the community and guests from all parts of Natal, were present.

Many valuable wedding presents were received. The young couple's left for Ladysmith on Monday the 26th May by the 8. 25. A.M. train carrying with them the heartiest good wishes of a large circle of friends.

Mr. Tilak's Representation to the Peace Conference

To,

MONSIEUR GEORGES CLEMENCEAU, SENATOR, PRESIDENT OF THE PEACE CONFERENCE,

Paris.

LONDON, March 11. 1919.

Sir,

Under the Rule XI of the regulations promulgated by the Peace Conference and by virtue of the resolutions of the Indian National Congress quoted below, I have the honour to request that you will be pleased to place this representation before the Conference for favourable consideration.

2. I beg to assure you that all India has heard with unmixed gladness that "the Conference assembled to fix the conditions of Peace" includes India as a "belligerent Power with particular interests" entitled to be separately represented by two delegates in addition to "the representation of the British Empire by the panel system." But, unfortunately, under the existing autocratic system of Government, British India cannot be represented by a Minister responsible to the peoples. India may be politically divided into two parts: one composed of British India and the other of the Native States. His Highness the Maharaja of Bikanir has been selected and nominated by the Government of India to represent the Native States, and Sir S. P. Sinha (now Lord Sinha of Raipur) has been selected and nominated by the Government of India to represent British India; but this has been done without consulting the people of India, or obtaining their approbation. On this point the consensus of Indian opinion was faithfully expressed by the President of the Indian National Congress held at Delhi in December last, when he declared that "it will remain a matter of regret that British India will not be represented at this great Conference by a person appointed by the Government on the recommendation of the elected representatives of the people."

he Congress passed the following resolution:—

"That this Congress urges that in justice to India it should be represented by an elected representative or representatives to the same extent as the Self-governing Dominions, at any Conferences that may be held to deliberate or settle the terms of peace or reconstruction. In view of the shortness of time and in anticipation of the request being acceded to by His Majesty's Government this Congress elects as its representatives Lok. Bal Gangadhar Tilak, Mr. M. K. Gandhi, and Mr. Sayed Hasan Imam."

Upon the decision of the Peace Conference to concede separate representation to India, I addressed a letter to the Prime Minister of England, suggesting the formation of a panel of twelve persons elected by representative institutions in India to give effect to the decision of the Allied Powers and the wishes of the people of India. But the Secretary of State for India replied "that he is unable to support the request." In view of the great conflict of opinion between the Government and the people regarding the constitutional reforms proposed by Government and those demanded by the people, this refusal is very regrettable. Under the circumstances, I feel constrained to avail myself of the opportunity afforded by Rule XI to submit these observations for the consideration of the Conference. It is impossible to discuss the arguments in support of the people's demand in a brief letter; but I am ready and willing to appear before any person or committee to substantiate the reasonableness of the demands, or to furnish any information or explanation that may be required, provided passports are granted to me. As matter of fact, I applied for passport before the Indian National Congress resolution reached me, for the purpose of attending the proceedings of the Conference in the capacity of a journalist; but the British Government decided against me, upon the gratuitous assumption that "my wish to secure admission to the Conference as a visitor and spectator cannot be attained."

(To be Continued)

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No.17

Mr. Tilak's Representation To The Peace Conference.

To,
MONSIEUR GEORGES CLEM-
ENCEAU, SENATOR, PRESIDENT OF
THE PEACE CONFERENCE,
Paris.

LONDON, March 11, 1919.

Sir,

IMPORTANCE OF SOLUTION.

3. It is unnecessary for me to dwell upon the imperative importance of Solving the Indian questions for the purpose of ensuring the future Peace of the World and the progress of the people of India. India is self-contained, harbours no design upon the integrity of other States, and has no ambition outside India. With her vast area, enormous resources, and prodigious population she may well aspire to be a leading Power in Asia if not in the World. She could therefore easily be a powerful steward of the League of Nations in the East for maintaining the peace of the world and the stability of the British Empire against all aggressors and disturbers of the peace, whether in Asia or elsewhere. But with India politically enchained, it is impossible for her to occupy her proper place among the Nations of the world, or to develop and realise her potentialities, so as to be able to render decisive assistance to the League of Nations in enforcing the supreme object of its creation, viz., the Peace of the World. Apart from this consideration, India herself may become an apple of discord among the Great Powers of Europe, and there is every reason to anticipate that, in future, Europe will have keen competitors in Asia and in America, if not for the

conquest of India, at least for the produce of India, occasioning jealousies and rivalries culminating in wars. This will happen so long as India, has no power to determine her internal and commercial policy without that interference from Whitehall—an interference which is viewed with suspicion in India, in Europe, and in Asia. From the point of view of the peace of Asia, and from the point of view of the peace of the world, it is, therefore, absolutely necessary that India should be self-governed internally, and be made the bulwark of liberty in the East. There can be no doubt that such an objective is worthy of the highest and noblest statesmanship, accords with the principle of right and justice, and harmonises with the declared aspirations of the people of India.

4. Internally there can be no contentment or peace amongst a fifth of the population of the globe unless the people are free to carve out their own destiny in the same way as Canada, Australia and other British Dominions, while remaining a member of the family of free nations in the British Commonwealth. Indeed, there can be no real progress without liberty, all capacity for initiative is paralysed. Self-confidence is undermined. In countless invisible ways subjection demoralises nations and retards both their moral and material progress.

After this worldwide war for liberation of mankind from the menacing domination of Germany, and the dawn of a New order, it is superfluous for me to urge that no civilised nation should not be

governed by any other nation without its consent, upon theories of trusteeship propounded ostensibly for the benefit of the ward. India therefore demands as her birth-right the application of the principle of Self-Determination for the purpose of empowering her people to tackle and solve the complex problems of India according to the genius of her people. The task is beyond the capacity of aliens. However talented and benevolent they may be, governors, saturated with ideals of Western civilisation, without real and genuine sympathy with Indian civilisation, are unfit for, and should not undertake, the guidance and destiny of the great Indian people. The Indian National Congress and the All-India Muslim League, two political institutions recognised throughout India as the most representative spokesmen of British India, have preferred this demand in the following resolution passed at Delhi in December last:—

"In view of the pronouncement of President Wilson, Mr. Lloyd George and other British statesmen that to ensure the future peace of the world the principle of Self-Determination be applied to all progressive nations, be it resolved that this Congress claims the recognition of India by the British Parliament and by the Peace Conference as one of the progressive Nations to whom the principle of Self-Determination should be applied."

5. There can be no justification what;

ever for withholding the application of this principle to India. The plea of unfitness, usually advanced by ignorant people or vested interests, is untenable and untrue. The civilisation of India is admittedly much more ancient and venerable than that of Rome or Athens. British statesmen themselves have often declared that India was civilised centuries before the modern nations of Europe emerged from barbarism. Indian society has been held together for thousands of years without foreign aid or intervention. Peace, order, and good government existed in India for hundreds of years, and its annals compare favourably with any period of European history. Even democratic form of Government flourished in various parts of India centuries before Alexander the Great invaded Hindustan. All educated Indians passionately protest against the imputation of unfitness as a calumnious libel upon their incapacity for Self-Government on democratic principles. I am thoroughly convinced that the pressing problems of the poverty of India, physical degeneration, industrial regeneration, economic development, technical and primary education, and delicate questions of caste and custom can never be solved by men exclusively wedded to Western civilisation, but can be successfully surmounted by Indians alone. I submit Europeans are disqualified for the task; Indians alone are fit for it. The fitness of Indians is asserted by the Indian National Congress, and is recognised by the British Labour Party in resolutions which run as follows:—

"That this Congress decides that the people of India are fit for responsible Government, and repudiates assumption to the contrary in the (Montagu-Chelmsford report) on the Indian Constitutional Reforms."

"That this Congress... declares that nothing less than Self-Government within the British Empire can satisfy the Indian people, and by enabling to take its rightful place as a free Self-governing nation in the British Commonwealth strengthen the connection between Great Britain and India," (Indian National Congress, Delhi, December 1918.) That this Labour Party Conference endorses the policy of 'Home Rule for India,' believing that the time has arrived when our brothers in all parts of India are capable of controlling their own affairs equally along with South Africa, Australia, and other British Dominions, and hereby pledges itself to assist in every possible way to bring about this much-desired reform." (Nottingham Conference, January 23, 1918).

(To be Continued)

The Asiatic Amendment Bill.

Discussion in Parliament

Gandhi-Smuts Settlement.

The House proceeded to consider the Asiatics Amendment Bill as amended by the Senate, the latter body having omitted Clause 2, which extended the prohibition for the granting of new Asiatic licences throughout the Transvaal. (Clause 2 had been inserted on an amendment by Col. Collins.)

Mr. ROTH, in reviewing the position, pointed out that when the Select Committee inquired into the matter, witnesses and intending witnesses were informed that the question of licences beyond the Goldfields was not before the Committee. The clause was inserted in the House on an amendment by Col. Collins, but he (the speaker) considered it inadvisable that rights should be taken away from any section of the community without careful inquiry being made. It was not necessary to enter into the serious and complex problem of Asiatic trading, which, he urged, should be dealt with from the point of view of the whole Union. The Acting Prime Minister had announced the appointment of a Commission, and the Commission should have wide powers to go into this matter. He maintained that they should deal fairly with the Asiatics, and that they should not pass this clause, in view of the Select Committee. He was afraid that if it should be found impossible to concur in this amendment the bill would be dead.

The result would be that the law prohibiting the acquisition of land by Asiatic companies would remain as it was now, and instead of there being 370 such companies, as at present, there would be an additional 500 before the House sat again. In all the circumstances, he appealed with confidence to the House to concur in the Senate's amendment and omit this clause.

Mr. JOUBERT (Pretoria) contended that the clause was not strong enough,

as he would have preferred that licensing authorities should be obliged to refuse licences to Indians. In the past the Transvaal would certainly have refused to grant licences to Indians. He asked whether the sword of Imperial interference still hung over the country.

Col. COLLINS (Ermelo), who moved the insertion of the clause in the committee stage, said Mr. Rooth's argument left him very cold, but he realised that if the clause was passed the bill would be killed. He was not prepared to see the whole bill wrecked, and of the two evils he chose the lesser.

The Rev. Mr. VAN DER HORST (Wahmanstad), Mr. LE ROUX VAN NIEKERK (Waterberg), and the Rev. VORSTER opposed the deletion of the clause, and attempted the movement for the removal of the clause to the Government's consideration of Imperial interests.

Mr. SPEAKER pointed out that a joint sitting of the two Houses on this bill could not take place till next session.

Mr. DREW (Germiston) contended that in view of the Government's promise of a Commission it was not worth encountering the trouble that would arise if the clause was retained.

Mr. SCHURNIK (Lydenburg), while disagreeing with the decision of the Senate, was not willing to wreck the Bill.

Mr. C. VAN NIEKERK (Boshoff) feared that the urban population having achieved its object would leave the country districts to work out their own salvation. He did not fear the bill being killed.

Mr. C. W. MALAN (Humansdorp) suggested that instructions received from England led to the attitude of the Government, and he complained of the threats used in the Senate by the Minister of jus-

who had failed to carry out the instructions of the Assembly.

The ACTING PRIME MINISTER there could be no doubt to his mind that the choice before the House was the bill without Clause 2, or no bill at all. There was no possible chance of getting the Senate to agree to an amendment which the House might now wish to make, and the bill would be hung up for 12 months. He denied that the Minister of Justice had been untrue to an instruction of the Assembly. What was that instruction? That sort of talk was as unfounded as the allegations about the Imperial Government. When Clause 2 was before the Assembly he himself and the Minister of Justice, had opposed Col. Collins' amendments as they desired to leave the matter open. It was nonsensical to talk of Imperial matters or Imperial interests. They were here dealing with Asiatics who had settled in South Africa, and who had been allowed to get certain rights, and Imperial interests did not arise. He had been pleased to hear the arguments used by Mr. Joubert, who had said, "When we had a republic we could not deal with this matter," and yet the Nationalists now sent a deputation to Europe to ask for old Republic back, in spite of the fact that the Union now had the fullest right and liberty to deal with the matter. The argument that Asiatics being unable to get licences would gravitate to the rural districts, was unfounded, because even to-day Asiatics in the towns could not freely get licences, and had to apply to Councils who often refused them, so they did not gravitate to the country. Mr. Malan described the argument that the urban populations would take no further interest in the matter as unreasonable, pointing out that the matter was one which would interest every section of the community. In passing, he pointed out that the consumer himself very often dealt with the Asiatic because he could get his wares cheaper there. Concluding, the Minister reiterated his promise of appointing a Commission to inquire into the matter in the whole Union.

Mr. WILCOCKS (Winburg) said that undoubtedly it was the Imperial aspect which had made the Government take up its present attitude.

On a division the motion for the deletion of the amendment was agreed to by 55 votes to 22. The minority in addition to the Nationalists, comprised Col. Pretorius, Mr. J. H. Grobbelaar, Mr. Simpson, and Mr. Oosthuizen.

The Afghan War.

London, June 11.—The Bishop of Grantham in a letter to "The Times" suggests the cancelling of the large annual

payment now made to the Ameer of Afghanistan, "which of course, has been regarded by him and his subjects as 'payment of blackmail.'" He predicts that when the British Army is withdrawn, if the payment is continued, the tribe will gain the conviction of fear producing this subsidy.—(Reuter's Special Service.)

London, June 12.—Reuter learns from an authoritative source that no reply to the terms of the armistice has yet been received from the Ameer of Afghanistan.

Evidence is accumulating that he is entering into close relationship with the Russian Bolsheviks, who regard the Afghan outbreak as a unique opportunity to create embarrassment in this portion of the British Empire.

The concentration of British troops continues.—(Reuter's Special Service.)

London, June 20.—Reuter learns that the translation of the Ameer's reply to the terms for an armistice were received in London on June 15, and the views of the Government of India on the reply on June 18. The answer was sent to India on June 19.

The Ameer's Note is long and argumentative.

From a military point of view there is nothing new in the situation, as the Afghans are obviously marking time.—(Reuter's Special Service.)

Sunk in Scapa Flow

Bulk of Vessels Scuttled

By their German Caretakers.

London, June 21.—The Admiralty announces that certain interned German ships in Scapa Flow have been sunk and abandoned by their crews, who will be safely detained in custody.

Later, an official announcement states that all the interned German battleships and battle cruisers in Scapa Flow have been sunk with the exception of the battleship Baden.

Five light cruisers were sunk, and the remaining three beached by the local tugs.

Eighteen destroyers were beached, four still remain afloat, and the rest have been sunk.

The German rear admiral and most of the Germans from the ships are in custody on board his Majesty's ships.

Some boats from the German ships, on being ordered to stop, refused to do so, and a small number of Germans were killed or wounded.

In accordance with the terms of the armistice, the ships were interned with skeleton German crews as caretakers, without British guards on board.

An Edinburgh telegram states that arrangements had been made to board the German Fleet on Monday should peace be signed, as the ships would then have automatically passed to the Allies, but the German crews anticipated matters.—(Reuter's Special Service.)

London, June 22.—A Thurso message despatched at midnight on Saturday states that the hoisting of the red flag at noon was the signal for the Germans on the warships in Scapa Flow to scuttle them.

The crews then took to the boats, and rowed to the shore. The guardships fired on the Germans in the boats, who thereupon jumped into the water and swam ashore, where they were rounded up.—(Reuter's Special Service.)

London, June 22.—The news of the sinking of the German ships in the Orkneys caused a sensation, and the newspapers publish a number of interviews on the subject.

Admiral Sir Cyprian Bridge and Lord Sydenham think the affair was arranged in Berlin, though Commander Kenworthy, M.P., expresses the opinion that it was engineered by a few hotheads sick of existence at Scapa Flow.

Sir Percy Scott makes the terse comment: "Serves us right for trusting the Huns."

While some authorities think the guardships should have kept closer watch, others are of opinion that even the most vigilant outside observation could not have prevented the scuttling, but criticise the Admiralty for not insisting on placing British guards on board when the armistice was signed.

There is a consensus of opinion that the loss of the obsolete ships does not matter; and, indeed, will remove any heartburning as regards their disposal, but it is regretted that they have been lost while in the custody of the British Navy, as trustee of the allies. It is pointed out that the Germans adhered to their traditions by a cynical breach of the armistice.—(Reuter's Special Service.)

Capetown, June 24 (Reuter).—With reference to the sinking of the German Warships in Scapa Flow, it may be pointed out that Clause 31 of the Armistice provides that no destruction of ships or material is to be permitted, while Clause 23 lays down that the ships surrendered shall comprise six battle-cruisers, ten battleships, eight light-cruisers, and 50 destroyers, in addition to submarines, &c.

In an interesting footnote to Clause 23 it is stipulated that in the event of mutiny the Allies are to occupy Heligoland.