

THE DHARMA VILAAS

PUBLISHED WEEKLY IN ENGLISH AND HINDI.

VOL 4. P.O.Box 1180, Durban. Friday 5 September 1919.

No. 27

THE NEW REFORM BILL.

Appointment of Ministers. (Rep.

218, 219, 220).

3. (1) The governor of a province may, by notification, appoint ministers not being members of his Executive Council or other officials, to administer transferred subjects, and any ministers so appointed shall hold office during his pleasure.

There shall be paid to any minister so appointed such salary as the governor, subject to the sanction of the Secretary of State, may determine.

(2) No minister shall hold office for a longer period than three months, unless he is or becomes an elected member of the local legislature.

(3) In relation to a transferred subject, the governor shall be guided by the advice of the minister in charge, unless having regard to His Majesty's instruction he sees sufficient cause to dissent from the opinion of the minister in which case he may require action to be taken otherwise than in accordance with that advice.

(4) Provision may be made by rules under the principal Act for the temporary administration of a transferred subject, where in cases of emergency, owing to a vacancy there is no minister in charge of the subject, by such authority and in such manner as may be prescribed by the rules.

Qualification of members of Local Executive Councils. (Rep. 218; Act of 1915, ss. 47 and 55).

4. (1) The provision in section forty-seven of the principal Act, that two of the members of the Executive Council of the Governor of a province must have been for at least twelve years in the service of the Crown in India, shall have effect as though "one" were substituted for "two" and the provision in that section that the Commander-in-Chief of His Majesty's forces in India, if resident at Calcutta, Madras or Bombay, shall, during his continuance there, be a member of the Governor's council, shall cease to have effect.

(2) Provision may be made by rules

under the principal Act as to the qualifications to be required in respect of members of the executive council of the governor of a province in any case where such provision is not made by section forty-seven of the principal Act as amended by this section.

(To be Continued.)

Deputation to Mr. Montagu.

London, Aug. 30.—A deputation waited on Mr. Montagu, Secretary of State for India, to-day, regarding the treatment of Indians in South Africa, when Sir Goo Roo Banerjee, a retired judge of the Indian High Court, read a statement outlining the latest position.

Sir Wm. Meyer, a member of the Council of the Governor-General of India, said the Indian Government felt much might be done by friendly counsel by the Imperial Government and visits to South Africa by leading Indian representatives. If this failed, the only course would be to treat South Africans in India in a similar manner.

Sir G. R. Banerjee emphasised Indians' equality of status with other parts of the Empire. He remarked that General Smuts stated in Paris that there ought to be no trouble if the question were approached in a statesmanlike, friendly way. Sir G. R. Banerjee said he endorsed the sentiment expressed by Sir Wm. Meyer regarding reciprocity of treatment as a last resort.

Dr. Sapru also supported the idea, although he admitted that South Africans would not feel it to the same extent as Indians, because the number of South Africans in India was very small.

Mr. Montagu, replying, said he realised that the deputation represented the unanimity and strength of feeling of the Indian Empire on this subject. He and the Indian Government sympathised with their point of view.

Mr. Montagu proceeded to refer to the speech by Mr. Burton at last year's

Imperial Conference, agreeing to refer a certain memorandum on the subject to the Government, and promising the most sympathetic consideration of the subject. Was it surprising, asked Mr. Montagu, that, after the hopeful demeanour of the South African delegates on that occasion, their first legislative action aroused such depth of feeling and emotion, not only throughout India, but among those who were serving Indian interests? While he and Lord Sinha (Under Secretary) were in Paris they continually discussed the matter with General Botha and Smuts. He asked the deputation to remember that the forces arrayed against them were not the Colonial Office or Lord Buxton, or even the Government itself, but certain powerful people in South Africa, and he drew attention to the good fight the South African Government successfully put up against a certain clause it was proposed to add to the recent Bill, which would have made it still more disastrous than it was to-day.

Mr. Montagu deprecated any attempt to secure the exercise of the Imperial veto as a solution of the difficulty, which was one of the proposals made by the deputation. He added: "I like to hear my good friends who preach to me of the advantages of home rule urging the use of the veto on a self-governing Dominion." Moreover, he pointed out that the veto was not feasible from a political point of view.

Regarding the reciprocal treatment of South Africans in India, Mr. Montagu said it might demonstrate to the world the position of the Indians, but it would not directly help the Indians in South Africa. They would not by this means get sympathetic consideration for Lord Sinha's memorandum, upon which they set their hearts. He, therefore, thought the Commission of Inquiry promised by the South African Government offered the best practical hope, and he asked the deputation to implore their friends in South Africa not to what they did in 1914, but to state their case. Even if good results were not

obtained from the Commission—which he did not contemplate—the putting on public record of the Indians' case must ultimately have good results.

Proceeding, Mr. Montagu said: "We have suggested, not a domestic, but an Imperial Inquiry, one upon which not only the good relations of the members of the Empire depend, but upon which the sincerity of the welcome the Dominions gave the representatives of India at the Imperial Conference will be decided by the world. I have, therefore, asked that the Indian Government be directly represented on the Commission by one official and one nonofficial representative, both to be chosen from those most competent to make a good case, a case upon which we have set our hearts upon winning as soon as possible. I think that is the most hopeful method."

All the speakers paid glowing tributes to General Botha. Mr. Montagu said he had won the affection of all his colleagues at Paris by the possession of one of the most sympathetic personalities he had ever known, and by his breadth of judgment and the courage of his opinions.—(Reuter's Special Service.)

THE DHARMA VIR.

Friday, September 5 1919

MR. MONTAGU AND INDIANS.

Elsewhere, we publish Reuter's summary of what took place during an interview, which a representative deputation headed by Sir Gooroodas Banerjee had with the Secretary of State for India on the Indian question in South Africa. It was in the fitness of things that a gentleman of such an unbiassed frame of mind as Sir Gooroodas should lead such deputation. He is one of India's brilliant scholars, having had the distinguished career of not only being High Court Judge, but also, twice vice-chancellor of the Calcutta University. He conveyed the latest position of Indians in this land and demanded equality of status for Indians with other parts of the Empire. Indians are representatives of a very high civilization of a high order and by virtue of this and their qualities and character, and of the extent to which they benefitted the world by their unsurpassable intelligence, they are at least entitled to claim equality of status with the nations of the world, and in view of their present position and circumstances, particularly with the nations within the Empire. We would not be surprised, nay, we are certain that this claim will be resisted by the petty-minded, colour-prejudiced populace of the Dominions to the utmost, but, if the Empire is

to continue to occupy its present proud position among the nations of the world, it will necessitate an unqualified submission to the demand. India's civilisation, her culture, learning, traditions and pride of race will never consent to anything less. Mr. Montagu did not question the demand but sympathised with it. He recognised the unanimity and strength of feeling in India on the question. Mr. Montagu harbours a conviction that Union Ministers will act broad-mindedly. We do not share his optimism. The Union ministers have the habit of saying one thing and doing something else. As an instance, we might refer to the hopes Mr. Burton created in Mr. Montagu's mind during last year's Imperial Conference, when he promised the Union Government's sympathetic consideration of the points raised in Lord Sinha's famous memorandum. Were those hopes realised? What do we find instead—a wicked and inhumane plot to rob Indians of the few elementary rights, restricted and limited by the way, of human beings, which they now possess. It is very well for Mr. Montagu, breathing the free atmosphere of Europe to say, abstractedly that the application of the Imperial veto is inconsistent with the exercise of home rule, but the wearer of the shoe who knows how it pinches him, thinks otherwise. If the deprivation of the German colonies be justified on the score of misrule where the Native population was concerned, is not the ill treatment of Indians sufficient cause for the application of Imperial veto at least? If it is true that Great Britain staked her very existence for the purpose of preventing Germany's perpetration of injustices, why should she prove so false now, when suffering humanity so loudly and insistently plead to her. Are Indians to understand that England which was not afraid of Germany is mortally afraid of pigmy South Africa? The Indian question in South Africa is not a domestic one. It will, if allowed, to grow one day threaten the peace of the world. China and Japan will claim racial equality and the sympathies of India will be naturally with them. If the anti-Herzogites are truly loyal to the Empire let their actions indicate it. Let every member of the Empire feel in his or her daily life the true meaning of the British Constitution. The promised commission of inquiry will prove futile, if men of broad minded proclivities are not nominated on it, so that its duties may be discharged honestly and conscientiously. The appointment of two representatives of India is wise, but we are afraid that unless both or one of such representatives be Indians possessing the confidence of India the local Indians will have no faith in the commission. Mr. Montagu's reply is very unsatisfactory and

we are absolutely certain that unless the Imperial Veto is ruthlessly applied, South African Europeans will never come to their senses.

The Afghan Peace.

Free Hand in Foreign Policy.

London, Aug. 22.—A white paper dealing with recent events in Afghanistan mentions that the Treaty concluding peace leaves the country officially free and independent in internal and external affairs. It contains no stipulation that the Ameer shall follow the advice of Britain in external relations of Afghanistan.—(Reuter's Special Service.)

Mr. Ramprasad, son of Mr. Dookie Ramdhani, left by the Kenilworth Castle for England to qualify himself as a doctor on 26 August 1919. Messrs R.G. Bhalla, A. H. West, Suchitt Maharaj and G. D. Lalla were among those who were present on the wharf to wish him godspeed.

Mr. Dookie is rendering a great service to the Hindu community by taking the step he has. We hope the splendid example so set will be followed by others.

On behalf of the "Dharma Vir" Mr. R. G. Bhalla presented Mr. Ramprasad with a beautiful bouquet.

Since writing the above, Mr. Dookie has received a telegram from Cape Town stating that Mr. Ramprasad is compelled to return on account of illness under medical advice. We are sure this occurrence will be regretted by all. He arrives by the mail today.

A cablegram has been received of Pandit Bhawani Dayal's safe arrival in India on 1st September 1919.

S. A. Indian Conference.

The Presidential Address which Should Have Been Read.

The subject of Franchise is an extremely important matter, for after all, if we have the right to vote we can put men of our own selection into Parliament when they will be able to mould and shape legislation in a manner that will be befitting the Government and with satisfaction to ourselves. It is not long speeches that count but voting tells. If we are able to comply with all the requirements that the legislature requires then there is no sensible reason why we should not equally with other citizens enjoy the full benefits of franchise.

Then there is the subject of education in which our countrymen as a whole are placed in a very precarious position.

It will be necessary for you to thoroughly investigate these matters and to make such recommendations as are necessary. The education of our children is a matter of considerable importance, for upon them, sooner or later, will devolve the necessity of preserving the political status of our countrymen, and it is vitally important that they should be prepared for it. We are entitled and must claim every privilege in regard to this matter, and seek to be placed on an equal footing with the other citizens. Any laxity on our part means ruin to our future, and it is our simple but clear duty to firmly insist upon obtaining from the Government the fullest and freest opportunities for the development of our little ones.

Our status in the Union is not what it should be, and that accounts to a large extent for the fact that firearms are not issued to us as freely as it should be. Our countrymen as a whole are law abiding, sober and intelligent. These qualifications are sufficient to justify the Government in placing us on an equal footing with the other but favoured citizens of the Union. It will be the duty of this Conference to conduct its deliberations with broadmindedness and moderation so that we may convince the authorities that they have so far been mistaken in the estimation of ourselves.

With regard to the Transvaal there are many special difficulties which affect their living in the Transvaal. They are very serious and should be dealt with as early as possible and in the best manner this Conference may decide. It is a disgrace to ourselves to know that it is possible, after all that India has done, and to the status we have arrived at, that the Union Government permits to remain on the statute book Law 3 of 1885, which prohibits an Asiatic purchasing land in freehold or leasehold, and relegates our countrymen to location, bazaars or wards. In so many words bring us to the level of the ordinary native. We resented and it will be the duty of the Conference to let the Government know in unmistakable language that it is the earnest feeling of the Community of that it is the earnest feeling of the community that this condition of things cannot be tolerated any longer, that we have right to claim a vastly different treatment. It is interesting to know that during the regime of the late Transvaal Republic this very law, though existing, was never seriously put into operation, and our people driven into location. When such an attempt was made the powerful arm of the British Government smashed down upon the Republic and prevented the perpetration of any such injustice. In the London Convention, Article 14 of 1884, between the British Government and the Republic our

countrymen had a right to enter the Transvaal, reside, acquire a domicile, trade, and finally were accorded the fullest rights and freedom, excepting Burgher rights. It will also be remembered that at the time of the war between the British and Boers the treatment of our countrymen in the Transvaal was stated to be one of the causes of the war. Lord Selborne, afterwards High Commissioner of the Cape, in 1909, stated "Was it or was it not our duty to see that our dusky fellow subjects in the Transvaal, where they had a perfect right to go, should be treated as the Queen in our name had promised they should be treated? Was the British Government going to make its name respected and to have the pledges given by it faithfully observed? Was it going to see that the British subject, wherever he went all over the world, whether he were white or black, was to have the rights which his Queen had secured for him" and Lord Lansdowne has also said "Considerable number of the Queen's Indian subjects are to be found in the Transvaal, and among the many misdeeds of the South African Republic, I do not know that any fills me with more indignation than its treatment of these Indians. And the harm is not confined to the sufferer on the spot; for what do you imagine would be the effect produced in India when these poor people returned to their country to report to their friends that the Government of the Empress, so mighty and irresistible in India, with its population of 300 millions is powerless to secure redress at the hands of a small South African State?" Very soon, however, after the British had taken possession, to our sorrow and surprise, we found that with British regularity every portion of this Act was brought in operation against our countrymen. There is also the Gold Law, the Township Act, the Local Government Ordinance, and lastly, but not least, the Asiatic Land and Trading Amendment Act. These legislation have been productive of immense difficulties and we must endeavour to our utmost to have the matters rectified. The position of our countrymen with regard to the Orange River Colony is a peculiar one. This Colony has closed its doors to our countrymen, and none may enter and reside there excepting as domestic workers. No doubt this condition of things must, and will change the moment our status is recognised. With regard to the Cape and Natal, the question of trading licenses has been the cause of a very large and needless litigation, and caused considerable injustice to our countrymen in this direction. The Conference, I hope, will be able to pass some strong resolutions supported with some sensible suggestion as to improving the condition in regard to this matter. In

Natal we have recently had examples of how unjustly the Licensing Acts operate. It is sufficient if I say that in certain cases the ordinary right of appeal to the superior courts of law is closed. Similar difficulties prevail in the Cape with regard to trading licenses, and it is necessary for us to take every possible means of securing redress in this direction.

Gentlemen: Although the foregoing has been a brief recital to you of our grievances this list is by no means exhausted. There are a great many more. They will be discussed and dealt with at the proper time and place. If we expect to make this Conference a success, and make it effective, we must so arrange its affairs that we shall at all times in season and out of season, be ready to cope with any common danger which may face the community. We should be able also to definitely show what our aspirations are. We should also so conduct ourselves and the affairs of the Conference so as to enlist the sympathy of all right thinking persons, who could be of any assistance to our cause. In order to obtain redress and relief we shall at all times realise that our best interests are served if we will confine ourselves to strictly constitutional means, which as you know, are by way of mass meetings, memorials, petitions, resolutions, interviews with the responsible ministers either within the Union or the Imperial Government. We trust that we shall never be called upon to exhaust these constitutional means because we cannot conceive that justice will ever be withheld from us if our cause is just. We must remember that we, in this Union, have already received the attention of our countrymen in India, and that at every session of the National Indian Congress the case of the South African Indians has been presented and discussed. For that reason it is only right and just that we should in every thing we do and say attain our aims, objects and ambitions to be exactly of that of the Indian National Congress. Every endeavour as you know is today being made in India by every political body to secure the greatest degree of self-government, and we also know that in order to repress this feeling the Rowlatt or Black Bills have been passed, and with what result?

Our countrymen have not been cowed down but have set us splendid example because the cream of Indian society, its very best men have suffered every indignity rather than submit to terms of the Black Bills. We as Indians here, have sympathised with them because blood is thicker than water. When we had our troubles in an acute form here it was the help from India that sustained us so that the destinies of India and ourselves are

Continued on page 8

one, and we cannot afford to dissociate ourselves from our motherland. It may be excellent idea if at some future date it could be found possible to send annually-delegates to the National Indian Congress so that the bond between ourselves and India may be closer than it is at present. With this bond between us we may be able, if necessary, to enlist the sympathy of the League of Nations.

Gentlemen: Let the key-note of the Conference be "United we stand divided we fall" We have met here to discuss large issues and great principles, and we must meet and discuss them from a broad point of view giving every possible objection its fullest consideration. Let our requirements be made in firm but moderate language. Let us have no dissension among ourselves. Let us speak with a certain, clear, emphatic and united voice so that the Union Government may realise that our Indian Community mean and intend seriously that effect be given to their matured considerations. We have a right to expect the Union Government to deal fairly by us the principles of freedom, justice and fair play which have ever guided the British Government and which has in its magnanimity granted this Union its Constitution, and it is but right that the Union Government should let those high and lofty principles permeate through every piece of legislation, it promulgates. Gentlemen: we are not asking too much. The proposed Commission may mean much or nothing to us we must await its results. We are merely asking common rights of citizenship as were promised to us in Magna Charta of 1268 to our countrymen in India and the British Empire which was reaffirmed by the late King Edward and by King George. I sincerely trust that we shall so deliberate over the various matters which I have referred to that at the end of this Conference we may part from each other being fully satisfied that each one of us contributed his best to make the Conference the success, which I hope it will achieve.

Concluded

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PUBLISHED WEEKLY IN ENGLISH AND HINDI.

VOL. 4.

P.O.Box 1180, Durban. Friday 19 September 1919.

No. 28&29

THE NEW REFORM BILL.

Business of the Governor in Council and the Governor with Minister.

5. (1) All orders and other proceedings of the local Government of a governor's province shall be expressed to be made by the government of the province and shall be authenticated as a governor may by rule direct.

(2) The governor may make rules and orders for the more convenient transaction of business in his executive council and with his minister, and every order made or act done in accordance with those rules and orders shall be treated as being the order or the act of the government of the province.

The governor may also make rules and orders for regulating the relations between his executive council and his ministers for the purpose of the transaction of the business of the local Government.

Local legislature (Rep. 235, 236; Act of 1915, ss. 73 and foll.).

6. (1) The aggregate number of members of the Governor's Legislative Councils, the number of members elected by general, communal and other electorates respectively, and the number of nominated official and nominated non-official members shall be in accordance with the table set out in First Schedule to this Act.

Provided that—

(a) rules under the principal Act may provide for increasing by not more than five per cent. the aggregate number of members of any council as specified in that Schedule, and for varying the proportions which the classes of members specified in that Schedule bear to one another;

so however that at least seventy per cent. of the members of every governor's legislative council shall be elected members and that not more than twenty per cent. of the aggregate shall be official members; and

(b) the governor may for the purpose of any Bill introduced or proposed to be introduced in the Legislative Council, in the case of Assam, one person, and, in the case of other provinces, not more than two persons having special knowledge or experience of the subject matter of the Bill, and those persons shall, in relation to the Bill, have for the period for which they are nominated, all the rights of members of the Council and shall be in addition to the aggregate above referred to.

(2) The powers of a governor's Legislative Council may be exercised notwithstanding any vacancy in the Council.

(3) Subject as aforesaid provision may be made by rules under the principal Act as to—

(a) the term of office of members of a governor's Legislative Council and the manner of filling casual vacancies occurring by reason of absence from India, inability to attend to duty, death, accepted, of office resignation duly accepted, or otherwise, and

(b) the conditions under which and manner in which persons resident in India may be nominated or elected as members of Governors' Legislative Councils, and

(c) the qualifications for being, and for being nominated or elected, a member of any such Council, and

(d) the final decision of doubts or disputes as to the validity of any election.

puts as to the validity of any election.

(4) Subject to any such rules any person who is a ruler or subject of any State in India, may be nominated as a member of a governor's Legislative Council.

Meeting of Governor's Legislative Council.

7 (1) A governor may appoint such times for holding the session of his Legislative Council as he thinks fit, and may also by notification or otherwise prorogue the Council.

(2) Any meeting of a governor's Legislative Council may be adjourned by the person presiding.

(3) All questions in a governor's Legislative Council shall be determined by a majority of votes of the members present other than the person presiding, who shall however, have and exercise a casting vote in the case of an equality of votes.

A governor's Legislative Council may be dissolved at any time by the Governor by notification but in that case the governor shall appoint a date not more than six months after the date of dissolution for the next session of his legislative Council.

(To be Continued.)

The following wire was forwarded to General Smuts by Clare Estate Veda Dharma Sabha:—

Special meeting Veda Dharma Sabha Clare Estate desire to convey its sense of loss to South Africa by death of great Soldier statesman General Botha please convey Mrs. Botha Sabhas deep sympathy.

Owing to the damage sustained by the "Dharma Vir" Printing Works premises on Thursday, 4th September 1919 through the action of the storm that prevailed that night, it was found impracticable to publish our issue of last week. This week, therefore, we have given additional pages to combine both issues in one.

THE DHARMA VIR.

Friday, 19 September 1919

INDIANS AND INFLUENZA

Elsewhere we publish the report of a meeting held in Clairwood on August 31, 1919 to wound up the activities of the South Coast Junction Indian Influenza Relief Committee. The report of the Committee and the eulogistic terms in which prominent officials referred to its work afford ample testimony to the fact that the relief work was well performed. Both Mr. Walker Wilson and Dr. Park Ross confessed that the result was more than they expected. They are convinced that Indians can manage their affairs effectively and satisfactorily. We hope that in future the Government will consult Indians in all matters affecting them. The community must be deeply grateful to the authorities for defraying the whole of the expenses, and for having assisted the community whole heartedly. The Committee also deserves the gratitude of our community for the able and satisfactory manner in which the work was done. Twice did they respond to the call nobly and the amount of time and energy they devoted to this work stands to their credit. This journal, as is well known, assisted the Indian community as far as it possibly could, by publishing all the Government circulars relative to Influenza. We are thankful for the references made for the assistance rendered by Mr. R. G. Bhalia. Not only was relief work carried on in South Coast Junction but in several others districts. To all those who worked for the welfare of the sufferers we tender the heartfelt thanks of the community.

Indian Affairs.

The Viceroy's Speech.

THE PUNJAB DISTURBANCES.

Revision of Sentences.

London, Sept. 8.—The Legislative Council of India was opened at Simla today.

The Viceroy, Lord Chelmsford, in the course of a speech, already reported by Renter, said that the Turkish peace terms were still awaited by Mohammedans in India with keen concern.

Referring to the grave events which had disturbed the country following up the Rowlatt Bills, he said that several members of the Legislative Council had warned the Government that agitation would follow, but the Government could not deviate on account of threats from a policy it regarded as essential. The Lieutenant-Governor of the Punjab had been busily engaged in reviewing the sentences passed on the offenders, and had tempered justice with mercy.

Alluding to the Peace Treaty with Afghanistan, the Viceroy said it would be followed by a treaty of friendship if Afghanistan showed itself worthy of it.

Touching on the question of trading rights of Indians in the Transvaal, he said the Government had fully pressed the Indian point of view on the Imperial Government that the recent legislation in South Africa was not justified. He pleaded for calmness and moderation, while admitting the strength of the feeling in South Africa. It was proposed to send Sir Benjamin Robertson on a deputation to represent Indian interests on the South African Government Commission.—(Renter's Special Service.)

Indians in S. Africa

Bombay Paper's Comment.

CHARACTER OF THE STRUGGLE

Demand for Full Citizenship.

Bombay, Sept. 9.—The position of Indians in South Africa continues to agitate public opinion in India, and cables of recent meetings in South Africa and of South African opinion are published prominently.

The "Bombay Chronicle" makes special reference to the "Cape Times" declaration that the South African delegates at the Imperial Conference were in no sense responsible for the legislation passed last session by the Union Parliament, and that the whole weight of the

Government was thrown into the scale against the Collins amendment, which was ultimately rejected. And also, in the second place, that the Act as passed cannot reasonably be interpreted as an infringement of pre-existing rights of Transvaal Indians, or as warranting Mr. Montagu's suggestion that it is "disastrous."

The "Bombay Chronicle" contrasts this assurance with the resolution of the Pretoria Congress viewing with the greatest alarm the serious menace to the economic and social welfare of the inhabitants of the Transvaal occasioned by the continued encroachment by Asiatics, and advocating immediate measures to deal therewith. "This latter movement," continues the "Bombay Chronicle," "unmasks the character of the struggle. The proposals amount to legalised robbery."

The newspaper then refers to the Viceroy speech in the Council last week and asks whether his hopes of moderation on the part of South Africans can any longer be justified. "The war," it adds, "only accentuated the issue between white and coloured people, and the problem, whether in South Africa or elsewhere, can never be solved by riding roughshod over one party. The solution must be found in the recognition or equality of citizenship of all peoples of the Empire in a practical manner."—(Renter's Special Service.)

The Indian Problem.

There is scarcely a question that bristles with greater difficulty than the Indian problem in South Africa, and in the whole Empire. After 1857 the Home Government relieved the East India Company of all responsibility and practically made India part of the Empire. Mr. Montagu, Secretary of State for India, and Lord Chelmsford, the Governor-General have devised a scheme for the home rule of India, but all those who have had an experience of the great Dependency are decidedly opposed to the idea. India is not homogeneous. The castes are still in existence, and the authorities would find it most awkward to apportion the weight of the vote to the different bodies. Apart from that, India has had no experience in municipal or even local council procedure. As Lord Sydenham pointed out in an able article in the "Times" you must give India a chance to find herself. He advocated that the Indian communities should first begin with village governments, which would have control of the communal interests; then they might go forward to the district control, and ultimately, though he reckoned it would take years, they might be given a full weight in the Ministry. He reckons, however, that at

the present moment such a movement would not only be disastrous to British hegemony, but to the best interests of the Indians themselves. He points out, in forcible language, that the demand for self-government is only the claim of a small section of the Indians, who have been fortunate enough to have an overseas education; but he maintains that this form of self-government is the only solution that can be provided. As again Lord Sydenham points out, Mr. Montagu only spent as many weeks in India as he had spent years, and does not take into account the three hundred million inhabitants who have no sympathy with the new movement. They are more than content with the Government of the British Raj, because under the protection of the British armies they can reap where they have sown. They still remember that when they were under Native princes they had to give half their produce to the palace.

Naturally enough, this disturbance in India has a reflex action in South Africa, and we welcome the idea that a Commission should be sent out to inquire into the whole question. Mr. Montagu may think that all things are equal in all parts of the Commonwealth, but he has evidently not studied the legislation of Natal before Union, or the subsequent laws of Australia based on the Natal Acts. What is felt is that the status of living between the Asiatic and the European does not give the latter a fair chance in the race for existence. Mr. Montagu thinks otherwise, and suggests that the Indians should be recognised as equals throughout the British Commonwealth; but he forgets one essential fact—that the whites will not acknowledge the fact, and that while the Indian domestic regulations are such as they are the white population cannot do it. Mr. Montagu went to India, as the "Spectator" says, to make such reforms as would take his name down in history as a great reformer, but he continually harks back to an ancient so-called pledge that was given that India should have self-government. No doubt, Queen Victoria's proclamation of 1857 was floridly but dubiously worded, but it contains no intention, as far as we can see, of any reference to self-government in India, no do we believe that, outside a small, energetic, bombastic section do the people want the innovation.

Mr. Montagu and Lord Chelmsford, on the slightest information, have prepared a report which has not only disturbed the minds of the people in India; but of Indians in every part of the world. The proposal seems to us unworkable. It is the core of the Bill is what is known as the "diarchy"—the proposal that in the administration of the Provinces part of the "work should be carried on by Minis-

ters "dependent on the popular vote," and partly by members nominated by the Indian Government. That might eventuate were there a homogeneous people, but there are a hundred warring sections in India and, as "East is East, and West is West, and never the twain shall meet," so it is certain that the creeds of the Hindu and the Mohammedan will never unite to form a popular representative government in India. We shall, perhaps, be asked what has this all to do with South Africa, but it must be remembered that there is a distinct and intimate link between this country and India. As Mr. Montagu states, there were certain propositions agreed upon between General Smuts and Mr. Gandhi, evidently in Paris Lord Sinha made a notable effort to get the free introduction and free trade for the Indians in every part of the Union and Rhodesia. Whether that is possible it is for the South African people to decide, and even Mr. Montagu, fanatically pro-Indian as he is, shied at this matter. He could not interfere with the affairs of a self-governing Dominion, and now that the status has been raised to free nations there will be less power of interference. Mr. Montagu observes the obvious fact that under the new status these nations can break away from the Empire. The whole question in South Africa turns upon trading rights. The Indian cares little about political franchise, but he does concern himself with the fact as to whether he can transact business in a certain district or not. Mr. Montagu recognises this fact when he says that "certain powerful people "in South Africa were against it." He assured the deputation that the forces arraigned against them "were not the Colonial office or Lord Buxton, or even the "Government itself." What Mr. Montagu might have added is the "instinct of self-preservation. The Asiatic trader has introduced a lower standard of living, and in consequence can undercut the European trader. He is not affected by strikes or hours of labour or trades unions, and he goes on his way without let or hindrance. That is the question before General Smuts at the next session. He has discussed it

with the Indian representatives at the Peace Conference, but if the Indian wishes to remain in South Africa he must conform to the European standard. Under present circumstances, the game is not equally played, and Mr. Montagu, pro-Indian as he undoubtedly is, saw this. The idea of penalising South Africans in India as a retort is almost ludicrous. We have not the statistics at hand, but we should imagine that you could almost count the number of South Africans in India on the fingers of the two hands, and these would mostly belong to the shipping companies. That threat will do no good, not even to the Indians themselves, and the Secretary of State perceived this. What we wish is to be absolutely fair to the Indian Population. We realise that we brought them here for a special purpose, and that we are responsible for their welfare, but the exorbitant claims made by only the few cannot be acknowledged. Whenever there is a genuine cause of grievance no one more than this journal will be ready to take it up; but we cannot undertake all the trivial inquiries that are sent in to us. We welcome the inquiry, though, as Mr. Montagu says, we do not see how it is going to help the Indians in South Africa. Still, it may remove some differences, and if it does its work well, its appointment will not have been made in vain. The deputation has brought to the notice of both the Imperial and South African Governments the position of Indian affairs in the Union, though we cannot help thinking that their intensity is somewhat exaggerated, and a full inquiry is certain to do good, particularly as it will be composed of men of standing of both races. It is useless, as Sir G. R. Banerjee postulates, that Indians should have an equality of status in all parts of the Empire. He has never, evidently, been to Australia, Canada, South Africa, or even to the United States, or he would have learned that the proposal was impossible. Each have their own destinies to work out, and they work, not on concentric, but rather on parallel lines, and one remembers the old adage that the latter never meet.

(The "Natal Mercury")

THE ASIATIC QUESTION.

Big Congress at Pretoria.

CHAIRMAN'S ADDRESS.

Appeal to Trade Unionists.

Pretoria Sept. 4 (Reuter).—The Congress to consider the Asiatic question began here this morning in the Town Hall. A very large number of delegates, representing various public bodies, Town councils, Local Boards, the Comrades of the Great War, Chambers of Commerce, political and agricultural societies, &c., being present.

The Bishop of Pretoria said he had intended being present, but was prevented, and sent one of his clergy to represent him.

The Mayor of Pretoria (Mr. Giovannetti), in opening the Congress, counselled moderation.

The Chairman (Mr. Philipps) said there need be no foreboding on that score. They did not forget they represented a British Colony; and were actuated by a sense of British fair play, which was synonymous with South African fair play.

The Secretary said he had received many messages from members of Parliament regretting inability to be present.

After a motion of condolence with the family of general Botha which was carried by the delegates standing.

Mr. Philipps in his opening speech, said that, referring to what he described as the Asiatic menace, it threatened the Union in its very foundation. Unless the Union realised the danger, South Africa would not remain a country for white men and women. (Applause.) After referring to the representative character of the gathering the Chairman said they all felt they would not be showing their loyalty to great Britain if they were disloyal to themselves (Applause.) He asked for the question to be lifted.

ABOVE PARTY POLITICS.

Proceeding, the speaker maintained that Law 3 of 1885 which precluded Indians trading in the Transvaal, except in prescribed areas, was still the policy of the Union Government; and he condemned the policy of drift successive Governments dealing with the passive resistance movement and the Gandhi Smuts agreement. The speaker said that if that agreement had been honoured by the Indians the public would have been misled into believing that it was a solution of the difficulty. Mr. Philipps maintained that certainly commercial and other bodies were not given opportunity of being heard by the Se-

lect Committee, the result of whose work was that Act 27 was a Magna Charta for the Indians on the Rand. But the latter were not satisfied. They wanted full civic and political rights. If the claim of the Indians was equality before the law, it was not a question of trading—the real underlying question went much further than that. The question was: Could South Africa remain

A WHITE MAN'S COUNTRY

if Indians were allowed to progress on their own lines, unrestrictedly? (Applause.) If that question were answered in the negative, their duty was plain. It was a duty, not to a few traders, but in every white woman and man in the country—not to this generation alone, but to posterity. (Applause.)

The speaker then turned to the position in Natal, where he said to the exclusion of white people, there were Indians in nearly every trade and calling. They had surrendered to the Indian in Durban. It was as inevitable in the Transvaal as it was in Durban that the white men would be ousted by the Indian, or the white man would sink to the level of the Indian.

The Chairman suggested that a deputation of four or six members of the trades unions should go to Natal and see for themselves, and if they said there was no danger from Indian penetration, he would resign from that League.

Mr. Philipps, referring to the Indians on the Reef since 1902 said that, according to their own estimate, they had invested in capital there some six millions, which probably meant on the last count, 18 millions. The ultimate elimination of the white trader on the Reef was inevitable if things went on as they were. There was no longer

A COLOUR BAR

in Johannesburg contended the speaker.

As competition became keener and the white man realised that he could not compete with Asiatics he would go to the Government, and would say he could not compete unless he was allowed to have Asiatic assistance, and there would follow interprovincial migration from Natal into the Transvaal, with the consequences which the speaker pictured as disastrous. They would invade all the businesses and employ their own people. He asked, if that danger had any significance to their Trade Unionist friends. If not, their time was wasted in coming there. He gave them his word of honour that if the question were a trade matter only he would not be there that day. He was not prepared to see white men reduced to the position of helots in their own country. (Applause.) If the Indians continued to be supported it would be contrary to every principle of Trade Unionism which was to raise the working man, but if white men

were neglected for the support of the coloured men the time was coming when the Trade Unionist would be asked: How could they claim to retain the colour bar for themselves when they broke it for others.

In conclusion, the Chairman said the evidence was against the contention that the Imperial Government was answerable for the position to-day. It was not as a force that Royal assent had been given to restrictive legislation. Every true Briton would acclaim the services of the fighting castes of India to Great Britain, but when the Indians in South Africa fell back on the service of the fighting castes of India they challenged comparison. The Indians of South Africa had produced 660 stretcher bearers and 42 other members of medical units, 702 in all, as against 199,298 who had remained behind and waxed fat.

Senator Munnik said it had been a mistake to allow Indians to

TRADE IN LOCATIONS,

and not confining them to bazaars as was the case in India. Referring to the Smuts-Gandhi agreement, Senator Munnik said it was understood that no new licences were to be issued. Well, 684 new licences had been issued since 1914. He gave all honour to Native contingents who had gone to the war, but the Indian in South Africa had no claim on that ground.

Senator Munnik moved: That this Congress views with greatest alarm the serious menace to the economic and social welfare of the inhabitants of the Transvaal occasioned by the continued encroachment of Asiatics, and is of opinion that immediate measure should be adopted to deal with such encroachment."

The Rev McCullum seconded.

Mr. George (Reduction Workers' Trades Union) said his union recognised the danger of cheap competition. The workers of the Reef were with others in the idea of getting rid of the Asiatic altogether. He deprecated half measures. Referring to the Low Grade Mines Commission, the speaker said it was an honest body, but he believed the evidence would be that nothing could be done without removing the colour bar. (Cries of "Shame.") If the commercial community wanted protection they should in turn help the mine workers and protect them. Regarding the resolution he assured the gathering that the Trade Unionists did not feel any alarm at anything. (Laughter.) He moved that the word "Asiatics" be substituted by "non-Europeans."

Senator Munnik said he could not accept the amendment.

Mr. Gillman (Mine Workers' Union), who said he represented 15,000 workers, seconded the amendment. If the commer-

cial community did not support the workers in the broader movement the workers could not support them on the more exclusion of Asiatics. This speaker and others dwelt on coloured and Native competition.

Mr. Zurrvooger regretted the attitude taken up by Messrs Gillman, M. J. Green, and others. He was in sympathy with the white workers, but they were now dealing with Asiatics. Let them confine themselves to that now.

The amendments were defeated, and the resolution Senator Munnik was carried by an overwhelming majority.

The Congress adjourned for lunch.

After lunch, Advocate Blackwell moved: "(b) Inasmuch as all legal restrictions against such encroachment in the past have failed by reason of persistent

EVASION OF THE LAWS

by Asiatics and ineffective administration thereof by the Government, this Congress strongly urges their stringent application in future, and protests against any relaxation or modification of these laws and the grant of any civic rights to Asiatics." Mr. Blackwell urged moderation. He admitted previous sympathy with the Indians, but they had systematically flouted the law.

Referring to the small effort of the South African Indians in the war, the speaker expressed the view that there were not ten South African Indians who gave their lives for the great cause of the war.

A voice: It is not true.

The speaker repeated his statement.

Mr. Hoatson seconded.

Mr. B. J. D. Piennar, M. P. C., supported. He described the embarrassment of the Imperial Government over this question as a bogey. The Imperial Government would not interfere in local politics.

Mr. Pret Grobler (Rustenburg Chamber of Commerce) moved to delete all the words after "Government" to the end of the paragraph, and to insert the following: "This Congress strongly urges and insists that the Government pass legislation at the forthcoming sitting of Parliament appointing a special Court of Arbitration with power to expropriate on a basis of just compensation all the interests whatsoever of Asiatics in the Union of South Africa and repatriating all Asiatics holding trading licences in the Union, and, further prohibit the issue of any kind or class of licence whatsoever to Asiatics, either individually or as a body, as also the grant to Asiatics of any civic rights whatsoever."

Mr. Grobler disclaimed any anti-Asiatic feeling. It was a question of self-preservation.

A number of speakers followed in favour and against the amendment, which

Mr. Blackwell, in reply, described as impracticable.

A vote will be taken to-morrow.

The Asiatic Conference.

Closing Proceedings.

Deputation to the Premier.

Pretoria, Sept. 3 (Reuter).—At the Asiatic Conference this morning the Congress considered a further resolution by Mr. Blackwell: "Inasmuch as legal restrictions against such encroachment in the past have failed by reason of persistent evasion of the laws by Asiatics and ineffective administration thereof by the Government, this Congress strongly urges their stringent application in future, and protests against any relaxation or modification of these laws and the grant of any civil rights to Asiatics."

To this Mr. Grobler had moved an amendment in favour of the repatriation of Asiatics, which he now withdrew in favour the following rider to Mr. Blackwell's resolution, which was moved by Mr. Vorster: "And further, this Congress urges upon Parliament to legislate as soon as possible in accordance with the objects of this Congress."

It may be pointed out that one of the objects of the proposed League is "expropriation, subject to just compensation, of all immovable property vested in Asiatics, and the general elimination, by all means able and statesmanlike means, of Asiatics resident and trading in the Transvaal."

The resolution, with the rider, was carried by an overwhelming majority.

It was decided to appoint a deputation to wait on the Prime Minister and lay the resolution of the Congress before him. The following were appointed: Messrs. L. J. Phillips (Reef), W. J. Holmes (Venterdorp), J. H. Hoatson (Klerksdorp), T. J. Kleinenborg (Pietersburg), P. Grobler (Rustenburg), J. George, the Rev. B. J. de Klerk, E. Day, and the Rev. Mr. Bamberger.

A resolution was passed urging public bodies, etc., to collect all available information regarding Asiatics, and lay same before the Commission, and also that the candidates for Parliament be pledged to support suitable legislation. It was further resolved to form a league to give effect to the resolution passed.

The Conference decided on the formation of League to be called the South African League, the objects of which, inter alia, are to aim at the expropriation and elimination of the Asiatic residents in the Transvaal.

Sir Abe Bailey was elected president and a vote of thanks for his stand on this subject in Parliament was carried with acclamation.

An open letter was read from Lieut.-Col. N. Norton protesting against the action of the Congress, and warning it that retaliatory measures in India, China, and Japan were inevitable. The proceedings closed with votes of thanks, including one to the chairman, Mr. Phillips, three cheers, and the singing of "For He's Jolly Good Fellow."

Indians and Influenza.

Relief Committee's Report.

An Important Work.

The spacious grounds of the Clairwood Indian School were the scene of the largest congregation of Europeans and Indians known in the annals of the South Coast Junction neighbourhood, on Sunday last, when over 800 persons assembled to hear the general report of the relief work done by the South Coast Junction Indian Influenza Relief Committee, and also to witness the honour which was to be paid to these officials and individuals who rendered special and invaluable assistance during the strenuous times of the recent epidemic. The grounds were tastefully decorated with bunting, &c., and the verandah of the schoolroom was artistically transformed into a suitable platform for the occasion. The proceedings commenced at 2.30, with Mr. E. M. Paruk, of Commercial Road, in the chair. Among those on the platform were: Messrs. Walker Wilson (Magistrate, Umzinto), Dr. G. A. Park Ross (Acting Health Officer for the Union, Natal), Messrs. A. T. Roberts (Magistrate), W. T. Clark (solicitor), Sergeants, Stephens, Corpl. Harvey Lewis, A. H. Moosa, K. R. Nayanah (Chairman, Sydenham Relief Committee), B. L. E. Sigamoney (Secretary, Durban Indian Health Committee), M. C. Anglin (proprietor "Indian Views"), R. G. Bhalla (proprietor "Dharma Vir"), Rooknodin, Abdul H. Kazi, William Joseph, V. Lawrence, C. A. Bassa, Munshi Mogradia, Mohamed Abed, Syed Jallaludin (high priest), Kozi Dada Mia, Amudji Kadwa, Haffeejee, and the members of the South Coast Junction Committee and others.

The Chairman said that he understood that that day's meeting was called for the purpose of submitting a general report of the South Coast Junction Indian Relief Committee's work in connection with the influenza epidemic, which commenced in October last year. He pointed out that when that maddly visited

the Coast the suffering it caused was known to all. It claimed the young and old, ruined many a home, and anguish and sorrow were still visible upon the faces of those who lost their all in this world. Then spontaneously arose good and

DUTIFUL MEN.

who formed themselves into a committee and, regardless of time and money, made it a labour of love to ameliorate, as far as possible, the sufferings of their poor brethren. Mr. Karim was selected as chairman of the Committee, and, as they all knew, he rendered a great service. He placed his men, money, premises, motor car, at the disposal of the public, and for the convenience of the Committee, and his large mindedness, his generosity, his willingness to assist at all hours of the day, deserved the praise and approbation of the general public. "It is well known to you," continued the Chairman, "that without Mr. S. R. Pather's guidance and advice our compatriots would have found it very difficult to achieve the success they have. Mr. Pather's activities and his solicitation for the welfare of the sufferers are such that time will not permit of detailed description. On one occasion he left a dying sister on her deathbed to proceed to the assistance of the Government in forming relief committees in other districts. Day and night he ungrudgingly laboured in order that many of your near and dear ones and yourselves might not succumb to the scourge that threatened them and you. I wish to point out that this relief work entrusted entirely in our hands was a trial by the authorities to test our capacity to carry out an important duty in the hour of our need. The work has been carried out to the entire satisfaction of the Union Government, who have expressed their satisfaction in a letter addressed to the Committee."

COMMITTEES' REPORT.

The Secretary then read the Committee's report, which stated:—The South Coast Junction Indian Influenza Relief Committee have much pleasure in placing before the public the work they have been able to perform in connection with the influenza epidemic. At the request of Dr. G. A. Park Ross, Acting Health Officer for the Union, Natal, representatives of the district first met in the S. A. M. R. Camp, South Coast Junction, on Oct. 11, 1918, when Dr. Park Ross, Mr. Pather, and Dr. J. M. Ross impressed upon those present the need for the formation of a relief committee. As a result of the interview, a committee was immediately formed, with Mr. M. A. Karim as chairman and Mr. S. R. Pather as secretary, choosing for its headquarters premises generously placed at its disposal by the chairman. The then Acting Chief Mag-

istrate, Mr. Walker Wilson, explained to us the duties involved upon the Committee. Dr. Park Ross, without losing time, put us in full possession of the working details. We commenced operations on Oct. 21, 1918, and our sphere of activity was then limited to the area lying between the Umbilo River and Merebank, on the one side, and the homby of Bellair and the end of Durban Bay all the other. Approximately speaking, the Indian population of this district would be about 6,000 persons. The Government appointed two men of our selection as Government sanitary inspectors, at the salary of £6 per mensem, and placed them at our disposal. Realising as we did that a large number of lives were jeopardised by this new and dreadful scourge, we energetically throw ourselves into the work. It was not long before we discovered the many disadvantages which impeded us. Of those, the chief were the insufficiency of inspectors, the entire absence of medical advice and assistance, the delay in securing burial certificates, the ignorance of our countrymen as to the necessary safeguards to be adopted to ward off an attack, the difficulty of obtaining nurses, the want of a burial ground, &c. With these must be added the deprivation of the services of our secretary by the Chief Magistrate and Dr. Park Ross, who requisitioned him to assist the Union Government in forming new bodies to carry on relief work in different parts of the Coast. During the temporary absence of the secretary the entire duties fell heavily upon the shoulders of the chairman. At this juncture, the Acting Chief Magistrate's duties, to our regret, took him to Umzinto. Mr. Percy Binns, Chief Magistrate, resumed office. Notwithstanding the state of his health, he threw himself heart and soul into the work immediately, as the epidemic was then at its zenith, with the rate of daily mortality running heavy. The Chief Magistrate displayed considerable anxiety for the welfare of the sufferers, and endeavoured most feelingly to remove, with the sympathetic co-operation of Dr. Park Ross, the difficulties which impeded us. Leaflets giving directions as to nursing, and stating the precautions to be adopted to ward off infection, were printed in the vernacular and circulated broadcast. Aid was given to provide nursing. Additional inspectors were appointed as and when we required: speedy burials were facilitated, and our secretary, to our relief, was again able to devote much of his valuable time to the relief work. The question of procuring medical advice was insuperable, and corpses were continued to be interred in such places as were procurable. Owing to the exertions, however, of our chairman, Dr. Hira Mameek nobly came to the rescue, at consider-

able monetary sacrifice. His services were at our disposal for a nominal fee. He attended all our cases, and upon numerous occasions was called upon to travel over miles of sandy and bad roads, sometimes at a late hour. The thanks of

THE GOVERNMENT,

the Committee, and the general public are due to him. At the request of the Chief Magistrate, our sphere of activity was gradually extended as far as the Umbegin-twini River, on the one side, and Hillary on the other. The district of Umhla was also included in our allotted area, and the number of inspectors was finally raised to seven. This extension in our field of activities entailed upon us a great deal of work, but we rose to the occasion. The scenes of hundreds of families being stricken down with influenza at one and the same time, without nourishment and succour, were pitiable sights, never to be forgotten. Owing to the largehearted generosity of our chairman, who placed at our disposal his men, money, motor car, carriage, telephone, &c., free of charge we were able to offer speedy and effective reliefs to these families, and thus saved them from wholesale extinction. The Committee, acting under instructions from the Government, ceased operations, Dec. 31, 1918. During this period of 72 days the Committee carried on operations most strenuously and laboriously, and the immensity of its work might be gauged from the following particulars: Number of houses visited, 15,546; number of cases dealt with, 1,545; number of persons provided with medical aid, 58; number of persons supplied with foodstuffs, 98. The Government held out no promise of pecuniary assistance at the commencement of our work, but subsequently they suggested it be carried on under the £ for £ system. Later, when they appreciated the work that was done by the committee, they voluntarily bore the entire expenses. Though to all intents and purposes of official requirements we ceased operations on Dec. 31, 1918, the Committee nevertheless continued to attend to the wants of the poor. The Union Government expressed their appreciation of the work done by the committee, in a letter they addressed to it, and which reads as follows: "With reference to the recent influenza epidemic, I have the honour to convey to the chairman and committee of the South Coast Indian Relief Committee the thanks and appreciation of the Government for the very valuable services rendered by the committee during the time of the epidemic." A similar letter was also received by the secretary. We had hoped that we had seen the last of the disease, but, unfortunately, the epidemic, though in a mild form, re-appeared during the early part of April, 1919.

and we were called upon to re-commence operations for the second time, which we did on April 5, 1919. For five months we continued our relief work. The experience we had gained during last year assisted us, not only to carry on our relief work systematically, but it also enabled us to extend our activities as far as Pinetown. The population of the extended area would be about 16,000. On Aug. 23, acting under instructions, we closed our work. The work of the committee during this period is reflected in the following particulars: Number of houses visited, 23,879; number of cases relieved, 1,721; number of persons attended by doctor, 98; number of persons supplied with foodstuffs, 110. In connection with the epidemic, it is our duty to mention all those who contributed to the success of our work, and we point out that the Chief Magistrate, Dr. Park Ross, Mr. Walker Wilson, Capt. Murray, Mr. H. L. Paul, Dr. Hira Maneek, Mr. A. B. Semedley, the S.A.M.R., and the Sanitary Inspectors deserve your thanks and admiration for the valuable services rendered in their different departments.

RESOLUTIONS.

The following resolutions were then unanimously passed:—

"(1) That the Indians of South Coast Junction and districts, in public meeting assembled in Clarewood, on Sunday, Aug. 31, 1919, hereby express their sense of high appreciation to the Government of the Union of South Africa for the relief afforded to the poorer section of Indians during the influenza epidemic, and for bearing the whole of the expenses in connection therewith:

"(2) This meeting, appreciating as it does the keen interest and sympathy evinced by Mr. Percy Binns, Dr. Park Ross, and Mr. Walker Wilson in the welfare of the poorer class of Indians during the influenza epidemic, desires hereby to place upon record its deep sense of gratitude and heartfelt thanks:

"(3) This meeting further desires to express its appreciation of the services rendered at all time during the influenza epidemic by Mr. H. L. Paul, Mr. A. B. Semedley and the S.A.M.R. and Sanitary Inspectors."

GARLANDING CEREMONY.

The resolutions being passed, the Chairman garlanded Mr. Walker Wilson, by G. A. Park Ross, Mr. A. T. Roberts, Capt. Murray, Messrs. W. T. Clark, K. K. Nayanah, Sergeant, Stephens, and M. A. Karim. As the garlanding ceremony was in progress the Secretary briefly explained to the audience the special services rendered by each gentleman, amid frequent cheers. The chairman was also garlanded, as a mark of esteem and respect, by the secretary. A pleasing fea-

ture of the ceremony was the placing of a garland round the neck of Mr. Karim by Thanoo Maharaj, a Brahmin, on behalf of the Hindu community. Mr. Pather was surprised by the chairman and Mr. Karim, both of whom garlanded him. The members of the Committee were each presented with a beautiful bouquet, as were the inspectors.

SPEECHES.

Mr. Walker Wilson thanked the Committee for inviting him to be present, and expressed his appreciation of the Committee's action in providing him with a motor car to come down from Umzimto. He did not claim entire credit for creating this Relief Committee, but in consultation with Dr. Park Ross he had done so, in order to give Indians a trial to manage their own affairs in this connection. "You surprised us," he said; "you were very successful, and we are satisfied." He had heard the report of the secretary, and it reflected great credit for the work that was done so splendidly. He hoped in all matters specially affecting Indians that the Government would appoint local committees to combat difficulties. He also hoped that there would be no return of the disease. The Committee helped for the common good: Hindus, Mohammedans, and Christians were benefited. He was glad to have had an opportunity of meeting them. He wished Indians every prosperity, and hoped that those who were rendered weak through the disease would regain strength. He must mention Dr. Park Ross, who had all along assisted Indians in this trouble. He thanked them for the honour that they had done by garlanding him.

Dr. Park Ross said he had great pleasure in being present that day to meet them. There were, approximately, 45,000 Indians living between the Tongaat and Mlolo Rivers, and when the epidemic broke out there was no organisation to cope with it. He had always felt that Indians could take up their own matters, and therefore he thought this Relief Committee should be formed. With their own officials, they could appoint their own inspectors and deal with the matters themselves. The South Coast Junction Committee had proved an unqualified success in its work, and he was perfectly satisfied with it. After seeing the South Coast Junction Committee work, he, in conjunction with Mr. Walker Wilson and Mr. Pather, formed seven committees. Up to Dec. 31 the total cost of all committees was £603 12s. 6d.; the number of houses visited was 40,686; 10,825 sick persons were treated in home or hospital; 128 cases were medically treated. In combating the epidemic the difficulty was to find out the number of cases, where they were situated, and early treatment was essential

and in this connection the Committee's nomination of their own inspectors, who knew the people and districts, was an excellent idea, and worked marvellously well. The economy in the administration was admirable. Although, he said, they were disbanding at the present moment, he hoped they would assist again if the disease returned. He would gladly call on them again. He thanked them in the name of the Government. He had every confidence in the Committee, and the chairman, Mr. Karim, was a tower of strength. He was always present and attended to his duties well. The secretary, Mr. Pather, was of much assistance to them. The experience he gained there was of considerable use in the formation of committees elsewhere, which had to look up to South Coast Junction for their guidance. He was glad to be able to endorse the success of the Committee's work.

Capt. Murray said that he understood that to be garlanded was the highest honour that could be done in Indian society. He appreciated the good wishes of the Committee, and said that he was given special credit for dispatching the ambulance without delay. He did his best. In some instances, there was a little grumbling that could not be helped. He was aware that the Indian Committee had done splendid work. He was happy to be present.

Mr. A. T. Roberts thanked the Committee very much for inviting him. Mr. Binns, he said, was unwell, and therefore not able to attend. He had heard the report of the secretary, and was pleased with the work that had been done, which was one of sympathy. The Europeans, as a rule, were very sympathetic. They were sympathetic towards high ideals. They were, as human beings, liable to err, and they were ever willing, as far as possible, to redress Indian grievances. He appreciated Mr. Anglin's word that good officials realised their duties.

Mr. W. T. Clark referred to the work of the Committee. He briefly reviewed the grievances of the Indians, and pointed out how best to redress them. He thanked the Committee, and concluded with the hope that the epidemic would not re-appear.

Mr. Karim, in a lengthy speech, thanked the European and Indian guests for their kind attendance. He reviewed the work of the Committee, explaining some of the hardships that were endured in coping with the epidemic, and said he was pleased with the kind words expressed by guests for his work. He was, however, not willing to accept all the honour. He maintained that a large share, if not the whole, was due to Mr. Binns, Dr. Park Ross, Mr. Walker Wil-

son, Mr. H. L. Paul, Dr. Mira Maneek, and others, for their untiring, energy zeal, and unbounded sympathy. In discharging his humble duties, he was constrained to neglect his business to a considerable extent, with the result that he was fined £5 for not sending in his income-tax return. (Laughter.) He was not sorry, because he felt that the money would be used to defray the expenses of public administration. It made no difference to his work. His was a humanitarian work, and he found his reward in the satisfaction that the work of the committee had produced in the minds of the Government and the people. He was sorry that Mr. Binn could not come. Without the guidance of Mr. Pathe the committee would not have been able to succeed so well. He regretted that Mr. Pathe declined to accept any form of public appreciation for the services he had rendered, both here and elsewhere. Mr. Paul deserved his sincere and warmest thanks for his advice. He thanked Messrs E. M. Paruk, A. H. Moosa, M. G. Anglia M. S. Randeree, K. R. Nayanah, and R. G. Bhalla for their assistance.

After Mr. Sheikh Mehtab's blind pupil had rendered specially composed song, the guests adjourned to the chair-wood Hotel, where light refreshments were provided.

Before the termination of the proceedings votes of condolence were passed in connection with the deaths of General Botha and Hajee Dawood Mohamed.

मेरिस्वर्गमें कृष्ण अष्टमी उत्सव

उक्त स्थानके सज्जनोंमें से इन्द्रपाल सिंह, लौटन सिंह तथा शिवनारायण पांडे की प्रेरणासे कतिपय सज्जनोंने सहायता दिया जिन उदार तथा धर्मात्माओंके नाम नीचे लिखे अनुसार हैं:- श्रीबू इन्द्रपाल सिंह बा० नामदार सिंह, पं० रामदेव पाठक, अजोध्या साहु, देवसरण, गोविन्द सिंह, रामचरन, खुशियाल पांडे, मकवन सिंह, आदि क्रिमोन है तोविनल और उक्त नगर के निवासी सज्जनोंने यथा शक्ति द्रव्य से सहायता देकर उक्त उत्सवमें भाग लिये। ता० १९-८-१९, मंगलवार की रात्रि को यह उत्सवके समय लगभग २०० मनु-

प्य तथा स्त्री उपस्थित थे मुख्य समय पर विद्यार्थी बनवारी तथा कुञ्जविहारी आदि ब्राह्मणोंने उपस्थित सज्जनोंके प्रत्यक्ष दोनों विद्यार्थीोंने शिवनारायण पांडे की आज्ञा से ईश्वरोपासना, स्वस्तिगान, शान्ति प्रकरण का पाठ किये पश्चात् संस्कार विधानुसार हवन समाप्त करके आरती का गायन किये तदुपरान्त स्त्रियोंने प्रसाद, फल, फूल, मेवा, दुग्ध, द्रव्य आदि सामग्रो भक्ति तथा प्रेम-पूर्वक अर्पण किये तत्पश्चात् उपस्थित सज्जनों को प्रसाद बांट कर चाय आदिसे सत्कार किया गया पश्चात् भजन आदिसे उत्सव की शोभा बढ़ाकर जागरण किया गया। इसी समय बाबू इन्द्रपाल सिंह ने सर्व सज्जनोंसे निवेदन किया (हे बन्धुओं) आज हम परमात्माको धन्यवाद देते है जिनकी दया दृष्टिसे आप सर्व सज्जन एकत्र होकर इस उत्सव को पूर्ण कि ये और हम आशा रखते हैं कि शनिवार की रात्रि को श्री कृष्णचन्द्र जीका रथ नगरमें घुमाने के समय तथा रविवार दिन को उक्त उत्सवके भण्डाराके समय इससे भी अधिक भारत बन्धु कृपा कर एकत्र होकर कार्य को पूरा करेंगे।

पुनः शनिवार की रात्रिको उक्त स्थानमें स्त्री तथा पुरुष एकत्र होने लगे ८ वजेके करीब लगभग ३०० स्त्री पुरुष एकत्र हो गये प्रथम एकत्रित सज्जनों को चायसे सत्कार करके ८॥ वजे श्री कृष्णचन्द्रजीका रथ मंदिरसे बाहर निकाला गया और एक उत्तम गाडीमें स्थापन किया गया रथ की शोभा अबर्णाय है चित्रकारों ने अत्यंत परिश्रमसे बेल, बूटा, फूल, रंगविरंगे तस बारी से ऐसा सुसज्जित किया कि दर्शकों को आश्चर्य होने लगा। रथकी सजावटमें

म० डी० लक्ष्मणने अधिक भाग लिया और भी अनेक सज्जनोंने भाग लेकर अत्यंत शोभा सहित बनाया उक्त चित्रकारों की चित्रकारी सराहनीय है। श्री कृष्णचन्द्र जी का रथ अनेक प्रकारके बाजा तथा रोशनी और स्त्री, पुरुषों के सहित लांगमार्केट स्ट्रीट से रिट्रिफ स्ट्रीट होकर चर्च स्ट्रीट होता हुआ इस्ट स्ट्रीट होकर पुनः मंदिरमें प्रवेश हुआ।

पश्चात् श्री विष्णु मंदिरमें श्री कृष्ण जीके रथके समक्ष भजन आदि किये गये रविवार को प्रातःकालसे हर प्रकार की नैयारा होने लगी धीरे २ स्त्री, पुरुषों के झुण्ड एकत्र होने लगे लगभग दो बजे इतनी भीड हो गई थी कि जो प्रथम से दश गुणा अधिक थी तीन बजे श्री कृष्ण जीका रथ बाहर निकाला गया आगे २ रोशन चौकी तथा संख घंटा ढोलक, सारंगी, मजीरा आदि बजते और भजन होते २ रथ उक्त स्थानसे सीधा इस्ट स्ट्रीट होकर चर्च स्ट्रीट, पीटरमेरिटज स्ट्रीट, वेग स्ट्रीट आदिको लांघ कर ब्रूम स्ट्रीट जाकर ब्रूम आया ६॥ वजे एकत्रित सज्जनों को पटरस भोजनोसे संतोषित कर यह उत्सव पूर्ण किया गया।

क्लैरस्टेट वेद धर्म सभा।

३१ अगस्त को जनरल बोथा की मृत्यु पर शोक प्रकट करने तथा जनरल स्मटस की मारफत तार द्वारा उनके परिवार के साथ सहानुभूति प्रकट करनेके हेतु उक्त सभाकी ओरसे एक खास सभा हुई थी।

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No. 30

THE NEW REFORM BILL.

Powers of Local Legislature.

8. (1) The local legislature of any province has powers, subject to the provisions of this Act, to make laws for the peace and good Government of the territories for the time being constituting that province.

(2) The local legislature of any province may subject to the provisions of the sub-section next following, repeal or alter as to that province any law made either before or after the commencement of this Act by any authority in British India other than that local legislature.

(3) The local legislature of any province may not, without the previous sanction of the Governor-General, make or take into consideration any law—

(a) imposing or authorising the imposition of any new tax unless the tax is a tax (in this Act referred to as a "scheduled tax") scheduled as exempted from this provision by rules made under the principal Act; or

(b) affecting the public debt of India, or the customs duties or any other tax, or duty for the time being in force and imposed by the authority of the Governor-General in council for the general purposes of the Government of India, provided that the imposition or alteration of a scheduled tax shall not be deemed to affect any such tax or duty; or

(c) affecting the discipline or maintenance of any part of His Majesty's naval, military, or air forces; or

(d) affecting the relations of the

Government with foreign Princes or State; or

(e) regulating any central subject; or

(f) regulating any provisional subject which has been declared by rules under the principal Act, to be either in whole or in part, subject to Indian legislation, in respect of any matter to which such declaration applies; or

(g) affecting any power expressly reserved to the Governor-General-in-Council by any law for the time being in force; or

(h) altering or repealing the provisions of any law which having been made before the commencement of this Act by any authority in British India other than that local legislature is scheduled by rules under the principal Act as a law which cannot be repealed or altered by the local legislature without previous sanction; or

(i) altering or repealing any provision of a law passed by the Indian legislature after the commencement of this Act which by the terms of such law may not be repealed or altered by the local legislature without previous sanction.

Provided that an Act or a provision of an Act made by a local legislature, and subsequently assented to by the Governor-General in pursuance of this Act, shall not be deemed invalid by reason only of its requiring the previous sanction of the Governor-General under this Act.

(4) The local legislature of any province has not power to make any law affecting any Act of Parliament.

Business to be carried on by Local Legislatures (Rep. 248, 252, 254 etc.).

9. (1) Sub-sections (1) and (8) of section eighty of the principal Act (which relate to the classes of business which may be transacted at meetings of local legislative Councils) shall cease to apply to a governor's legislative Council, but the business and procedure in any such Council shall be regulated in accordance with the provisions of the section.

(2) The proposals of the local Government for the appropriation of the provincial revenues in any year shall be submitted to the council for its assent in the form of resolutions:

— Provided that—

(a) the local Government shall have power, in relation to any such resolution, to act as if it had been assented to, notwithstanding the withholding of such assent, if the resolution relates to a reserved subject, and the governor certifies that the expenditure provided for by the resolution is essential to the discharge of his responsibility for the subject;

(b) the Governor shall have power in cases of emergency to authorise such expenditure as may be in his opinion necessary for the safety and tranquility of the province or for the carrying on of any department;

(c) nothing in this sub-section shall require proposals to be submitted to the council in regard to expenditure which is declared by rules under the principal Act to be a permanent charge on provincial revenues; and

(d) no proposal for the appropriation of any such revenues for any purpose or

for the increase of the amount of the expenditure authorised or proposed to be authorised by any resolution shall be made except on the recommendation of the Governor communicated to the council.

(3) Provision shall be made for the appointment from among the members of the Council of grand committees on which a majority of the members shall be nominated members, selected by the governor, with power, in cases specially referred to them, to pass or reject laws without the assent of the council, which law shall, if passed, have the same effect as laws passed by the council,

(4) Where any Bill relating to a reserved subject has been introduced or is proposed to be introduced or an amendment to such a Bill is moved, the governor may certify that the Bill or any clause of it or the amendment is essential to the discharge of his responsibility for the reserved subjects; and the Bill clause or amendment shall thereupon be referred to a grand committee.

(5) Where any Bill has been introduced or is proposed to be introduced or any amendment to a Bill is moved or proposed to be moved, the governor may certify that the Bill or any clause of it or the amendment affects either—

(a) the safety or tranquillity of his province or any part of it or of another province; or

(b), the interests of a specified reserved subject;

and may direct either that no proceeding or no further proceedings shall be taken by the council in relation to the Bill, clause or amendment, or, if he thinks fit and if the council so desire, that the Bill, clause or amendment shall be referred to a grand committee, and the Bill, clause or amendment shall be dealt with the accordance with such direction.

(6) Provision may be made by rules under the principal Act for the purpose of carrying into effect the foregoing provisions of this section and for regulating the course of business in the council, and as to the persons to preside over and for the preservation of order at meeting there

of; and the rules may provide for the number of members required to constitute a quorum and for prohibiting or regulating the asking of questions on and the discussion of any subject specified in the rules.

(7) Standing orders may be made providing for the conduct of business and the procedure to be followed in the council in so far as these matters are not provided for by rules made under the principal Act. The first standing orders shall be made by the Governor-in-Council, but may, subject to the assent of the Governor, be altered by the local legislatures.

(8) There shall be freedom of speech in the Governor's legislative council. No person shall be liable to any proceedings in any courts by reason of his speech or vote in any such council or by reason of anything contained in any official report of the proceedings of any such council.

Assents to Acts of local legislature (254).

(10). 1 Where a Bill has been passed by a local Legislative council, the governor, Lieutenant-Governor or Chief Commissioner may, instead of declaring that he assents to or withholds his assent from the Bill, return the Bill to the Council for reconsideration either in whole or in part together with any amendments which he may recommend, or in cases prescribed by rules under the principal Act may, and if the rules so require, shall reserve the Bill for the consideration of the Governor-General.

(2) Where a Bill is reserved for the consideration of the Governor-General, the following provisions shall apply:—

(a) The Governor, Lieutenant-Governor or Chief Commissioner may, at any times within six months after the date of the reservation of the Bill, with the consent of the Governor General but not otherwise, return the Bill for further consideration by the Council with a recommendation that Council shall consider amendments thereto, and such Bill, when so returned, together with any recommendations relating thereto, shall be dealt with by the Council;

(To be Continued.)

THE DHARMA VIR

Friday, 26 September 1919

RICE POSITION.

A number of retail merchants, both Europeans and Indians, were recently fined heavily for selling rice at prices beyond the Government Regulation price. In all these cases, the middleman rather than the real culprit was punished. It is the importer who must be got at if, the poor consumers are to be benefitted. It is he who is really the cause for the ruling exorbitant prices. The fixing of the price of rice has not yet benefitted the consumers, because, it is next to impossible to obtain it at that price because the wholesale importers are scandalously profiteering in the commodity. We do not understand why, when the landing cost of rice was forty shillings, the price was fixed at sixty shillings by the Government. In doing this, the Government are to be blamed for encouraging profiteering partly. After having permitted such a huge margin of profit, we cannot see the wisdom in punishing the middleman who is only making a small profit. If it be the intention of the Government really and sincerely to overcome profiteering, let them demonstrate it by taking the tangible step of commandeering all the rice from the wholesale importers and distributing them to the retail merchants. Only when this is done, will it be just to punish the middleman. We are thankful to Mr. Percy Binns and the Rice Committee for what they have done, but, the consumers feel that either the Committee or the Government or both are playing with the question. Ever since the commencement of the war the Government have had this question before them, but, the solution is as far as the moon from the earth. The rice position has never been as acute as it is now, and, we hope, that the authorities will perceive the desirability of doing something tangible and beneficial.

Indian Industries.

First Protection Measure.

Export Duty on Hides and Skins.

London Sept. 16.—A Reuter telegram from Simla says that Sir George Barnes, Minister of Commerce, has introduced a Bill in the Viceroy's Council imposing an export duty of 15 per cent. on hides and skins, with a rebate of 10 per cent. on those exported to other parts of the Empire and tanned there.

The Bill is intended to protect the promising Indian tanning industry, and constitutes the first definite protection measure introduced in India.

It is also noteworthy in that it is the first application of the principle of Imperial preference.

The Bill received a warm welcome from the representatives of commerce and industries.—(Reuter's Special Service.)

Rise in Price of Rupee.

Importance to South Africa.

Price of Imported Gold

London, Sept. 16.—The further big rise in Indian exchange, as indicated in the fixing by the India Office of the price of the rupee for telegraphic transfers at 2s., creates a position, both as regards gold and silver, which is of great importance, direct and indirect, to South Africa.

It has revived the idea in some quarters as to whether there may be in future a standard rupee of 2s.

The Indian Government has raised the price at which it will acquire imported gold to 11 rupees 11 annas per sovereign. In view of the new rate of exchange this will virtually mean the equivalent of 23s. 4½d. per sovereign, as far as South African gold and gold from outside India are concerned. The internal price of gold in India, however, is approximately 15 rupees per sovereign.

"The Times," in commenting on the

position, says it remains to be seen how much gold will be imported at the Indian Government price of 11 rupees 11 annas.—(Reuter's Special Service.)

Indian Tariff Policy.

Export Duty on Hides.

London, Sept. 21.—A Reuter telegram from Simla reports that the Viceroy's Council has passed the Bill imposing an export duty of 15 per cent. on hides exported, with a rebate of 10 per cent. on hides exported to other parts of the Empire.

Amendments by an Indian member, imposing a duty of 20 per cent., instead of 15, and declining to give preference to the Dominions or a rebate to any Dominion which discriminated against the Indian tariff policy, were reflected.—(Reuter's Special Service.)

London, Sept. 29.—Reuter's New York correspondent, telegraphing to-day says that a strike of 600,000 steel workers, which will paralyse the steel industry throughout the United States, is announced to begin to-day. The men's demands include an eight-hour day and six-day week.—(Reuter's Special Service.)

Union Parliament and Indians.

Mr. P. W. L. NAN NIEKERK asked the Prime Minister (1) whether the Imperial Conference of 1918 discussed the Asiatic question in the Union; (2) did the representatives of the Union, on behalf of the Union Government, then give any undertaking in that respect; if so, what was the undertaking? (3) Is the Government prepared to lay the correspondence between the Union Government and the British Government with regard to that matter upon the table of the House; and (4) will the Commission to inquire into this question be a Union or an Imperial Commission.

The PRIME MINISTER said: (1) Yes, by means of a memorandum drafted by Lord Sinha; (2) no, but a resolution was unanimously adopted by the Imperial Conference which is merely a re-statement

of the policy embodied in the Immigrants Regulation (Restriction) Act of 1913 and the Indians Relief Act No 22 of 1914; (3) there has not been any correspondence on the matter which can be laid on the table of the House; (4) the Government has no intention to appoint a Commission to inquire into the whole Asiatic question, Presumably the hon member is referring to the Commission to be appointed to inquire into the question of the issue of trading licences to Indians."

Borough Boundaries Extension

Indian Evidence Desired.

We have been asked by the Secretary of the Durban Borough Boundaries Extension Enquiry Committee to notify that the above Committee will sit in the No 8 Committee Room of the Durban Town Hall, on Tuesday, 30, September 1919, at 10 o'clock when all Indians desiring to give evidence before it are invited.

As the question is an important one affecting Indians in many aspects we hope Indians of all districts will take the opportunity of recording their opinion.

Exit Mr Polak

Editorship of "India"

As our readers are aware Mr H. S. L. Polak was editing the paper "India" in London. This paper is the organ of the Indian National Congress. Though Mr Polak derived his salary from the funds of the Congress, it is amazing he should have conducted the paper against its interest. There is no question of great importance to India as the proposed reforms. Yet in this matter he went against the decision of the people of India as embodied in the Congress-League Scheme of Reforms. Mr Polak has now been removed. The Indian Leaders would not have him as Editor unless he was prepared to write for the Congress-League Scheme and he had to resign. This indicates the folly of trusting our affairs in the hands of foreigners.