

public bodies, but now, in view of the unusual position that has been created in the Transvaal, the question has become one of very great importance, and, unless the authorities intend to disregard Indian habits and sentiments entirely, my Association submits that an investigation in the manner suggested by me is absolutely necessary.

I venture also to point out to you that you have omitted to mention that the Natal scale, whilst it retains mealie meal as part of the diet for British Indians, it provides for bread also, thus enabling Indians at least to fall back upon four ounces of bread. I beg also to point out that, according to the Natal scale, for prisoners undergoing a sentence beyond 42 days, treacle is added to the ration of mealie meal, and that for others the scale is fairly liberal, much more so than the Transvaal scale. My Association, therefore, respectfully trusts that the matter will be reconsidered.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

(Sd.) ESSOP ISMAIL MIA,
Chairman, British Indian Association.

Violence Also?

VIII-483 Johannesburg, 28th August, 1908.

The following communications show what price the Indians will have to pay for their principles:—

The Honourable,
the Attorney-General,
Pretoria.

Sir,—My Association has been informed that, at the trial of an Indian named Gopal Chhibha, on the 25th instant, for trading without a licence, immediately after the sentence was pronounced against him, Constable No. 30 violently dragged him from the dock. My Association is informed that this was witnessed by several British Indians.

My Association will be obliged if you will kindly investigate this matter and take such steps as may be necessary in order to protect British Indian prisoners from molestation.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

(Sd.) ESSOP ISMAIL MIA,
Chairman, British Indian Association.

The Secretary of the Law Department replied:

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter dated the 28th August addressed to the Attorney-General complaining of the action of Police Constable No. 30 at the trial of Gopal Chhibha and in reply to inform you that the matter is receiving attention.

Down on Indians and Pauper Aliens

The *Transvaal Leader* of the 28th ulto., publishes the following information.

The South African Party (White League) is arranging to hold public meetings in Johannesburg on September 4, and Johannesburg on Wednesday, September 9, to

place before the people the following resolution:—

"That this meeting emphatically protests against any further concessions being granted to Indians in the Transvaal, and urges that the Asiatic Registration Act be rigidly enforced, and that no privileges be given coloured people other than extended to the natives of South Africa."

"That this meeting is unanimously agreed in urging the imperative necessity of enforcing the Shop Hours Regulation Act, and thereby relieve shop and storekeepers of the unfair competition that now prevails."

"That this meeting also desires to bring to the notice of the Government, with a view to minimise illicit gold-buying and illicit liquor-dealing, the urgency of stopping all hawking of goods or produce, of whatever description, in the mining areas of the Transvaal, excepting local farmers who are selling the produce of their own or hired land."

"That this meeting denounces the continued permitted influx into the Transvaal of pauper aliens, the serious injury caused thereby to tradespeople and mechanics, calls for immediate enquiry to ascertain the means by which so many undesirables enter the Transvaal, and to concert measures to prevent a continuation of the injustice alike to floor and British born residents."

Mr. Chaplin on the New Bill

Mr. Chaplin, M.P.A., speaking at Goldenhuis on the 27th ulto., remarked as follows on the new Bill:—

As to the Asiatics, he had seen that the papers were saying that the Government had climbed down before the Asiatics. It was not his business to defend the Government, but it was fair to look upon the position as it was. The Asiatics took up what most of them thought was an unreasonable attitude, but they put forward some claims which were not unreasonable. They said that some people were not present at the time of the voluntary registration agreement, who, if they had been here, would have been allowed to get the benefit of the compromise without any question whatever. They said further that if such people could now prove that they had been here they would have been accepted. As his hearers knew, the Opposition joined with the Government in settling the matter. It would have been easy for the Progressive Party to assume the opposite attitude, which would have been intelligible from the party point of view, but that attitude did not commend itself to them. They thought the question was outside party politics, and that it was better for both parties to agree and to show the Asiatics that they had both sides against them. The Bill which had been brought in was fair. It affirmed the principle already laid down that no more Asiatics were to be allowed into the Colony except people who could prove that they would have been allowed here before. The whole country was at one in its determination to stop Asiatic immigration, and the Asiatics would find that this was so. All sections of the House were in favour of the Bill, and the Asiatics must accept the inevitable; they must recognise that they would get no support in the way of party politics at all. (Loud applause.)—*Rand Daily Mail* 28th August.

British Indian Petition

The British Indian Association has sent to Lord Selborne a Petition to be forwarded to the Secretary of State for the Colonies in connection with the Asiatics Registration Act recently gazetted.

The Natal Leaders

Messrs. Dawood Mahomed, Parssee Rustumjee and M. C. Anglia are now

serving three months with hard labour for the sake of the country that gave them birth, and they have well earned it. The seven days' adjournment that was taken by the Public Prosecutor was passed by them in galvanising Indians in the Transvaal into life.

The sinews of war being fairly exhausted, they undertook the task of making collections. They commenced at Johannesburg, and most of the principal merchants willingly and handsomely subscribed, although they have borne the brunt for the last two years in every way, and although some of them could ill afford to pay as they have done. In two days, they collected over £300. On Friday, after the prayers at the Friday Mosque, they, accompanied by Mr. A. M. Cachalia and Mr. Nadeshir Cama, in whom the Post Office has stupidly lost a zealous servant and the community has gained an equally zealous worker, went to Krugersdorp. The people of Krugersdorp gave them a warm welcome, and within three hours, most of the Indians had paid up, bringing the total subscriptions in Krugersdorp up to over £59. They returned to Johannesburg the same evening, by the last train, and next, that is, Saturday, morning, they entrained, accompanied by Mr. Cachalia, the Chairman designate of the British Indian Association, to Heidelberg. In Heidelberg, the stout-hearted Mr. Bhayat, who has been spending money like water on behalf of the cause, gave £16. The result was that, within a few hours, and from very few Indians, £45 was collected. They, then, took the night train to Standerton. The leaders of Indian society in Standerton met them at 2 o'clock in the morning. Here, again, the response was equally liberal, over £53 being collected. Mr. Cama had here rejoined the party. The leaders then decided to go to Pretoria, from where they had been deported, and do some work there.

They, accordingly, went there by the Sunday train, summoned Mr. Gandhi, who joined them by the first train available, and those Indians who have submitted to the Asiatic Act could not withstand the entreaties of the leaders, and Mr. Hajee Cassim commenced the subscription list by putting down £5. Messrs. Tayob Hajee Khan Mahomed, Ayob Hajee Beg Mahomed, and others followed, the subscription list reaching £26 in a few hours. A meeting was then held hurriedly in the location, and promises of further subscriptions were made. They then, after having been entertained with refreshments by Messrs. A. M. Suliman, entrained for their destination, where they were to be invited to become King Edward's guests for three months. At Germiston, they were met by Messrs. Imam Abdul Cader Bawazeer, M. P. Fancy, E. S. Coovadia, Omerji Sale, G. P. Vyas, Jivanjee and others. They were entertained to a tea-party at a local hotel. The most pathetic part of the entertainment was that, although it