

E. AFRICA
 UNION OF SOUTH AFRIC
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1920

POSITION OF INDIANS

Previous Paper.

Forward extract from "Pioneer Mail" giving article
 reprinted, by Mr C. W. Andrews to the Associated Press
 his visits Central East and South Africa.

Corrected among the following the same (P) 10
 This article deals largely with
 S. Africa as regards the
 E. African part -

"A" - The Bluebirds...
 said to the... that they
 liked Indians, but of course
 w/ proper "better Indians"
 which is, today the least,
 a qualified approval.

"B" - I did not know that Indians
 had played so large a part
 in New Zealand's history -
 never knew anything of their
 story

subsequent Paper.

3666

Get. we had...
 a... of the...
 2

wh. comm. 10. 10.
August, - for making hearings
magistrates & judges in the
S.A. I thought it then -
& still think it - a peculiarly
unfortunate argument from
the Madras point of view:
Portuguese Caprica is not so
well administered that examples
from that Territory should be
cited lightly by the pro-Madras.

So far as S.A. deposits
concerned - truly

Recd

3. We believe that at the end 1970
of 1919 the Govt of Nyoroland was
apprehensive about the possibility
of the Indian applicants for land.

C is a total amateur. Two or three years ago
the land in the S.A. was so covered by the
clique of the pro-Madras in the S.A. that we
asked the P.O. to tell the I.O. - who were
more independent than they have yet been
over the S.A. of Sir R. Lyndall's view of
the Indian in court - that he responded
readily to land treatment - the P.E.A.
He would have been very nice to him

6 Oct 20.7.20.

J. R.
20/7/20

Mr. W. J. ...

INDIA OFFICE,

WHITEHALL,

LONDON, S.W. 1.

16th July, 1920.

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Information on this subject should
Under Secretary of State for India,
Public Department,
India Office,
London, S.W. 1.
Reference number: —
I. & P. 3924/20.

Printed by the Government of India,
Litho. Press, Delhi.
No. 170. Eit. No.
1920.
Printed in London.

Sir,

With reference to Sir ^{Set} Read's letter of the 16th ultimo, No. 28532/1920, I am directed by the Secretary of State for India to forward, for the information of Viscount Milner, an extract from the "Pioneer Mail" of the 7th May 1920 giving the article communicated by Mr. C.F. Andrews to the Associated Press regarding his visit to Central, East and South Africa.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Secretary,

Judicial & Public Department.

Under Secretary of State,

COLONIAL OFFICE.

most careful and thoughtful statesman in the South African Union told me that the Indian position in the Transvaal was far worse than that in 1913 and 1914. I regard the atmosphere of British East Africa as no less highly inflammable, it having been a common belief in the past that economic causes were the chief factors in this tension. But, after examining all the evidence on the spot I am convinced that the racial factor is the greatest. I have seen with my own eyes racial treatment of Indians which fully bears out this opinion. In Natal I met with certain surprises. There was a distinct wish in important directions to conciliate Indian sentiment and to avoid the extreme anti-Asiatic attitude of the Transvaal. A great deal of the bitterness of the years 1913 and 1914 had subsided; but, on the other hand, Indian labourers on the sugar plantations had not been able to rise (as they should have done) after the collapse of all indentured recruiting from India in 1910-1911. Ex-indentured Indians, who have served their term of contract, had not improved their lot in life indeed, having regard to the rise in prices, their position was actually worse than in the earlier days. This labouring population is now sinking below the level of the Kaffir and the Zulu. While the monthly wages of the latter have risen monthly the wages of the Indians have fallen. I was very greatly distressed when I witnessed at close quarters the submerged and sweated condition of these ex-indentured Indian labourers.

Only in a few instances has a radical improvement taken place. In the great majority of the cases the labourers have sunk too low to rise at all. I regard this as by far the most serious Indian problem in the whole of Africa. The Parliament of the South African Union can hardly fail to be anti-Asiatic in its policy. The nationalists, who have obtained a greater number of seats than any other party, are pledged to a directly hostile program. The majority of the members of

Parliament are likely to side with them. The South African party under General Smuts cannot be relied on to take (as a united body) the Indian side. Even the Unionists are uncertain. Thus the Parliamentary situation is in every way distinctly worse than that in 1913 and 1914, when an Indian settlement was reached. The balance of power has shifted in an anti-Asiatic direction. The Indian question cannot be kept out of the next session, and, whatever the present Commission may report, the Parliamentary verdict is likely to be hostile.

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this opinion and I have hitherto held the view that having regard to the very small number of the Indian community who can be regarded as qualified to exercise a franchise the time has not yet come for basing the representation of Indians in the Protectorate on the elective principle. I am, however, impressed by the representations which have been made to me both by the Indian representatives from East Africa and by the Secretary of State for India as to the importance which is attached by the Indians to the election of their members. I have, therefore, decided that arrangements shall be made for the election of two Indian members of the Legislative Council on a special franchise as to which I shall await your recommendations. Ends.

Paragraph 4 substitute Berins: It will follow as a result of elective representation of Indians on the Legislative Council that the same arrangements should be made in connection with Municipal Councils and in this case also I shall await your recommendations as to the detailed arrangements to be made. Ends.

Paragraph 5 and the remainder of my despatch will stand unaltered and with these amendments which should be communicated at once to Governor Uganda announcement can be made when you have arranged date with him.

Before taking steps to amend the Letters Patent and Royal Instructions which are to be passed for the Kenya Colony I shall await your reply as to Arabs. I presume that in addition an amending Legislative Council Ordinance will be prepared.

PARAPHRASE

TELEGRAM

From the Secretary of State for the Colonies.
To the Governor of Kenya.

(Sent 4.5 p.m. 4th August, 1920.)

Clear the Line.

4th August. With reference to my telegram of
20th July Indian policy last paragraph Arabs a reply is
urgently required as supplementary instruments must reach
Privy Council August 11th or be postponed till October.

MILNER.

2-3-20