

situation. Government may continue to be taken for agricultural stock which is doing fairly well. Prices are generally stationary with a slight upward tendency.

novel and pleasing experience last week when they were treated to tea followed by a musical entertainment at Government House by the Chief Commissioner and Mrs. Hope Simpson.

Also ran: Flashlight II, 10-5.
Betting: Two to five on D. H. F.; threes Swept; sixes the others.
Goomtee Plate.—Five furlongs.

Letters to the Pioneer.

INDIAN EMIGRATION.

SIR,—A letter signed "G. P." lately appeared in the *Pioneer*, in which the writer discussed an article on the above heading, contributed by me. He has raised one or two points of such manifest interest that a few lines in continuation of that article may possibly be of interest to the large section of the public in India which has been following the course of events "Out West."

"G. P." says "the position seems to me analogous to that of the British in India." He says, what is at least partially true, that the Englishman comes out to India because he can earn more than he can at home, and it may be admitted that in this particular a certain resemblance exists. But the parallel will hardly admit of a further extension. Indeed if the comparison be taken on to its logical conclusion it will militate most strongly against the plea of the Indians for the right of entry into Canada.

When Europeans generally, and the British in particular, first came to India, they were admitted entirely on sufferance. When they began to be allowed to have a share in the good things which India then had to offer, it was because they were able to make themselves useful: because they possessed qualities which made them of great value to the masters of the country. And in the end when they established an unquestioned right of entry, it was as rulers who had gained that position by force of arms, pure and simple. It is unnecessary, and it might seem unkind, to point the moral. Even to-day, if the position of the Briton in India has undergone a great change, induced by a thousand factors of an advancing civilisation the world over, it can at least be argued that, if he takes some trifle of pay and pension out of the country, he brings into it benefits of administrative ability, of science and of culture, which infinitely more than balance his monetary gain. The trade of India, equally open to all races and in which the Englishman is being seriously challenged by many competitors, can hardly be quoted as a particular advantage to-day, whatever it may have been in the past. It is because of this, because the Sikh in British Columbia takes everything and gives nothing, that he is unwelcome in a country whose administration is occupied, in a sense in which none of the Governments of the Old World can be occupied, with its advancement. In such a country, where new problems arise from day to day, problems of great importance and far-reaching effect, the Government is forced to take decisive action in vital matters with a frequency which shows its effect in the strong line they have taken in the question under discussion. There seems no room for doubt, in the face of the most able and illuminating letter from the *Pioneer's* correspondent on the spot, which lately appeared in these columns, that the decision has been finally arrived at by

the Dominion Government to practise exclusion rigidly and that it is the mode alone, the pretext for exclusion which may least of all offend the Imperial ideal, which is still in question.

This conclusion, if it be a just one, brings us to the crucial point of the problem. If Canada has definitely decided that she does not want the Indians, that their admission would be harmful to her best interests, is there any more to be said on the question? The Canadian taken generally is reasonably patriotic, the word being used in its Imperialistic sense, but we have all seen, in the instance of the discussion over the preferential tariff with the United States, how easily the sentiment may be strained. Coercion is a word which no thoughtful man would ever use in this connection. Persuasion, when it comes to a question of vital interests, is hardly likely to be effective. The Empire generally might be with the Indian view, though as a matter of fact it is very far removed from any such position, and yet the question would still depend on the decision of that virile body, the Government of Canada.

"G. P." in his very interesting letter says that to exclude British citizens from British Dominions may well be the first peg in our Imperial coffin. There is surely no single statesman who has had to consider the issues at stake who has not realised the seriousness of such a policy. But there is a danger even graver than the establishing, once and for all, of the half-admitted doctrine of the inequality of the races of the Imperial family, a danger which is keenly appreciated by the men who are in touch with the Canadian spirit of impatience of restraint. It is not a subject which it will do any good to discuss, but it can never be forgotten for a moment, in adjusting the balance so that due weight may be given to the welfare of the Empire.

An Indian, a man of insight and intelligence, with whom I lately discussed this question, complained that Japanese and Chinese are not excluded and that they are therefore better treated than the Indians. He was of course perfectly correct in taking that view, but it was easy to give him a reason, which if it did not satisfy his national aspirations, left him with nothing further to urge in support of his contention, beyond a trite reiteration of the rights of citizens of the Empire. The fact is that there are only two kinds of labour which British Columbia is in need of, first, domestic labour; and, second, agricultural labour. Japanese and Chinese are most useful in both these directions, Sikhs are useless in either; and because it will naturally be questioned why an agriculturist born and bred, like the Sikh, is useless for farm work in B. C., a word of explanation is plainly necessary. An Englishman, or occasionally a Canadian, for work on a farm can be obtained for any sum between \$30 and \$60 a month. A man of this type would almost always be able to manage a farm without constant supervision, and many of them would be absolute experts in everything

pertaining to farm management in Canada, a term of far wider application than it is in England. On a large farm, this manager would need one or more Japanese or Chinese under him and these could be had from \$15 up to about \$40 a month, and under supervision they are most efficient hands.

The Sikh cannot take the place of the manager because of his natural limitations. He will not work for the same wage as the Chinaman or Jap. Indeed, even if he could do the manager's work on the highest pay ever given, he would not be willing to accept it. On the roads and railways, working as an unskilled labourer, he can get \$3 a day, and he is in Canada to get rich quickly and at all cost of discomfort and loss of dignity. Therefore he is useless for the only kinds of work for which he is wanted and only competes in the already over-stocked market of unskilled manual labour.

"G. P." in his letter suggests a poll-tax on entrance into the country, of such an amount as would compensate for the money the Indian will take away when he returns home. The idea is, I fear, open to more than one fatal objection. It does not do away with the main difficulty of Imperial policy, for it makes a distinction between Indians and other citizens of the Empire. Indeed, it reduces the Indian to a level with the Chinese and Japanese. And further, it does not solve the problem from the Canadian point of view. South Africa affords a most salutary example of the effects of compromise. Admission on a head tax would only be the preliminary step to years of acrimonious discussion and agitation.

Canada is autonomous, Canada is very much alive to its interests and Canada is held to the Empire by bonds of affection and mutual advantage. These statements are axiomatic, and it is on this basis that the matter will eventually stand. It is not to be imagined for a moment that the Dominion Government is not fully alive to its responsibilities as an integral portion of the great system of countries serving the King. Had it not realised these duties, the question would have been settled long ere this and with none of the hesitation at present apparent, which is not due to weakness but to policy.

"G. P." ends his letter with the words "we ought to think about it—all of us," and indeed who is there who has the interests of the Empire, of Canada and the best interests of that "Jewel of the Crown," India, at heart who has not thought of it long and deeply and with anxious hope that the statesmen, in whose hands the decision rests, may find wisdom to settle it for the very best.

THE AUTHOR OF "HINDU EMIGRATION."

SIR,—Being a regular reader of the *Pioneer* I have been following the discussion with very great interest on the above subject. I quite agree with your correspondents as well as with Sir Henry Johnstone's views as