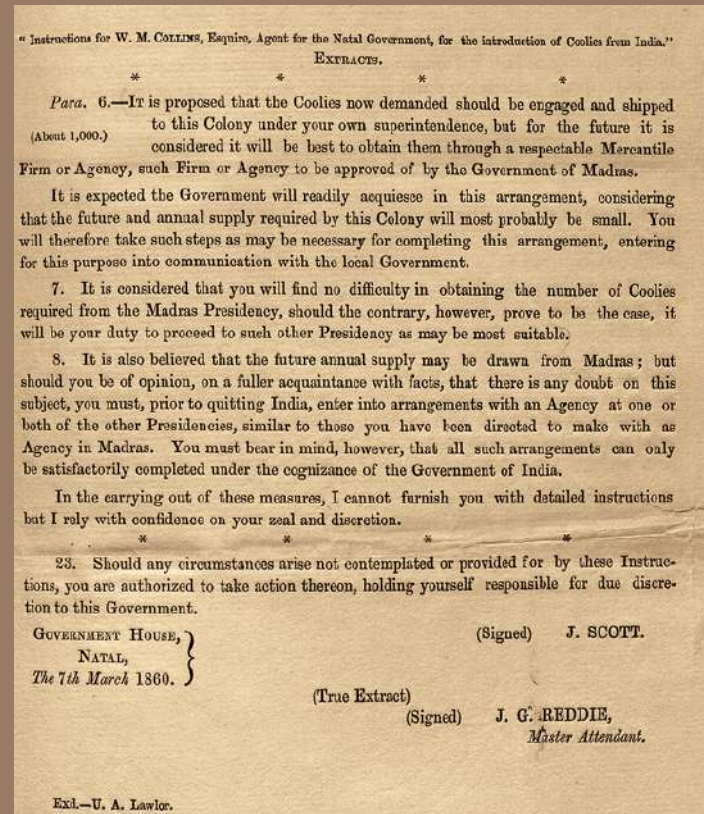


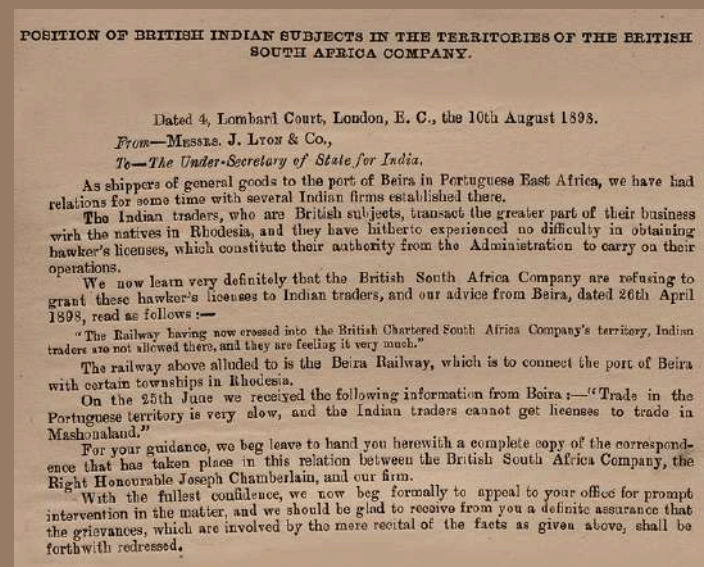
PANEL 5

अफ्रीकाकेसत्याग्रही

Satyagrahi of Africa



Emigration of Indian Laborers



Denial of hawker's licenses to Indian traders in Portuguese East Africa (now Republic of Mozambique), 1898

On 7th March 1860, the Natal Government issued instructions to William Collins, the appointed agent for the recruitment of Indian coolies (indentured labourers) for the colony. The instructions outlined that the coolies should be engaged and shipped under Collins' supervision, but future recruitment would ideally be managed through a respectable mercantile firm or agency, approved by the Government of Madras. Collins was tasked with ensuring a steady supply of coolies, either from Madras or, if necessary, other Indian presidencies. The Government emphasized that all arrangements must be conducted under the oversight of the Government of India, and Collins was granted the discretion to take appropriate actions if unforeseen circumstances arose during the recruitment process. This document highlights the early efforts to establish a systematic approach to bringing Indian labourers to Natal, a key part of the colonial economy at the time.

On 28th February 1910, the Governor of Natal sent a telegram to the Secretary of State for the Colonies, addressing local press commentary regarding the Indian Government's stance on emigration. The Governor clarified that the Indian Government's resolution to stop the further emigration of indentured Indians to Natal, along with Lord Morley's sanction to promote legislation, was not an immediate prohibition

Annex 1.

Telegram from the Governor of Natal, to the Secretary of State
for the Colonies.

(Received, Colonial Office, 1-5 P.M., 28th February 1910.)

28th February. No. 1.

HAVING regard to comment of collective local press, should be glad to be able to inform Ministers that statement* by Mr. Maxwell, Secretary for Commerce, that the Indian Government accepted the resolution before the Legislative Council of India to the effect that the Government should stop further emigration of indentured Indians to Natal, and that Lord Morley's sanction to promote legislation to prohibit emigration had been obtained, is only to give Government of India the statutory power to prohibit emigration should Union Government not treat the matter sympathetically. This is in view of assurance contained in enclosure to your Despatch No. 35, 29th January.—METHUEN.

On 28th February 1910, the Governor of Natal sent a telegram to the Secretary of State for the Colonies, addressing local press commentary regarding the Indian Government's stance on emigration. The Governor clarified that the Indian Government's resolution to stop the further emigration of indentured Indians to Natal, along with Lord Morley's sanction to promote legislation, was not an immediate prohibition.

British Indian Government's decision to halt
indentured Indian emigration to Natal, 1910

THE STORY
OF
My Experiments with Truth
BY
MAHATMA GANDHI.

[Further glimpses into the life of the Phoenix Settlement are given in the chapters that follow. Mr. Gandhi describes the simple, yet hardy life of the cosmopolitan household in Johannesburg. Then we have an account of his experiments in earth and water cure and his views on education, particularly the education of his own children.—Editor, Indian Review.]



The Story of My Experiments with Truth is Mahatma Gandhi's powerful autobiography that offers deep insights into his intellectual, political, and spiritual evolution. Written between 1925 and 1929, it chronicles his early life, his outrage against racial injustice in South Africa, and the birth of his philosophy of Satyagraha. The book delves into his participation in the Champaran and Kheda Satyagrahas, his leadership in the Non-Cooperation Movement, and his tireless efforts towards social reform, austerity, and unity for India's struggle for Swaraj. As the editor of the Indian Review highlighted, it provides a glimpse into Gandhi's simple yet resilient life in Johannesburg, offering readers a window into the development of one of history's most influential leaders. Gandhi's autobiography continues to inspire generations, making it a timeless monument in world literature.

Mahatma Gandhi's autobiography, The Story of
My Experiments with Truth, about birth of his
philosophy of Satyagraha, 1927

Mr. Gandhi on S. African Situation

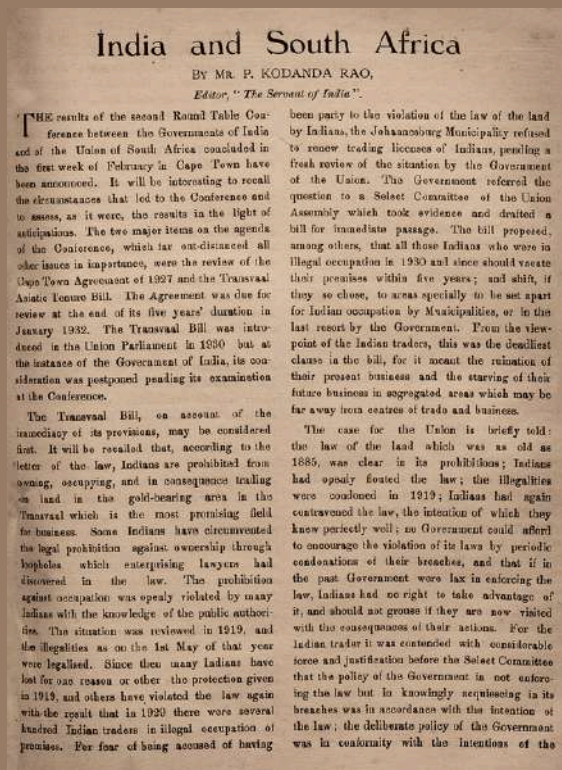
In the course of a statement of his views regarding the Anti-Asiatic movement in South Africa and especially the Class Areas Bill, Mr. Gandhi writes:—

Unlike the Natal Municipal Franchise Bill, which happily the Union Governor-General has in effect vetoed and which applied only to Natal, the Class Areas Bill is designed to apply to all the poor provinces. It enables the Government to segregate all the domiciled Indians and other Asiatics alike for residence and trade. It is, therefore, an extension, in a modified manner, of the location system devised as early as 1885 by the late Transvaal Government. * * *

Finally let it be remembered that, when Indian emigration to South Africa was restricted, the fear of the Europeans was expressed to be that

South Africa might be swamped by Indian millions. All the South African statesmen then used to say that South Africa could easily digest a small Indian population and could even give it a liberal treatment, but that the European settlers could never rest content so long as the possibility of swamping remained. Now that the so-called fear of swamping has been removed practically since 1897, the cry is raised for segregations, and if that is accomplished, the next step will be compulsory repatriation, if the segregated Indians do not voluntarily retire. The fact is that the more accommodating the European settlers of South Africa find the Imperial trustees to be, the more grasping they become in their anti Asiatic demands.

Mahatma Gandhi’s views on Class Areas Bill in Indians Outside India, 1924



Indians Outside India in February 1924 issue of Indian Review :

In a statement addressing the Anti-Asiatic movement in South Africa, Mahatma Gandhi criticised the Class Areas Bill, which sought to segregate Indians and other Asiatics in terms of residence and trade across South Africa. Gandhi points out that unlike the earlier Natal Municipal Franchise Bill, which only applied to Natal and was vetoed by the Union Governor-General, the Class Areas Bill was designed to apply nationwide, extending the discriminatory policies that had been in place since the Transvaal Government's location system of 1885. Gandhi reflects on the shifting justifications of European settlers in South Africa, from fears of being swamped by Indian immigrants to demanding segregation and, eventually, compulsory repatriation.

‘The Second Round Table Conference of 1932, held in Cape Town, focused on two significant issues: the Cape Town Agreement of 1927 and the Transvaal Asiatic Tenure of 1930. The Transvaal Bill, a key point of discussion, aimed to restrict Indians from owning, occupying, or trading land in Transvaal’s gold-bearing areas—regions with immense economic potential. While some Indians managed to circumvent the law through legal loopholes, others openly defied it. By 1929, hundreds of Indians were in illegal possession of land, prompting the Johannesburg Municipality to refuse to renew their trading licenses. The government responded with a bill requiring them to vacate these premises and relocate to segregated areas, devastating many Indian businesses. This legislation represented a significant blow to the Indian community in South Africa, marking a turbulent chapter in the struggle for rights and equality.

Outcomes of Second Round Table Conference in the form of Cape Town Agreement and the Transvaal Asiatic Tenure, 1932