

July 25, 1953

them to get into trouble with the British Government and all his followers quitted the Asiatic Union.

Indians in East Africa, South Africa and even Mauritius occupy a mi Idle place—they feel superior to the natives and inferior to the Europeans. Till now, the British protected them in their superior position and now they are setting the natives (rich ones and their poor and ignorant but fanatic followers) against the Indians, saying Indians are bloodsuckers.

If the Africans force the British to quit, Indians will have to go away with them. As Indians are generally businessmen who sell foreign goods and export native produce, they will be considered as adjuncts of the British—allied with the British. Not only Indian businessmen but their Indian employees as well. That will be the result of Indians' 'superior' position.

The late Mr Kareem Jivanjee was deprived of all his property in the highlands and from the position of an Indian Hugo Stinnes (vertical and horizontal trust magnate) he disappeared from the scene. Formerly he had owned shipping companies, saw mills and import-export business by dim of hard labour.

Indians are the forerunners and agents of British trade and all foreign trade till they established themselves. They distribute all

foreign goods supplied by British and other manufacturers and make money; later on of course they star industries, eg, in Malaya and Burma.

Indian indentured labourer in South Africa started trade after the expiry of their term and established themselves there. Now they are no longer wanted except as sub-humans. Ditto in Malaya, Ceylon and Burma.

Sikhs cleared forests in Canada and settled down there hut they arc no longer wanted. Not only Indians but even Russian Tolstoyans who emigrated to Canada in the Tsarist days, cleared forests and made them habitable.

We cannot sit between two stools. Pandit Nehru advises Indians abroad to heroine one with the people. But the Indians in trouble there want protection from the Indian Government which he cannot give.

M P T Acharya.

63C, Walkeshwar Road,
Bombay 6,
July 20, 1953.

Licencing Policy and Actual Imports

IN regard to exports and imports for 1952-53, you make the point in your editorial last week that the fall in the volume of imports was "largely a matter of licensing policy". As a matter of fact, im-

port licencing was considerary liberalised during the year, and yet imports fell! This can only mean that either imports had been heavy in the earlier period, stocks of imported goods were adequate and there was not the same eagerness on the part of importers to add to stocks which were not moving fast. Indeed, the inference is warranted that some of the licences issued may not have been utilised.

The Government, however, does not publish these figures. If it did, they would be a significant index to the state of demand within the country and/or availability of goods abroad. If the imports on Government account are excluded, imports on private account during the year would show a much bigger fall, indicating thereby very clearly decline in money incomes and in demand,

A further breakdown into capital goods and raw materials and the relative fall in each, might suggest significant changes in investment prospects and price expectations, or rather in the ideas entertained by the business community about them. One should not perhaps try to read too much into these figures, but a blunt statement that the actual volume of imports is a matter of import licencing should not go unchallenged.

Bombay,
July 23, 1953-

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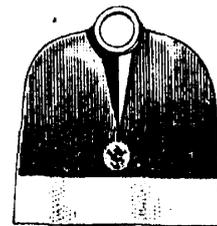
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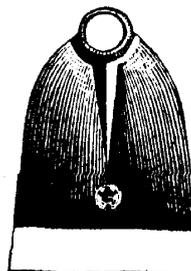
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