



Part IV: Babel or Cosmopolis? The Age of Translation

Related Images



Indian Opinion

PUBLISHED WEEKLY IN ENGLISH AND GUJARATI

No. 21—VOL. XIV.

FRIDAY, MAY 26TH, 1916.

Registered at the G.P.O. as a Newspaper
PRICE ONE PENNY

No. 9—VOL. X.

SATURDAY, MARCH 2ND, 1912.

Registered at the G.P.O. as a Newspaper
PRICE THREEPENCE

FIFTY MEN GO TO GAOL

PASSIVE RESISTANCE BY INDENTURED INDIAN LABOURERS

ON Sunday, the 18th ultimo, a number of indentured Indians on Mr. Balcomb's estate at Kearsney, near Stanger, were asked to clean the barracks and the land about it.

One of the men refused to do such

plaint, but the men felt so indignant that they would not listen to such a proposal, and so went "in a body," which the law says they must not do.

It was also stated that there was a condition of the contract of service which states that the immigrant was

and engaged Mr. Dickinson to defend them.

The Magistrate, after hearing the complaints, cautioned Mr. Starr, and made an order that the wages of the Indians be paid at once and full rations given. He also ordered that

DEBATE ON INDENTURED LABOUR

IN the Imperial Legislative Council of India, on the 20th March, Pandit Mohan Malaviya moved the following resolution:—"That this Council recommends to the Governor-General in Council that early steps be taken for the abolition of the system of Indian indentured labour."

In doing so the hon. Pandit said that this system of labour had been in existence for nearly 80 years. Consequent on the abolition of slavery in 1834 the Colonials suffered heavy loss. Hence they resorted to the labour market of India, their main aim being to get enough labour to do as much work as possible under conditions as good as possible to the capitalists. The natural abuse that these conditions gave rise to led to

penalties they would have to undergo made plain to them. Mr. Malaviya referred to a coolie who, owing to some default or another, was imprisoned in the aggregate for 692 days.

Turning to the men who were entrusted with this recruitment, Mr. Malaviya said that they were mostly very low class men who would not deem it wrong to practise fraud and be as unscrupulous as the occasion demanded. They mostly came in the guise of helpers in pilgrim centres or station platforms and then by deception drew these unfortunate men and women to the labour depots. Again, these depots could not be freely entered by the public in search of their lost men and women, and even when these latter were brought



Image 3: Pandits and Theosophists at work at the Theosophical Society headquarters in Adyar, Madras, early 20th century

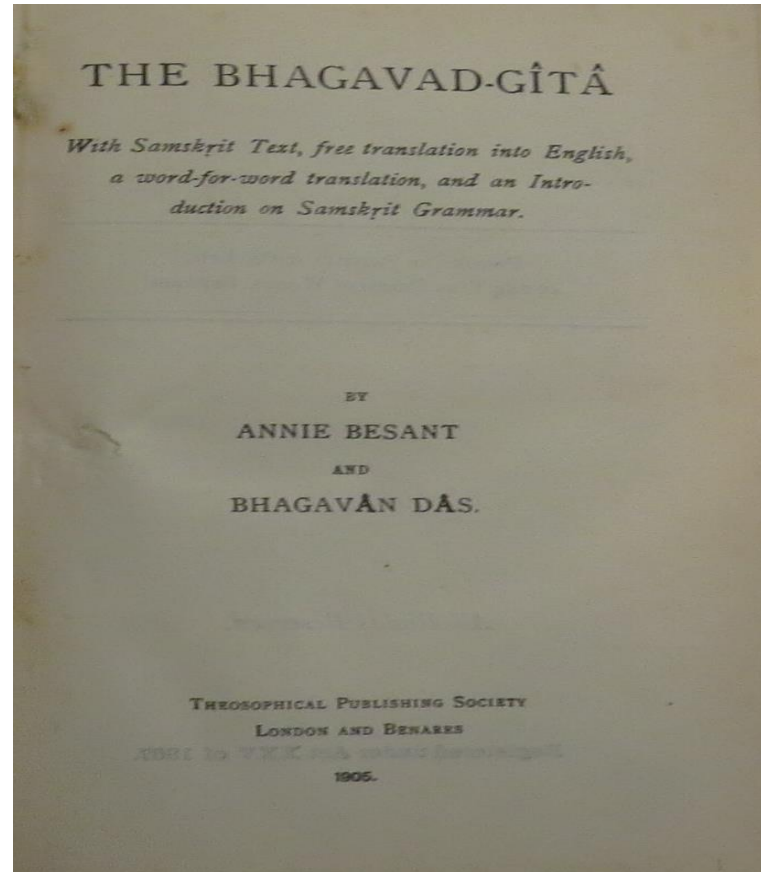


Image 4: Title page of Annie Besant's hugely successful translation of the *Bhagvad Gita* (1905)



Image 5: The Ceylonese playwright John de Silva (1857-1922)



Image 6: The Tower Hall, Colombo (below) where, in the early 1900s, many of John de Silva's musical dramas were performed. Above, an album of favourite numbers from these dramas.