

Indian Opinion

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NOTES AND NEWS

MR. Srinivasa Sastri sailed for South Africa on the 8th instant by the *S.S. Karoa*. Whole-hearted support to Mr. Sastri in his mission to South Africa was vouchsafed by an enthusiastic gathering, representing all shades of political opinion and communities on the eve of his departure says a Reuter's message from Bombay. Speeches were made by Sir Leslie Hudson, Sir Phiroze Sethna, Sir Purshottamdas Thakurdas, and Captain Solomon (of South Africa), and messages were received from the Governors of Bombay and Madras and the Maharajahs of Alwar and Bikaner, Sir Mahomed Habibullah, Sir George Paddison, Sir T. B. Sapru, and many others, wishing success to the mission. Mrs. Naidu who presided, expressed the hope that the hospitality of South Africans would be held out to the best man in India. Replying, Mr. Sastri voiced mixed feelings of confidence and depression, and said he foresaw difficulties in the hostile attitude of the Natal Government and legislature against the agreement and in the dissension inside the South African Indian Congress, but he hoped that the goodwill of the Union Government, which had cabled him its intense desire to stand by the agreement, and his knowledge of conditions in South Africa, would assist him in his task. He urged South African Indians to drop the rites of ceremonies of a somewhat superstitious nature, "which alienated them from the people of South Africa."

The *Times*, (London), correspondent at Bombay telegraphs, says Reuter, that a scheme to dispel the ignorance with which South Africa and India tend to regard each other was outlined by Mr. Sastri at a dinner at the Orient club, over which Sir Currimbhoy Ibrahim presided. The Chairman, in the course of his speech, said that much of the trouble between the two countries was due to mutual ignorance. The dinner was a private affair, but Mr. Sastri permitted a correspondent to disclose the fact that he intends to lecture on Indian civilisation, culture, and religious history if he can persuade the University of Capetown to give him facilities for doing so. Mr. Sastri also suggested that India should arrange to send other lecturers to South Africa. The project apparently made a considerable impression on the audience, which included Sir Basil Blackett (finance member of the Executive Council) and several members of the central legislature. The correspondent adds that, if adopted, the plan is manifestly capable of considerable development on the other side, for South Africa and other Dominions might see the advantage of sending lecturers to Indian universities.

In connection with the spread of colour prejudice in Scotland which was referred to in our last week's issue Reuter states further:

At the meeting of the Edinburgh Town Council, the Lord Provost said that he had been asked by the Magistrates to express the strongest disapproval of the colour bar imposed on Indians and others by certain dance halls and restaurants in Edinburgh.

The council unanimously condemned the ban. The Lord Provost hoped their decision would clear the air.

A Select Committee has been appointed on the Flag Bill which is the subject of a great deal of controversy among the different political parties in the Union.

The creation of a "Department of External Affairs in the Union as from June 1st 1927," is announced in the *Union Gazette*, the administration being committed to General Hertzog, who is to have the additional designation of "Minister of External Affairs." The appointment of Dr. H. D. J. Bodenstein as secretary for External Affairs is also gazetted. Dr. Bodenstein is "to function as Secretary to the Prime Minister as from June 1."

Sastri as First Ambassador

(BY M. K. GANDHI)

Very considerable relief will be felt by the Indian settlers in South Africa over the announcement that the Right Hon. V. S. Srinivasa Sastri has consented to become India's first Agent-General in that sub-continent, if the post is finally offered to him by the Government of India. It is a great sacrifice that Sastri and the Servant of India Society have made. It is an open secret that left to himself he was not inclined to undertake the responsibility and to leave his work in India. But he has yielded to the pressure of friends, especially when it was urged upon him that he alone could successfully inaugurate the working of the Agreement in bringing about which he played not an inconsiderable part. We know from the cables that were sent from time to time from South Africa that the Europeans were anxious that he should accept the honour. Sjt. Srinivasa Sastri had by his eloquence, transparent sincerity, sweet reasonableness, and extreme earnestness won the esteem and respect of the Union Government and the Europeans in South Africa during the short time that he was there as a member of the Habibulla deputation. I know how nervously anxious our countrymen in South Africa were that he should become the first Agent. It was impossible for Sjt. Srinivasa Sastri whom God has endowed with a generous nature not to respond to such a unanimous call from South Africa. It is almost a foregone conclusion that the appointment will be duly made and very shortly announced.

The first Agent-general will have his work cut out for him. Both the Union Government and our countrymen have no doubt high expectation of India's first ambassador. The Union Government no doubt think, that being an Indian and a person of great distinction he will make their path smooth with the Indian community in connection with any measures that they may take. In other words, they will expect him to be their sympathetic interpreter both to the Indian community and to the Government of India. Our countrymen equally surely

aim to insist upon an honourable and even interpretation and fulfilment of the Agreement. It is any time a delicate task to please rival wants, more so now in South Africa where the aspect of conflicting interests is simply bewildering. But I know that if anybody can hold the scales absolutely even and thus give satisfaction to all parties concerned, Sjt. Srinivasa Sastri is certainly the one to be able to do so. I feel certain that the Union Minister do not expect the new Agent to surrender an inch of what is justly due to the Indian Community. All he can be expected to do is to persuade the Indian settlers not to go behind and travel beyond the settlement of 1914, for some time to come at any rate, until they have proved themselves entitled, by exemplary self-restraint and behaviour to an enlargement of the position attained by the agreement of 1914.

Our countrymen in South Africa, if they intend to make the Agent's position fairly easy and their own position secure, will not expect him to work wonders. It will be wrong to look forward to a complete transformation of the old position, because an honourable agreement has been arrived at and because a great countryman is going to South Africa to see to the fulfilment of that agreement. They must remember that the Rt. Hon. Srinivasa Sastri is not going there as their counsel briefed to attend to every individual grievance. To smother him with detailed individual grievance would be to kill the goose that lays the golden eggs. He goes there as a trustee for India's honour. He goes there to safeguard the rights and liberty of general body of Indian settlers. He will be there to see that no fresh restrictive legislation is embarked upon by the Union Government and that the existing restrictive laws are administered liberally and with due regard to the vested rights. Any individual grievance therefore that he might be called upon to tackle will have to be in terms of the position I have set forth, that is to say, it will have to be illustrative of some general principle of wide application. Unless therefore the Indian community exercises prudential restraint upon themselves in approaching him for redress of their individual grievances, they will make the Agent's position intolerable and even useless for the high purpose for which it is intended. Indeed such an ambassador's usefulness lies not so much in work appertaining to his official capacity as to the indirect service he can render by his sociableness, and by his character, which leaves its impress upon anything and anybody that it comes in contact with officially or otherwise. And if our countrymen desire to make use of the great qualities of head and heart that Sjt. Sastri possesses, they will bear in mind the limitations I have endeavoured to set forth.

I understand that if Sjt. Sastri goes, Mrs. Sastri too will accompany him. This will be a great gain to the settlers. Let the Indian sisters in South Africa gather round Mrs. Sastri and surround her with every affection. They will find in her an invaluable instrument of social service. She will act as a heaven in their midst to raise the general tone among the many thousand Indian sisters who are scattered throughout South Africa. — *Young India*.

A Correction

The Balance sheet of the Lower Tugela District Veda Dharmā Sabha, (Stanger), published in our last week's issue showed an error of £159:14:3 owing to an item of "Railage and Transport" being omitted.

A Rebuff to Natal Provincial Council

RESOLUTION ON ASIATIC BILL REFUSED BY PARLIAMENT

The President of the Senate and the speaker of Union House of Assembly have intimated to the Provincial Council in regard to the resolutions they passed dealing with the Flag Bill and the Asiatic that the resolutions could not be received by Parliament under Section 87 of the South African Act.

This astonishing rebuff, says the Maritzburg Correspondent of the *Natal Mercury*, was immediately challenged by Mr. F. C. Hollander, M.P.C., who matter of urgency, moved the adjournment of the Council in order to discuss the constitutional question which had been raised. Leave having been granted, Mr. Hollander suggested that the Council should protest strongly against this action of the Government which, in his opinion, amounted to an attempt to whittle down the rights of the Provincial Council.

Taking a narrow view of Section 87 of the Act of the Union, it might perhaps be said that the resolution of the Council did not comply strictly with the requirements of the Constitution inasmuch as no actual legislation upon the Asiatic settlement was before the House of Assembly.

But it was a very small-minded view, for, in his opinion, if the Government were to carry out the terms of the agreement with the Indian Government, it would be required to take legislative action. In this regard, therefore, he argued the resolution of the Council was strictly proper. In any event the Council always has the right to register its views on questions of national importance, and in a matter of this sort they were certainly entitled to take the action they had done.

Mr. J. Dyson, M.P.C., strongly supported Mr. Hollander in regard to the constitutional aspect of the question.

In the course of the debate it was urged by several members that the Council should proceed with caution in the matter, that it should first be careful to ascertain whether there was any precedent for the action which the Council had taken in passing these resolutions and sending them to Parliament, and whether there might not be some legal justification for the action of the Speaker of the House of Assembly and the President of the Senate.

In reply to the discussion, Mr. Hollander dealt effectively with this question of precedent by pointing out that in May, 1924, the Provincial Council passed a resolution in terms of Section 87 of the South Africa Act "advising the Union Parliament that in its opinion the Asiatic problem presented a serious menace to the Union," and recommending a certain course of action. This resolution was conveyed by respectful address through the Administrator to Parliament, and was on that occasion accepted by both houses.

In view, however, of the points which had been raised and the fact that the ventilation of the matter had duly achieved the purpose of the Council in making the views of this Province more strongly heard, Mr. Hollander agreed to withdraw his motion for the adjournment of the House, so as to give time for considering Council's further action.

The resolution dealing with the Asiatic Bill was published in a previous issue of the *INDIAN OPINION*. The following is the text of the resolution on the Flag Bill referred to above:—

(1) That this Council resolves, in terms of Section 87 of the South Africa Act, to advise Parliament that a national flag for South Africa which excludes the Union Jack from the design thereof is contrary to the wish of practically the whole of the people of this Province, and, in the opinion of this Council, would violate both letter and spirit of the South African Act, 1909.

(2) That a national flag acceptable to the Province of Natal is one that is a combination of the Union Jack

and the flag of the late South African Republics.

"(3) This Council, therefore, most respectfully urges Parliament to reject the South African Flag Bill in its entirety or to amend it as to give effect to the foregoing."

"(4) That Mr. Chairman be requested to convey the foregoing resolution by respectful address to the Honourable the Administrator for presentation to Parliament."

Transvaal British Indian Association

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of the Transvaal British Indian Association was held on Sunday the 5th instant at Johannesburg.

The Rev. C. F. Andrews, who travelled specially from Capetown, earnestly pleaded for rescission of the secession resolution that was recently passed as a protest against the South African Indian Congress delegates ignoring, it is alleged, the local claims submitted in connection with the agreement between the Union and the Indian Governments, but he had no sooner made his departure than an uproar arose over the election of office-bearers.

This ceased when Mr. D. M. Nursoo, the Secretary, appealed for order, reminding the audience that the proprietor of the hall had intimated that if there were a recrudescence of the uproarious scenes which occurred at the last meeting he would not hire out the premises to the Association again.

Mr. Camay, leader of the secessionists, submitted that the meeting was unconstitutional, inasmuch as the advertisement convening it indicated that nominations would be accepted from affiliated bodies, in respect of the election of office-bearers.

"If the meeting is unconstitutional, then let it be dissolved," remarked Dr. Godfrey, who went to say that it had been convened by a special Working Committee of which Mr. Camay was a member.

Despite a general admission that the meeting was unconstitutional and Dr. Godfrey's contention that that being so, it was incompetent to continue, it was agreed that the election of office-bearers should take place.

Nominations and proxies having been lodged, it was stated that the non-secessionist had polled over 1,800 votes, as against approximately 1,610 for the secessionists.

There was a further scene when the secessionists demanded a poll by show of hands, and this having been taken, amid protests from the other party, the officials were declared elected.

Dr. Godfrey refused to accept the office of Vice-President on the ground that, as the meeting was obviously unconstitutional, it was incompetent to elect officials or transact any business whatever.

Mr. J. J. Hazaree, B.L., who agreed with Dr. Godfrey, declined to get on the Committee.

The representatives of the Pretoria Branch of the Association, the Tamil Benefit Society and the Transvaal Colonial-Born Indians Association repudiated the proceedings, and declared that they were solidly against secession, for it would be fatal to break away from the Congress.

Messrs. Sorabjee, Patel and A. I. Kaje, who came from Durban to explain the position relative to the matter which led to the Transvaal Association passing a secession resolution, as they maintained, under a misunderstanding, afterwards addressed the meeting, and were given patient hearing.

Mr. Kaje emphasised that the Rev. C. F. Andrews had had an assurance from Dr. Malan, Minister of the Interior, that although the clause relating to the deportation of Indians who had entered the Union on bogus certificates, would stand in the Bill, there would be no general round-up, and that it would not be retrospective.

A motion was carried that the secession resolution should be remitted to a Committee of more than 100 members, but as the majority of those, if not all, are secessionists it is generally understood that they will adhere to their original attitude.—Reuter.

Indian Women's Enfranchisement

In the course of a most interesting description of intimate family life in India given before the Women's Enfranchisement League in the Central Estate and Orphan Chamber Board Room recently, the Rev. C. F. Andrews explained that Women's enfranchisement had gone forward very rapidly in India. It would probably be an under-estimate to state that one million women were already entitled to vote both at the different provincial elections and at the elections for the Central Legislature.

When the British Parliament had finally sanctioned the regulations for election, under the Montagu-Chelmsford Reform scheme, the decision about women's franchise had been left to each province to decide for itself. Only those provinces which had passed a Women's Franchise Ordinance were entitled to give women vote for the Central Assembly at Delhi.

The first provincial council to decide in favour of women's franchise had been Madras. Bombay Province had quickly followed. The United Provinces came third, having the unique distinction of passing the Woman's Franchise Ordinance without a single dissident. Bengal and Behar provinces followed later, after first rejecting the measure.

Mr. Andrews stated that as he had now been away from India for one whole legislative session, it was not easy for him to know how far the franchise of women had proceeded further, but he fully expected that it now covered nearly the whole of India, with the possible exception of the N.W. Frontier province. Three of the most important Indian States, Mysore, Cochin and Travancore, all of them in South India, had also now the franchise of women as well as of men. In Cochin women are allowed to stand for election.

Municipal franchise had been in operation in India for a long while. There were already nearly two thousand Indian women who sat as municipal councillors. Mrs. Sarojini Naidu had presided over the Bombay municipal council, acting as Mayor of that city.

With regard to the further step of women sitting as members in the provincial and central legislative assemblies, the whole matter had been held up pending the Royal Commission on the Indian Constitution, which was due in India during the cold weather of 1928. But Mr. Andrews felt that it might be regarded as practically certain that women's seats as members in the different legislative assemblies would be granted where the franchise of women had been already passed into law. The admirable work done by Indian women on the different municipal councils had gained them the right to demand a further extension of the same privilege.

The ladies of the Parsee Community had in this matter of women's enfranchisement, always taken the leading part. Lady Tata, Miss Hirabai Tata, and Mrs. Jehangir Piti were the three most distinguished names. Lady Bose in Bengal, Mrs. Iyer in Madras, and Mrs. Sarojini Naidu in Bombay, were among the leading Hindu workers. Lady Shafi of the Punjab, and Mrs. Hassan Imam of Behar were prominent among Muhammadan ladies. The Indian Christian Community had taken a very active part; and the members of the Theosophical Society at Adyar, Madras, had brilliantly supported the movement by their eloquence on the platform at public meetings and in organising work.

Nothing had done more, said Mr. Andrews in conclusion, to raise the whole tone of public life in India, than this early admission of women to the franchise.

The Story of My Experiments With Truth

[BY M. K. GANDHI]

Part II.

Chapter XXVI.

LOYALTY AND NURSING

Hardly ever have I known anybody to cherish such loyalty as I did to the British Constitution. I can see now that my love of truth was at the root of this loyalty. It has never been possible for me to stimulate loyalty, or for that matter, any other virtue. 'God save the King' used to be sung at every meeting that I attended in Natal, I felt that I must also join in the singing. Not that I was unaware of any defects in the British rule, but I thought that it was on the whole acceptable. In those days I believed that the British rule was on the whole beneficial to the ruled.

The colour prejudice that I saw in South Africa was, I thought, quite contrary to British traditions, and I believed that it was only temporary and local. I therefore vied with Englishmen in loyalty to the throne. With careful perseverance I learnt the tune of 'God save the King,' and always joined in the singing whenever it was sung. Whenever there was an occasion for the expression of loyalty, without much fuss or ostentation, I readily took part in it.

LOYALTY TRUE AND FALSE

Never in my life did I exploit this loyalty never did I seek to gain a selfish end by its means. It was for me more in the nature of an obligation and I rendered it without expecting a reward.

Preparations were going on for the celebration of Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee when I reached India. I was invited to join the Committee appointed for the purpose in Rajkot. I accepted the offer, but I had a suspicion that the celebration would be largely a matter of show. I discovered a lot of humbug about them and was considerably pained. I began to ask myself whether I should remain on the Committee or not, but ultimately decided to rest content with having done my part of the business.

One of the proposals was to plant trees. I saw that many did it merely for show, and for pleasing the Officials. I tried to plead with them that tree-planting was not compulsory, but merely a suggestion. It should be done seriously or not at all. I have an impression that they laughed at my ideas. I remember that I was in earnest when I planted the tree allotted to me and that I carefully watered and tended it.

I likewise taught the children of my family 'God save the King'. I recollect having taught it to students of the local Training College, but I forget whether it was on the occasion of the Jubilee or of King Edward VII's Coronation as Emperor of India. Later on the text began to jar on me. As my conception of *ahimsa* went on maturing, I became more vigilant about my thought and speech. The lines in the anthem:

"Scatter her enemies,
And make them fall;
Gonfound their politics,
Frustrate their knavish tricks"

particularly jarred upon my sentiment of *ahimsa*. I shared my feelings with Dr Booth who agreed

that it ill became a believer in *ahimsa* to sing those lines. How could we assume that the so-called 'enemies' were 'knavish'? And because they were enemies, were they bound to be in the wrong? From God we could only ask for justice. Dr. Booth entirely endorsed my sentiments and he composed a new anthem for his congregation. But of Dr. Booth more later.

Like loyalty an aptitude for nursing was also deeply rooted in my nature. I was fond of nursing people, whether friends or strangers.

MEETING WITH SIR P. M. MEHTA

Whilst busy in Rajkot with the pamphlet on South Africa, I had an occasion to pay a flying visit to Bombay. It was my intention to educate public opinion in cities on this question by organising meetings there, and Bombay was the first city I chose. First of all I met Justice Ranade, who listened to me with attention, and advised me to meet Sir Pherozechah Mehta. Justice Budruddin Tyebji whom I met next also gave the same advice. 'Justice Ranade and I can guide you but little,' he said. 'You know our position. We cannot take part in public affairs but our sympathies are with you. The man who can effectively guide you is Sir Pherozechah Mehta.'

I certainly wanted to see Sir Pherozechah Mehta, but the fact that these senior men advised me to act according to his advice gave me a better idea of the immense influence that Sir Pherozechah had on the public. In due course I met him. I was prepared to be awed by his presence. I had heard of the popular titles that he had earned, and I knew that I was to see the 'Lion of Bombay,' the 'Uncrowned King of the Presidency.' But the King did not overpower me. He met me as a loving father would meet his grown up son. Our meeting took place at his chamber. He was surrounded by a circle of friends and followers. Amongst them were Mr. D. E. Wacha and Mr. Cama, to whom I was introduced. I had already heard of Mr. Wacha. He was regarded as the right-hand man of Sir Pherozechah and Mr. Virchand Gandhi had described him to me as a great statistician. Mr. Wacha said, 'Gandhi, we must meet again.'

These introductions could scarcely have taken two minutes. Sir Pherozechah carefully listened to me. I told him that I had seen Justice Ranade and Tyebji. 'Gandhi,' said he, 'I see that I must help you. I must call a public meeting here.' With this he turned to Mr. Munshi, the secretary, and told him to fix up the date of the meeting. The date was settled and he bade me good-bye, asking me to see him again on the day previous to the meeting. The interview removed my fears and I went home delighted.

During this stay in Bombay I called on my brother-in-law who was staying there and lying ill. He was not a man of means and my sister (his wife) was not equal to nursing him. The illness was serious and I offered to take him to Rajkot. He agreed, and so I turned home with my sister and her husband. The illness was much more prolonged than I had expected. I put my brother-in-law in my room and remained with him night and day. I used to have to keep awake part of the night, and had to get through some of my South African work whilst I was nursing him. Ultimately, however the patient died, but it was a great consolation to me that I had had an opportunity to nurse him during his last days.

My aptitude for nursing gradually developed into a passion, so much so that it often led me to neglect my work, and on occasions I engaged not only my wife but the whole household in such service.

Such service can have no meaning unless one takes pleasure in it. When it is done for show or fear of public opinion, it stunts the man and crushes his spirit. Service which is rendered without joy helps neither the servant nor the served. But all the pleasures and possessions pale into nothingness before service which is rendered in a spirit of joy.

Capetown and the East.

MR. ANDREWS SPEECH AT THE UNIVERSITY GATHERING

The following has been translated from *Die Burger* :—

The speaker at yesterday's luncheon of the University Club was the Rev. C. F. Andrews. Mr. S. C. Schreiner as President explained that Mr. Andrews was certainly one of the most well known figures in all South Africa at the present time, owing to his activity in connection with the Indian problem in the Union. There was a great deal to be learnt from the East, and Mr. Andrews was essentially the man, who was able to tell us about the East; and he, as chairman, considered it a great honour to introduce him to the audience.

The Rev. C. F. Andrews said that while he was a young man, he had always felt a yearning to go to Central Africa. That however, was not to be, and he had gone to India instead where he had found a second home, and a country, that he considered now a part of his own life. It has so happened that he had lately to divide his time between South Africa, and India.

During the last few years, he has travelled no less than five times to Africa, and four times to the Union.

South Africa was the meeting place for the East and West and Capetown was the half way station situated exactly midway between the two continents of Europe and Asia. Capetown owed its origin, and its first settlement to this singularly favourable position. Will Capetown ever regain its former position? Well, it was possible that Capetown might once more depend on her mercantile marines to bring the East back to her harbour, as a port of call. The Suez Canal route was becoming more crowded, and expensive every year owing to heavy canal dues. If intermediate cargo was offered and at the start some shipping bounties were made possible, there was little doubt that a portion of the vast Indian trade could be diverted by way of the Cape.

The speaker however, wanted rather to expand the intellectual connexion between South Africa and India. Every time that he was in Capetown, the thought became stronger, and stronger, that Capetown must encourage a "Faculty of Oriental Study" at her University. South Africa was in many respects allied to the East. The Malay population was a constant reminder of the Eastward trend.

It was fully realised in Europe, and America how immensely important was the study of the East, not merely in order to arrive at final conclusions concerning the Christian religion, which was itself eastern in origin, but also to study the problems of language, history, philosophy, and archaeology. The Eastern classics and arts could be studied with great fruitfulness by the West. The United States had found this out already, Germany had progressed more in this direction than any other country in Europe. Through this study Germany had solved many of her own problems.

Capetown, as the half-way station between the

West and East, was singularly marked out as the chosen spot for the encouragement of a "Faculty of Oriental learning."

Indian Question in South Africa and the Round Table Conference

(Continued from Page 155)

The Government of India had earlier in 1925 urged upon the Union Government that in order to secure a permanent solution of the Indian problem satisfactory to all concerned a conference should be arranged in which representatives of both Governments should participate. This suggestion was for certain reasons not accepted, but when the new Bill was introduced a deputation went to South Africa with the consent of the Union Government and with instructions to collect first-hand information regarding the position generally pending the further progress of the measure. The deputation consisted of Mr. (now Sir George) Paddison, I.C.S., Mr. Baza All and Sir Devaprasad Savadhikari, Members of the Council of State, with Mr. G. S. Bagpai, I.C.S., as Secretary. They arrived in South Africa in December, 1925, and their able representations to Dr. Malan, Minister of the Interior, secured a decision to refer the Bill to a Select Committee before the second reading. The members of the deputation and other witnesses were examined, and as a result of the evidence obtained, the Government decided to hold a Round Table Conference of representatives of the Union Government and the Government of India in order to explore all possible methods of settling the Asiatic question in South Africa. A provision was made that the settlement arrived at must hold out a reasonable prospect of safeguarding the maintenance of Western standards of life in the Union by just and legitimate means, but in the meantime the further consideration of the Bill was postponed. To the Paddison deputation must be accorded the highest praise for the successful outcome of their devoted efforts in the cause of both India and South Africa when hope had almost been abandoned. Their path was paved with difficulties, but they won through, and in the end gained the genuine goodwill of the Union Government as well as of many of the people of South Africa. The informal conversations with members of the Union Government undoubtedly resulted in a better understanding and appreciation of respective points of view and difficulties.

About the time the Paddison deputation reached South Africa an Indian deputation, with Dr. Abdur Rahman as leader, arrived in India to present a petition to His Excellency the Viceroy. The deputation also addressed meetings in Delhi and other places in India, and they put forward their cases against the Bill, with considerable ability and moderation.

At the invitation of the Government of India a deputation of members of the Union Government, with the Hon. Mr. F. W. Beyers, K.C., M.L.A. (Minister of Mines and Industries), as leader, paid a visit to India during September and October, and were given the opportunity, in a fairly extensive tour, of gaining an insight into Indian life and conditions. The visit was full of interest to the members of the deputation, and India accorded a hearty welcome to her distinguished guests.

This brings to the appointment and departure of the Government of India Delegation to South Africa to attend the Round Table Conference which, it had been arranged, should open at Capetown on December 17. The members chosen to assist at the momentous Conference were :

The Hon. Sir Muhammad Habibullah, K.C.I.E. Member of Governor-General's Executive Council (*Leader*).

The Hon. Mr. L. Corbett, C.I.E., I.C.S., Secretary to the Government of India, Commerce Department (*Deputy Leader*).

The Right Hon. V. S. Srinivasa Sastri, I.C.S.

