

Indian Opinion

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MR. SASTRI'S IMPORTANT PUBLIC UTTERANCE

FULL TEXT OF HIS SPEECH AT PRETORIA TOWN HALL

THE text of Mr. Sastri's speech at the welcome reception given to him at the Pretoria Town Hall is as follows:—

Mr. Mayor, Chairman of the Reception Committee, ladies and gentlemen,—my task of returning thanks has been rendered extremely difficult by the very kind very affectionate way in which the speakers have referred to me. It will not be right of me, exactly, to assess the truth in their utterances. I take it, however, that in saying the many things which fell from their lips their object was to place before me a high ideal, which I hope in work amongst you I shall never forget. By so doing I may perhaps in part deserve the encomiums which lavishly and unreservedly have been bestowed on my devoted head. It is true, ladies and gentlemen, that my task is difficult, but one remark that the Mayor of Pretoria made encourages me to hope that I shall be received by the Europeans, with a glad welcome. (Applause). He was good enough to observe that he hoped that I shall assist in the task of bringing about a more cordial understanding between the European and the Indian communities. I hope with all my heart that my efforts will be attended with a certain measure of success in that direction. I should certainly feel proud if, as a result of my labours amongst you, that consummation came nearer practical politics. But my hope is that I shall do nothing which will make the relations between the two communities worse than they are. I have always felt that a man who enters on the task of mediation, on the task of making peace, of creating better understanding between peoples is a rash man. There are against him forces of a deep and powerful nature; in daring to contend against them he essays a task which may in the sacred book have been called 'blessed,' but which I know in the actual world makes him very unhappy, and his life a burden to him. I have in the past often had to play that role and my experience is not altogether encouraging. However, good work cannot be abandoned, especially if one is called to it as I have been called to it.

To my friends of the Indian community, I cannot say anything better than the request that Mr. Andrews had addressed to them. The experience that Mr. Andrews has of the conditions in South Africa, like the experience which he has of Indians and Europeans throughout the Empire, is absolutely without parallel. (Applause). His desire to advance our cause is something in the nature of a duty which he feels night and day pressing upon him. I know, as a matter of fact, that he considers this work as the work of God and of Christ. Nothing, therefore, can prevent him from incurring sacrifices and risks in this cause—sacrifices and risks of which I have personal knowledge and therefore which I will describe to you as without

a parallel in the whole history of Indian patriotism (Loud applause). Now, his words were that you must unite and present to the world one common feeling and common purpose. In India, as you all know, on this question of the relations that obtain between the communities in South Africa, there is no difference whatever, not a speck of it, between the Government of India and the people of India. (Applause) And believe me, in my heart of hearts, I believe that in coming out as Agent of the Government of India I really have come out as Agent of the people of India. (Applause) And if my feeling on this subject was not as reserved as it is I very much doubt whether I would have accepted the work. You will therefore understand that any remarks that I make upon the subject of the Capetown agreement are inspired solely by a desire to serve the cause that you have at heart.

Now, I am here in order to help the Union Government to carry out the terms of the Capetown agreement—and to help the Government of India at the same time to carry their part of the agreement. The agreement has met with such unanimity of approval both in India and in South Africa that it would be inappropriate on my part to lay any emphasis on any note of discord that may have been sounded here or there. (Applause). That is no part of my purpose to-day, and will not be any part of my purpose while I stay in South Africa. But there is one aspect of it that deserves prominent mention. It is a compromise as you all know, and compromise is the very soul of political progress. Now, in a compromise no party carries away the entire honour of the negotiation. Each party gives in a little and takes a little from the other side. He who reads the agreement therefore, bringing to it the feelings belonging solely to one side will encounter parts of it which he wishes were not there. That is the very nature of a compromise. When we enter on a compromise and then address ourselves to the task of fulfilling it, those to whom falls this burden believe me, cannot afford to neglect the part which they consider unfavourable and concentrate upon the part which they consider favourable. (hear, hear) That is a departure from all honourable and chivalrous dealing. (Applause). In fact, if I could address a word of advice solemnly to all who take a hand in public affairs, I would tell them that the principal test by which I would examine their work would be whether or not they were as cordial and sincere on those parts of an agreement to which they have given their signature which they consider unfavourable, as in their support and advocacy of those parts which they imagined were in their favour.

In judging of my work, therefore, amongst my

fellow countrymen do not expect me in the least to slur over anything which you might wish was not in the agreement. We have undertaken—we the Government and people of India have undertaken—to fulfil this contract, and must fulfil faithfully and honourably every part of it. And I am here to see that no difference whatever is made as to the fidelity in the discharge of our duty as between part and part of the Capetown agreement. Now, it is absolutely necessary that in order to be able to discharge this duty both the Government of India and their Agent here should understand exactly the point of view of the Indian community. Of course being an Indian myself and in constant touch with my countrymen I shall be able almost by instinct to perceive the line that you would wish me to take. But in public life, in the management of public affairs, in dealings with great governments, that would not be sufficient always. A man's actions and speeches would have to be supported by the declared and ascertained opinion of the community of whom for the moment he happens to be the spokesman. It is necessary, therefore, that at every turn your opinions, your wishes, your feelings should receive unequivocal expression. How are you going to do it? Whether in India or here, or elsewhere where our people are found in any considerable numbers, they have stood together like brethren and spoken with one word, their feelings animated by a common cause. (Applause). But you run a risk if you divide.

You wish the Union Government to carry out certain parts of the agreement in which they are the principal actors. How can they do it properly if one part of the Indian community demanded a line of action while at the same time another part of the Indian community demanded a different line of action? Often they would be at a loss to judge which was the right course and whenever it suited them they would choose the one and reject the other. The Government of India, by a strange incongruity, while not recognising the Indian National Congress in India, have always recognised the South African Indian Congress and governed their conduct towards the Union Government by a careful understanding of the point of view of the S. A. Indian Congress. (Applause) You will throw out the Government of India too if you divided and presented two aspects to them at the same time. It is therefore your first duty to close up your ranks, and let the Union Government, the Government of India and their agents everywhere clearly understand what your views are upon questions which may arise from moment to moment. That must be done. I will not say now where lie the merits of a particular dispute—it is not my business now although it may become my business to-morrow. I will, therefore, speak to you as I feel I ought to speak to my own countrymen. Today let me insist in general terms on the absolute necessity of following Mr. Andrews' advice, which is also the advice of Mahatma Gandhi: that as far as may be possible you should speak with one voice, make one demand, and always put forward more or less the same representations.

There are just one or two more matters to which I think I may, without trespassing on propriety, make passing reference. That will be on the advice which Mr. Gandhi has sent you all through his 'Young India' newspaper. I believe that the very best thing that has happened to crown my efforts in this sub-continent with success is that he has chosen to address to you words of moral import such as he, and not many others, I am sorry to think, have the authority to give to their

countrymen. He has asked you in your dealings with me not to depart from truth and from the line chalked out by good faith. (Applause). Now, truth and good faith are essential everywhere in the conduct of individual lives, but when you come to deal with affairs on a large scale pertaining to communities, believe me, not a stroke of work is possible, no jot of success is possible unless all our dealings are guided and inspired by a strict regard for truth, fair play, and good faith between all sides. I know in the world truth is not always listened to in palaces; I know, too, that good faith does not invariably pay in public life. That, however, is a qualification you have to make when you study individual little phenomena. When you study human affairs in the large, no one can fail to be struck by this one circumstance: that to the extent that he departs from truth and propriety he also defeats and frustrates every honest effort he may make, whether in his own interest or in the interest of the general community. It is not right—I have not yet earned the right certainly—to lecture to you, and it is not part of my purpose to do so. But I conceive that this is a solemn occasion, not only in my own life—that does not count at all—but in the history of the relations between India and South Africa.

I have not hesitated in expressing my admiration of the courage and statesmanship displayed by the Union Ministers when they dealt with us at the conference. Contemporary politics, believe me, shows nothing finer, nothing of greater import to the success of the British Empire, than the way in which the Union Ministers met us in conference last December and January. (Applause). We on our part must meet that extremely fine conduct of theirs by equally fine conduct on our part; and it is the consciousness that a good turn must be met by an equally good turn that when we see the highest and admire it, we cannot afford, for very shame, to fall below it in our own conduct. It is that feeling that has possessed me for the moment, and asks me without the possibility of a refusal—demands of me that I should address to you in my first public utterance on the soil of South Africa these words: that you should be all of you united, and that you should observe strictly the principles of truth and fair dealing, whether in regard to me or in regard to the Union Government. (Applause).

Now, Mr. Mayor, may I say another word, to you and to the European community who have honoured me by their presence here in considerable numbers. I take it as a very good augury and I feel it a great encouragement in the opening of my task that in the seat of government in the Union of South Africa I should have received a welcome which I could not have wished to have been other in any respect; nor in respect of the things that have been said; in respect of the expectations and feelings that have been roused; nor, may I add, with particular reference to my friends on the left side, to the distinction and character of the audience. (loud applause). ✓

It is emphasised on all hands in the Assembly says the *Natal Witness*, that the co-operation of the Government of India must be one of the main factors in making the agreement a success, and it is hoped that Mr. Andrews will be able to ensure this and obtain a general appreciation of the standpoint of South Africans.

Notes and News

WE have been requested by the Rt. Hon. V. S. Srinivasa Sastri to convey through these columns the grateful thanks of himself and his staff for the numerous letters and telegrams of welcome and of good wishes sent to him which he hopes to reply to individually.

In the course of an interview with a representative of the *Natal Witness* in reply to a question put to him whether he intended to return to South Africa in the near future and how it was that he had never taken an official part in the protracted negotiations between the Governments of India and the Union, Mr. C. F. Andrews said: for some time to come, his field of work clearly lay in India where it will be necessary to give detailed explanations throughout the country of the provisions of the agreement, in order to prevent uninformed opposition. The passing on Friday night by the Assembly without hostile amendments of the two Indian Bills, the "Immigration and Further Relief," and the "Northern Districts" measures, is regarded by Mr. Andrews as the final ratification by the Union of the agreement. India, he said, had already ratified the agreement by accepting without opposition a statement made by Sir Mahomed Habibullah in the Legislative Assembly at Delhi. The Council of State had also passed a resolution warmly commending the settlement. Thus both countries had now formally and finally agreed to give the agreement a favourable trial. He had never taken any official part in the negotiations said Mr. Andrews, because he found he could do more in an unofficial capacity. Indians, both in South Africa and India, had confidence in him while he was unfettered by any official instructions.

The Indian as a "hewer of wood and drawer of water" is agreeable but as citizen with equal abilities he is absolutely disagreeable is the essence of the views expressed by a Transvaal member of the Union Parliament in the course of an interview with a *Natal Witness* representative. On the recent Indo-Union Agreement he is reported to have said that the success of the agreement obviously depends on the steps taken by the Government of India to ensure that Indians leaving South Africa are established in India in security and made to feel contented. His chief fear was that the South African Indians, who would take advantage of the voluntary repatriation scheme, would be the class to which South Africans were least hostile. While those to whom there was most hostility would remain. "You will find, I am afraid," he said, "that Durban will miss the deft service of Indians in hotels, while the competition of Indian tailors, furniture manufacturers and storekeepers will remain as keen as ever." To take this to its logical conclusion would mean that the more the Indian adopts the Western Standard the more he will become disagreeable.

Another member, however, maintained that the clause in the Indian Immigration Bill which prevents the entry into the Union of minor Indian children and the acquiring of them of the domiciliary rights unless their mother is with them, that is to say unless the whole family is domiciled in the Union, is expected to have a marked influence on the trading class of South Africa. He will no longer be able

to have his family in India and bring out one or two sons to carry on his business. If he wishes to make his living here he must also have his home here. If he does not choose to do this, he must sell up his business and retire to the bosom of his family in India. It is expected that many will take this course. As for those who remain, it is argued that their standard of living will rise and they will be less and less a competition menace to the Europeans.

The Rt. Hon. V. S. Srinivasa Sastri, we are informed, is likely to arrive in Durban about the 12th instant.

Eugenia Coluza, a pupil of Miss May A. Lawrence, L.L.C.M. (London), has been awarded the Bronze Medal by the Board of the London College of Music for the highest Marks (91) in the Advanced Intermediate (Pianoforte).

✓ THE CASE OF MESSRS DESAI AND MEDH

MR. Pragji Khandubhai Desai and Mr. Surendra Bapubhai Medh who arrived at Delagoa Bay last Monday by the s.s. Karoa have been declared prohibited immigrants in the Union. They have been allowed to enter the Transvaal on temporary permits and from each a deposit of £ 50 has been taken.

Messrs. Desai and Medh were old residents of the Union. Their services to their countrymen in the Union during the Passive Resistance movement from 1907 to 1914 are well-known.

Mr. Desai had served on the editorial staff of this journal in an honorary capacity from 1914 to about 1916 when he left for India.

Mr. Medh had served in the Native Rebellion in 1906 as one of the members of the Indian Stretcher-Bearer Corps.

We know that these two gentlemen did not leave the Union with the intention of abandoning their Domicile.

They are included amongst those who originally entered as educated Indians and are both holders of Certificates of Exemption granted to them by the Union Government. We have no doubt that they will prove as useful to the community as they did in the past, and we hope, therefore, that the Union Government after necessary investigation and in view of the facts we have mentioned above will consider their case favourably.

This is a case which demands the immediate attention of the South African Indian Congress and it is to be hoped that it will not delay in making the necessary representations.

OUR SUPPLEMENT

AS a supplement to this issue we present our readers with a portrait of the Rt. Hon. V.S. Srinivasa Sastri, P. C., Agent of the Government of India in South Africa, together with his Staff. The Staff consists of (1) Mr. J. D. Tyson, I. C. S., who saw service in the war, is a member of the Indian Civil Service and was Chief Presidency Magistrate of Calcutta before his appointment as Secretary to Mr. Sastri. (2) Mr. P. Kodanda Rao, M. A., member of the Servants of India Society, who accompanied Mr. Sastri to South Africa when the latter came here on the Indian Delegation and is Private Secretary to Mr. Sastri. (3) Mr. C. S. Ricketts, M. B. E., who was on the staff of the Viceroy of India, accompanied the Paddison Deputation and the Habibulla Deputation to South Africa and is come here a third time as Assistant Secretary.

MR. C. F. ANDREWS

MR. C. F. Andrews is now with us for the last eight months. It is practically impossible for Indians in South Africa to adequately repay Mr. Andrews for the invaluable services he has rendered us. God alone in Whose name and with implicit faith in Him he is serving can and no doubt will reward him. Mr. Andrews had decided to leave the Union on the 10th inst. for Rhodesia and from there he intended to proceed direct to Beira to catch the boat for India. He was, however, prevailed upon by Mr. Sastri to prolong his stay which, he has consented to do. Mr. Andrews' present programme, therefore, is to pay another visit, which was promised by him, to Rhodesia on or about the 10th instant from where he will return to the Union on the 16th and will sail for India by the s. s. Karapars which leaves Durban on the 1st of August.

Indians throughout the Union, we have no doubt, will gratefully rejoice at this decision of Mr. Andrews.

Mr. Sastri's Arrival In Pretoria

The Right Hon. V. S. Srinivasa Sastri, Agent of the Government of India in South Africa, arrived in Pretoria on the morning of June 28, by the Delagoa Bay Mail. Notwithstanding the early hour of 7 there was a large gathering of Indians at the railway station to welcome Mr. Sastri.

Mr. Sastri was accompanied by Mr. Henry Venn Commissioner for Asiatic Affairs who met him at Delagoa Bay; Messrs. Kalandi Rao, J. D. Tyson of the Indian Civil Service and C. S. Ricketts. This party was joined at the station by Mr. Pring, Under-Secretary for the Interior, and they subsequently breakfasted together at the station, Mr. Dobson Acting Registrar, Immigration Office, was also present.

When the train drew in, Mr. Sastri stepped on to the platform and after greeting leading Pretoria Indians, was garlanded by Mr. A. C. Tayob on behalf of the local Indian Association, by Mr. A. I. Kajee on behalf of the South African Indian Congress and by Mr. Sorabjee Rustomjee on behalf of the Natal Indian Congress. Many Indians who had travelled also from Johannesburg to welcome Mr. Sastri also garlanded him.

It was interesting to note that amongst those gathered to welcome Mr. Sastri were also representatives of the Natives, namely Obief Sikkuni (who, read the native address to H.R.H. the Prince of Wales), four of the chief's councillors, and Messrs T. P. Thompson and I. Bud M'belle members of the Native location advisory board.

In the course of an interview with our representative Mr. Sastri said that he had little expected to be here and was least inclined, but Mahatma Gandhi had, as it were, set the ball rolling and he had no alternative but to accept the office. He had come at the bidding of Mahatma Gandhi and would try to do his bit.

Mr. Sastri's health is of course very delicate and he looked, therefore, as best as could be expected in the circumstances. It is advisable, in view of this, for those who visit Mr. Sastri to give him the least possible strain. Mr. Sastri was put up at the Grand Hotel.

Pretoria Indians were busy throughout the day arranging the function to be given that night at the Town Hall in honour of Mr. Sastri. The telegraph office of Pretoria also seemed to be exceptionally busy; for in the midst of the work telegrams welcoming Mr. Sastri were simply pouring in.

Messages of Welcome to Mr. Sastri

We give below a few of the numerous messages of welcome sent to Mr. Sastri which were received by the Pretoria Reception Committee:-

MR. BEYERS—MINISTER OF MINES.

"I am particularly pleased that the Indian Government have sent to the Union the Right Honourable Mr. Sastri a man of outstanding ability and personality and endowed with a temperament exceptionally adapted to the consideration and solution of difficult matters and to the smooth working of any arrangement. Heartly welcome him to our country."

MR. BOYDELL—MINISTER OF LABOUR

"Would very much like to be associated with the hearty welcome that will be given to India's Distinguished Representative Mr. Sastri."

MR. MADELY—MINISTER OF POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS

"Heartiest welcome to Mr. Sastri. Trust he marks beginning of an era of full understanding and good feeling among the people."

GENERAL SMUTS

"Please convey to Rt. Hon. Sastri my cordial welcome and sincere wishes that his mission may

prove helpful in our difficulties."

MR. PATRICK DUNCAN

"Welcome Sastri's arrival as notable towards harmonious adjustment of questions connected with Indian community in South Africa."

MR. MORRIS ALEXANDER

"Regret unavoidable absence welcome to Sastri very distinguished representative Indian Government. Sure his coming heralds new era of peace and mutual understanding"

MR. J. W. GODFREY—PRESIDENT S.A.I.C.

"South African Indians warmly welcome you. May almighty God grant you health and strength to cope with the tremendously important duties attaching to your appointment. The Honour of India is safe in your hands and I pray for sincere co-operation with you to achieve ultimate success and amelioration of our countrymen here"

Pretoria Indians' Reception To Mr. Sastri

The Town Hall Function

THE MAYOR PRESIDES

If we are not mistaken it was the first time in the history of Pretoria Indians that an Indian function was allowed in the Town Hall last Tuesday evening on the occasion of welcoming the Right Hon. V. S. Srinivasa Sastri. 8 p.m. was the time of the function and long before that hour the hall was fully packed by Indian. There was also present a large number of Europeans who had kindly responded to the invitation notwithstanding it having been given at a very short notice.

The Mayor, Mr. C. M. De Vries, had very kindly consented to preside over the function and in the course of his speech said, that he was glad that the Indian Government had sent so distinguished and cultured a man to represent India in South Africa. It was of great interest and importance to have so distinguished a representative of India with them. It enabled him to judge what the Indian Empire meant to the British Empire and the rest of the world. He did not wish to take up their time as they had come to hear Mr. Sastri and he had a fairly long programme before him to go through.

Messages regretting their unavoidable absence and wishing Mr. Sastri every success in his mission by Union Ministers and many prominent members of both the European and Indian communities were read by Mr. R. Mooloo, secretary of the Reception Committee.

The Mayor, Mr. Sastri and the members of his staff and Mr. C. F. Andrews, who had arrived that evening from Capetown to meet Mr. Sastri, were then garlanded by Mr. A. C. Tayob the chairman of the Reception Committee. They were also garlanded on behalf of the South African Indian Congress, Natal Indian Congress and the Cape British Indian Council

Chairman's Speech

Mr. A. C. Tayob's speech was then read by Mr. R. Mooloo in English in which the speaker said, he had very great pleasure on behalf of the Indian community of that historic town, in whole-heartedly joining in the welcome extended to Mr. Sastri and his staff by His Worship the Mayor. Mr. Sastri's coming as the Agent from India marked the commencement of an era which was unique in the history of Indians in the British Commonwealth of Nations, and in the relationship of the Motherland and South Africa, the land of their birth and adoption.

There was not an Indian who did not revere the distinguished guest of the evening for his great and noble qualities of head and heart, for his unselfish sacrifices in

the service of India, as the President of the Servants of India Society, founded by that great noble countryman of theirs, the late Honourable G. K. Gokhale.

Mr. Sastri's services in the cause of their brethren overseas generally, and especially his labours on behalf of their countrymen in this sub-continent at the recent Round Table Conference, which resulted in an agreement satisfactory to Indians as well as Europeans, would be remembered by every Indian with the deepest gratitude.

His response to their prayer, continued the speaker, was to them a part consummation of their hopes and aspirations in the agreement.

That Providence may give them (the Indians) strength and wisdom to realise their responsibilities and to do all that lay in them to render the most difficult task that Mr. Sastri had imposed upon himself in their interests, at a considerable sacrifice, an easy one, was his fervent prayer that evening.

The speaker concluded by wishing Mr. Sastri good health, strength and long life to reap the fruits of his unselfish labours.

Presentation of Address

An address contained in a silver casket was then presented to Mr. Sastri. Following is the text of the address.

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE V. S. SRINIVASA SASTI, P.C.

"Honoured Sir: On behalf of the Indians of Pretoria and Suburbs, we heartily welcome you once more to the Administrative Capital of the Union.

"We are cognisant of the fact that you have subordinated the consideration of your health to the welfare of our countrymen in accepting this most responsible position of Agent to the Union on behalf of the Government of India, and we feel grateful to the Government of India for establishing this institution.

"We are also mindful of the great service that you have rendered to the cause of our countrymen abroad, such as Australia etc. We take this opportunity of recording our deep sense of appreciation for the service you have rendered to our cause at the Imperial Conference in London, and it would be leaving out from the catalogue of your noble career a matter of international importance, if we did not mention the striking speech that you delivered at the League of Nations at Geneva.

"We record with pride the prominent part that you played at the Round Table Conference as a member of the Habibullah Deputation.

"We confidently express the hope that your statesman-like handling of affairs will be conducive to the establishment of good feeling and sympathy between the European and Indian Communities.

"In conclusion, we pray to the Almighty that He may grant you long life and health to enable you and your colleagues to carry on successfully the great work with which you are entrusted, and to secure for your countrymen a status worthy of their civilisation and culture. We remain, Dear Sir, Yours sincerely, (Sgd) A. C. Tayob, Chairman; Messrs. Vally Mahomed, M.H. Joosub, B. Maharaj Noormahomed Ebrahim, Shaikh Ahmed, R. Mooloo, Carim Osman Omar, G. Manjee, P. S. Velloo, Samsodeen, Omar, F. J. Chawa, J. P. Vyas, Allibhi V. Keshavjee, Ismail Sale Mahomed, C. T. Pillay, Ahmed Essa Hassim, Dajee Chhiba, M. M. Joshi, Esop Akojee, Ebrahim Ismail, Ebrahim Abdoola Moonshi, Baba Mia, K. S. Rama, Osman Ally, H. N. Keshavjee, R. M. Sadhu, V. M. Naiker, T. M. P. Mahomed, P. Murgesen, M. Padyachi, Moosa Ebrahim, C. R. Naidoo, K. K. Khoja., members of the Rt. Hon. Sastri Reception Committee."

MR. C. F. ANDREWS

Mr. C. F. Andrews remarked on the significance of Mr. Sastri's mission, and he touched briefly on the outstanding characteristics of the new Agent for India. The appointment of such an agent had long since been his (the speaker's) earnest wish. Under Mr. Sastri's leadership the future of the Indian community would be bright. The speaker asked the Indian community to unite and speak with one voice.

Mr. Sastri, then rose amid applause to deliver what was his very first important speech after his arrival in South Africa. The full text of the speech appears elsewhere in this issue.

Dr. Godfrey then proposed a vote of thanks to the chair which was seconded by the Rev. B.L. E. Sigamoney. The proceedings concluded with the National Anthem.

The Story of My Experiments With Truth

[BY M. K. GANDHI]

Part II.

Chapter XXIX.

RETURN SOON

From Madras I proceeded to Calcutta where I found myself hemmed in by difficulties. I knew no one there. So I took a room in the great Eastern Hotel. Here I became acquainted with Mr. Ellerthorpe, a representative of the *Daily Telegraph*. He invited me to the Bengal Club where he was staying. He did not then realise that an Indian could not be taken to the drawing room of the Club. Having discovered the restriction, he took me to his room. He expressed his sorrow regarding this prejudice of the local Englishmen, and apologised to me for not having been able to take me to the drawing-room.

I had of course, to see Surendranath Bannerjea the 'Idol of Bengal.' When I met him he was surrounded by a number of friends. He said:—"I am afraid people will take no interest in your work. As you know our difficulties here are by no means few. But you have to enlist the sympathy of Maharajas. Mind you meet the representatives of the British Indian Association. You should meet Raja Sir Pyarimohan Mukerji and Maharaja Tagore. Both are liberal-minded and take a fair share in public work."

I met these gentlemen, but without any success. Both gave me a cold reception and said it was no easy thing to call a public meeting in Calcutta, and if anything could be done, it would practically all depend on Surendranath Bannerjea.

I saw that my task was becoming more and more difficult. I called at the office of the *Amrita Bazar Patrika*. The gentleman whom I met there took me to be a wandering Jew. *Bangabasi* went even one better. The Editor kept me waiting for an hour. He had evidently many interviewers, but he would not so much as look at me even when he had disposed of the rest. On my venturing to broach my subject after the long wait, he said: "Don't you see our hands are full? There is no end to the number of visitors like you. You had better go. I am not disposed to listen to you." For a moment I felt offended but I quickly understood the Editor's position. I had heard of the fame of *Bangabasi*. I could see that there was a regular stream of visitors there. And they were all people acquainted with him. His paper had no lack of topics to discuss, and South Africa was hardly known then.

However serious a grievance may be in the eyes of the man who suffers from it, he will be but one of the numerous people invading an editor's office, each with a grievance of his own. How is he to meet them all? Moreover, the aggrieved party assumes that the editor is possessed of a lot of power. Only the editor will know that his power can hardly travel beyond the threshold of his office. But I was not discouraged. I kept on seeing editors of other papers. As usual I met the Anglo-Indian editors also. The *Statesman* and the *Englishman* realised the importance of the question. I gave them long interviews and they published them in full.

Mr. Sanders, Editor of the *Englishman*, claimed me as his own. He placed his office and paper at my disposal. He ever allowed me the liberty of making whatever changes I liked in the leading article he had written on the situation whose proof he sent me in advance. It is no exaggeration to say that friendship grew up between us. He promised to render me all the help he could and he carried out the promise to the letter and kept on his

correspondence with me until he was taken seriously ill.

Throughout my life I have had the privilege of many such friendships, which have sprung up quite unexpectedly. What Mr. Sanders liked in me was my freedom from exaggeration and my devotion to truth. He subjected me to a searching cross-examination before he began to sympathise with my cause, and saw that I had spared neither will nor pains to place before him an impartial statement of the case even of the White man in South Africa and to appreciate it.

My experience has shown me that we win justice quickest by rendering justice to the other party.

The unexpected help of Mr. Sanders had begun to encourage me to think that I might succeed, after all in holding a public meeting in Calcutta, when I received the following cable from Durban: 'Parliament opens January. Return soon.'

So I addressed a letter to the Press in which I explained why I had to leave Calcutta so abruptly, and set off for Bombay. Before starting I wired to the Bombay agent of Dada Abdulla and Co. to arrange for my passage by the first possible boat to South Africa. Dada Abdulla had just then purchased the steamship *Courland* and he insisted on my travelling on that boat, offering to take me and my family free of charge. I thankfully accepted the offer and in the beginning of December I set sail a second time for South Africa, now with my wife and two sons and the only son of my widowed sister. Another steamship *Nauteri* also sailed for Durban at the same time. The agents of the Company were Dada Abdulla and Co. The total number these boats carried must have been from eight to ten hundred passengers. Half of these were going to the Transvaal.

Lower Tugela District Hindu Veda Dharma Sabha.

The following is a list of the donors to the above Sabha:—

	£.	s.	d.
Last Total	1680	2	9
DURBAN & DISTRICTS			
Mr. K. Baijnath	10	10	0
„ B. M. Singh	10	10	0
Imperial Cigar Manufacturing Co.	10	0	0
Mr. B. Ramsudh	10	0	4
„ B. A. Megrah	7	10	0
Garlick & Co	5	5	0
Bombay Bazaar & Co	5	5	0
D. Cohen	5	5	0
Durban Electric M. Water Works	5	5	0
A. H. Manning	5	5	0
S. T. Dhary	5	5	0
J. W. Jagger & Co.	5	5	0
Pather & Co.	5	5	0
Victoria Produce & Co.	5	5	0
O Sewduth	5	5	0
W. F. Johnstone & Co. Ltd.	5	0	0
Parker Wood & Co. Ltd.	5	0	0
M. Hanaraj	5	0	0
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Bachoo Bros	8	8	0
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Texas Co (S.A.) Ltd	2	2	0
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V. N. Naik	2	2	0
Shang & Son	2	2	0
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Murgasa Naiker	2	0	0
Gungaram Ltd	1	1	0
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Kandasamy Pather	1	0	0
Akloo	1	0	0

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(To be Continued)