

Indian Opinion

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BANQUET TO MR. SASTRI

A REPRESENTATIVE GATHERING AT THE WANDERERS

(SPECIALLY REPORTED FOR INDIAN OPINION)

THE Right Hon. Srinivasa Sastri was the guest of honour at a banquet given, in the Wanderers Hall, Johannesburg, by the Transvaal British Indian Association on Wednesday July 6. Europeans and Indians present numbered 650, the Deputy Mayor (Mr. W. H. Port) presiding.

The European guests represented the Union Legislature, the Church, the Magistracy, the Chamber of Mines, the legal profession, Johannesburg Municipality and other sections of the Reef Community.

The chairman (Mr. W. H. Port, Deputy Mayor) had Mr. Sastri on his left, and Mr. J. Young (Chief Magistrate) on his right. Others present included Mr. D. Christopherson (president, Chamber of Mines), Mr. H. N. Venn (Commissioner for Asiatics), Mr. L. B. Maggs (secretary to the Postmaster-General), Mr. W. H. Turnbull (Postmaster, Johannesburg), Mr. H. Papenfus, K.C., M.L.A., Dr. Manfred Nathan, K.C., Advocate P. Millin and Mrs Sarah Gertrude Millin, Mrs Gorland (Theosophy lecturer), Colonel Dawson Squibb, Dr. T. O. Visser, M.L.A., and many Johannesburg Town Councillors, Mr. C. F. Andrews, Mr. J. D. Rheinallt Jones, Mr. H. Kallenbach, Mr. Kennedy, Mr. L. W. Ritch and many others.

The Prime Minister, telegraphing his regret at being unable to attend, said: "Though absent, I join with you in welcoming your distinguished guest."

The Dean of Johannesburg (Very Rev. W. A. Palmer) sent a message expressing his sympathy with the gathering.

Chairman's Speech

The Chairman in his opening remarks said:— It is only fitting that the largest town in the Union should give a sincere and hearty welcome to our honoured guest (applause). Our guest was a man of great personality among his people, a Privy Councillor of the British Empire and known to all its component parts. His work among his own people has been highly honoured in his own country and he is very highly respected. It takes a statesman to make the crooked places straight and the rough places smooth for his people in the spirit of goodwill towards all. I think that our honoured friend will rise to the occasion. I also desire on your behalf and of the town of Johannesburg to give a sincere and hearty welcome to the first Agent appointed to the Union of South Africa from the great country of India (applause).

The Right Rev. Dr. Carley, (Bishop of Johannesburg) in proposing the toast of "Our Guest of Honour" said:—

It is a very great privilege to be allowed to propose the toast of our most distinguished guest

(hear, hear) but great privileges carry great responsibilities. As Mr. Sastri is one of the most modest of men one is a little bit shy in trying to sing his praises. But we welcome you Mr. Sastri very warmly not only because of what you are but because of the very important office which you are now holding, in fact now creating (applause). The fact that you sit here as the first ambassador for India to South Africa means a lot in the history of South Africa. All our difficulties may not have reached a solution but it does mean that the clouds which seemed so dark a few months ago have rolled away in the most wonderful fashion. Rolled away, they have, in answer to wishes and prayers (applause). We know that much progress has been made but none has contributed so much to the happy result as our guest to-night (applause). You are one who has endeared himself to practically everyone of the British Dominions. You have made a name for yourself as peacemaker in Washington and Geneva and your influence has been for good in the most important Imperial Conference ever held. In almost every corner of the nations which make up the British Commonwealth you are known and loved (applause). We think of you to-night as one who is proud to call himself a servant of India (hear, hear). Thirty years ago and more when I was a student at the university one used to hear that nationalism would die and internationalism would take its place. That day has not yet dawned. The currents of nationalism are running stronger than ever and I do not myself regret it. The right kind of nationalism is what the world means when nations will love to lay their treasures and goods at the feet of all races and when everybody will make a contribution to the whole body of humanity—that type of Nationalism is what the world needs (applause). We rejoice that you call yourself a servant of India and as a servant of India you came to serve South Africa. We rejoice that you represent a dignified and beautiful village life of India. We rejoice that you come to give knowledge to South Africa. And the people of South Africa will doubtless have knowledge to give India. You have come here with the things of the spirit and the mind which is more important than the things of the body and to teach us in South Africa that a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things that he possesseth. If India with her great traditions of philosophy and contemplation and spirituality can bring home that lesson to us in the West we hope too we will have our influence in leadership and experience to lay at your feet (hear, hear). So you neither jealous of the other but both contributing to the other to bring about a happy result, and no one is more fitted than our guest to-night

(applause). For he is a servant of India and proud to call himself that. The history of the world might be written that it is a contest between the idealist and the hard-hearted, practical man. The idealist says it is not right that men shall be slaves. They must be freed. The practical man said that it could not be done, that the men were happy as slaves, well-looked after. But the idealist wins simply because he is an idealist and loves to serve in the simplicity of his character. The idealist sees further than the man in the street. Sastri and Andrews are idealists (applause). We trust that you will lift all our lives to a higher plane and teach us the privilege of supreme joy of service. We should remember that it is almost at the risk of your health that you come over to this great task. We know in Kenya you broke down in health and you are now in a period of life when a man can claim the right to rest and recuperate, but you come here to create this great office. It is up to us to see that Mr. Sastri is not over-worked (applause).

Presentation of Addresses

Illuminated addresses were then presented to Mr. Sastri by the British Indian Association, Hemedia Islamic Society, Young Moslem Association, Patidar Society and Prajapati Mandal. The first named read as follows:—

To the Right Honourable Srinivasa Sastri, P.C.

Most Honoured Sir:

Humbly, yet not without pride, we your countrymen in the Transvaal represented by our Association accord you our loving and wholehearted welcome.

For so long have we been seared in the hot fires of persecution and humiliation that it is small wonder we should, as we do, welcome you with open eager arms as the ambassador of peace, as the harbinger of salvation.

We are indeed fortunate in that, of all India's splendid sons you, sir, who are justly regarded as one of India's most devoted servants should have been chosen as the first national representative of our dear Motherland to the Union of South Africa. That you have undertaken the onerous duties pertaining to your high office and the stupendous task of a mediator, at a time when grave issues of national importance to the Motherland are hanging in the balance and await your energies, traversing the high seas leaving your dear ones, evinces your sense of self-abnegation, and your profound love in the advancement of our righteous cause.

We regard with confidence your advent as the dawn of a happier era, wherein toleration shall replace intolerance and the light of better understanding dispel the jealousies and hatred born of ignorance and indifference. We are not blind to the magnitude of the task that lies before you, nor yet to the loyal support and co-operation you have the right to expect from us. Of that loyal support and co-operation we humbly and solemnly assure you.

We are confident that you will never fail to help us regain our lost ground, since our revered leader, Mahatma Gandhi, left us for larger sphere of sacrificial labour. May God help us to be faithful to you and true and loyal to the mission you personify.

Noble son of India! Help us to an understanding of the nobility of true service. Lead us, teach us—you who are of us albeit so greatly beyond us—so that through us who have hitherto been the despised, our dear Mother India may, throughout our South Africa, be honoured and respected, and the barriers of our disabilities, worn out at last, fall away.

Irrespective of creed, or caste, of province we, your Indian brothers of the Transvaal, unite in the earnest prayer that God's wisdom may guide you, His light shine through you, His strength support you in all your efforts and undertakings.

We have the honour to be, Honoured Sir, Your devoted Countrymen, (Sgd.) Dawood Ismail Patel, Chairman, Nadir A. Camay, I. Patel, Jr. Secretaries.

Mr. Sastri's Reply

The Rt. Hon. Srinivasa Sastri who on rising to speak was received with ovation said,—Mr. Deputy Mayor, ladies and gentlemen, I cannot adequately express my gratitude and joy at the demonstrations of welcome which I have received and this banquet at which we have sat with so much real pleasure is so fine and so superb that the gentlemen responsible for it deserve at your hands, at our hands, not merely at my hands, the utmost expressions of gratitude and congratulation. My elation at being the recipient of so much kindness would be unmixed if I had not

the duty of making a speech under somewhat difficult circumstances. In the first place I have, like most of you, fed well (laughter). Then I do not know how exactly to repay the personal affection and warmth of welcome which has been poured on me. I do not know to whom I should compare myself at this moment but the Bishop of Johannesburg has referred to my character as a servant of India in such appreciative terms that if I draw a similitude from that department I am not very far wrong. I am a servant but I believe I am a very conscientious servant. I do not wish to take any more wages than I have earned, but to my great astonishment my masters at the present moment, the Indian community in South Africa, seem such generous and too trustful masters that they have not only given high wage but have given me several years' wage in advance (Laughter). Shall I live to earn all that is the thought that often occurs to me. During the last few days so much has been said by my countrymen as to what they expect of me and in what light they regard me that my life would have to be very much longer than it is likely to be if I am to deserve such things even in part. I hope with the co-operation of my countrymen that I may be able to do some little service for them. It is not always easy. The address which was first read by the spokesman of the Transvaal British Indian Association refers to the great duties that I had to perform in India and seems to think that I have been drawn away from these duties in order to be of some little service to them here. Perhaps my countrymen are referring to the distracted condition in which India is at present, torn by internal dissensions and looking with mingled hope and fear to the harvest of the next few years which sometimes we feel is going to bring us political emancipation but sometimes we feel that it will take us only a very little way towards that goal. True, if I had continued in India I might have been usefully occupied but I am a servant of India and I am a servant therefore of all India and not merely of that India which is geographically so called. Here is a part of my Mother country to whom my service is due in just the same measure as it is due to the place where I was born (applause). It is because that thought prevails in the minds of my friends, some of whom I regard as my masters, that a servant of India was sent out to serve the Indian community here. If in serving India and the Indian community here I find some opportunity of allaying some of the dissatisfaction which exists in South Africa and thereby adding an element of peace and contentment to the life of this sub-continent I can hardly conceive a greater service that I could have done had I continued in India (applause). I would have my countrymen therefore believe that in coming over here I fully believe that I am only doing my duty. But how much you expect of me. You call me the harbinger of your salvation at the end of your address. You strike a note of high religious fervour. It would ill besit me after a banquet to try to soar to those elevated heights. I am rather weighed down by contemplation of the many difficulties of the tasks that I have somewhat rashly assumed at an advanced age. The difficulties—let me dwell on the bright side—have been made light by many circumstances for which I raise my voice to heaven in thanks. Foremost among these circumstances may be mentioned what it would not be an exaggeration to describe as a real change of mind and heart on the part of great sections of the European

(Continued on foot of next page.)

MR. BLACKWELL'S ADVICE.

MR. Leslie Blackwell is well-known to the Indian community as one of the leaders of the anti-Asiatic movement in the Transvaal. His services to the anti-Asiatics whose cause he ably represented to the Lange Commission is also well-known. It is also well-known that the findings of the Commission went against the anti-Asiatics as it was stated that many of the alligations they had made were very much exaggerated. Mr. Leslie Blackwell was one of the European guests at the Banquet given in honour of Mr. Sastri by the Transvaal British Indian Association last week. Replying to the toast proposed of "Our European Guests" Mr. Blackwell thus spoke to "his Indian friends:"

'Do not attempt to push the compromise too far; nor to build on the compromise hopes which cannot be realised in this generation..... We have to deal with the Natives and the Coloured people and the claims of Indians cannot be regarded without the claims of other sections of the non-European population. It had been said that Indians had one leg in India and the other in South Africa..... But Indians born in South Africa should look upon South Africa as their own home.'

These words of Mr. Blackwell are quite inconsistent with the words he had uttered in a previous breath when he said Mr. Sastri's speech had moved him very much and that he felt humbled. His words seem to be lacking in just that spirit of generosity which is expected of a gentleman especially after hearing the very instructive speech of Mr. Sastri.

The Indian community is fully aware as to what it should and what it should not expect from the compromise. But it is for the ruling race to watch the working of the compromise a little less grudgingly. Indians in this country are not asserting their rights as non-Europeans but as British citizens, with no lesser rights than their European fellow-citizens. They do not consider themselves any the lower because of their darker complexion. If Indians have their one leg in India and the other in South Africa it is no fault of theirs. It is simply because their position in South Africa is so insecure owing to oppressive legislation that they cannot settle down with an easy mind. Mr. Blackwell asks Indians born in South Africa to look upon South Africa as their home. The question

is: do the masters of the home make them feel at home? Are they to look upon South Africa as their home merely to remain as "hewers of wood and drawers of water" or are they to be given an equal opportunity to rise. As soon as there are any signs of that opportunity being given Mr. Blackwell and his friends raise up their hands in alarm. How then can they look upon South Africa as their home - and yet of course they have no other home but South Africa.

If the agreement arrived at is at all to be an honorable one it will have to be honorably kept on both sides. And it can be said to have been kept honorably only when the whole of it is fulfilled both in letter and in spirit. People like Mr. Blackwell and papers like the *Natal Mercury* which says, it will require a deal of goodwill on both sides to give effect to the more limited meaning exhibit a narrow-mindedness which is truly unbecoming.

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community here towards their Indian co-citizens (applause). The difficulties on the European side are by no means less than the difficulties on our side. I am not in the habit of forgetting at any time what is due to the other side (hear, hear). I know, therefore, how hard the task of the leaders of public opinion here is in seeing that the change that has come over them spreads throughout the sub-continent and affects all alike who belong to this great self-governing dominion. The charges that they wish to effect cannot be effected at all unless there is complete sympathy and co-operation in all grades of society, in all walks of life, in all provinces of South Africa. While I may not be so hasty as to wish to tell the leaders of public opinion what they should do in order to make that consummation arrive within our lifetime I say to my countrymen that it is in their power to render the task of their European brethren somewhat easier than it would otherwise be. May I appeal to them that it is necessary for them, my fellow-countrymen, to see that their counsels are characterised by reason and moderation; that they do and say nothing at this very difficult moment which will make the task of the Union Government more difficult than it need be. If upon their side nothing is done, no word is uttered to embitter the atmosphere, then we can all trust that this change of mind and heart to which I have referred will go forward growing stronger and deeper until the feeling became universal and comprehends Europeans and Indians and all sections of the South African community. I have every hope that this appeal of mine will not fall on deaf ears. I know really that most sections of my countrymen are anxious to perpetuate and indeed to deepen the good feeling that already has come into existence. My task, therefore, in other circumstances extremely delicate and surrounded with difficulties is, by reason of these favouring circumstances, made extremely hopeful and it is that word of hope that I wish to conclude.

Ladies and gentlemen, Europeans and Indians, all fellow-citizens of the British Empire, may I wish

that we should be actuated by one feeling of concord, brotherhood and amity to make the lot of all who live in this sub-continent happy, to make them all prosperous and contented, and so add our contribution to the glory and might of the British Commonwealth, which it is our prayer should last through the long ages to give binding to different peoples, races and cultures into one harmonious music—sweeter, deeper and more far-reaching than is likely to be heard anywhere else.

None among them there, no community, no class—could afford lightly to speak of other communities as though they did nothing to contribute to the might and majesty, and, indeed, the vast beneficence, of the British Commonwealth.

We all alike have our little mite to bring to the common task. There is no best among us, no worst; no first, no last. All alike share in the common glory, and all alike must bear the common responsibility. My own desire is to serve all alike. That is my word to you all without exception and believe me my one desire is to serve all alike. I no doubt represent the Government of India and I am here to advance the interests of my own countrymen. More it may not be given to me to do but I should consider myself especially unforgotten, who have advanced the good of the Rajapati Mandal. That is if I read as follows:—

To the Right Honourable my countrymen in any way to the Most Honoured Advantage of other sections of the community of South Africa.

There was an address read to me by the Brahmin community. I have no knowledge of how many members there are of this Brahmin community. I do not hide that I am very proud of my Brahmin descent (Applause). Nevertheless in India I belong to a society to which very complimentary remarks have already been made by the proposer of the toast and for which I wish to convey my thanks and those of my colleagues in that society. I belong to a society which pledges its members before joining to forget their caste and to serve all Indians irrespective of caste, creed or community to which he belongs. How far I succeed in that extremely difficult task it is for others to judge. At present in India the internal troubles between communities is exceedingly active, filling the minds of patriots with anxiety and shame. Every one of these difficulties have reached such dimensions that the governing class of British statesmen is almost struck dumb and is at a loss what to do to heal this strife. Some of us, therefore, have resolved to stand aside from joining in sectional organisations. There are Hindu organisations, Mussulman and Christian organisations but we belong to the servants of India society and have steadily refused to join any sectional organisation (Applause). If therefore the Brahmin community in India had offered me an address of this kind I should have perhaps thought it my duty to refuse to take it. Since the time of Gandhi in South Africa there have been no castes and no communities of the kind we have in India (Applause). Here the Indian community live together in harmony and in concord and whatever the differences may be they do not run along racial or caste lines. Therefore I can make an exception in this case. My non-Brahmin friends, do not suppose that I am accentuating any differences in India by reason of my having accepted this address here. A word of explanation was due before I could sit down because the thing would not have been done in India.

I am so full of gratitude that I do not know what to say in acknowledgement. When friends speak of friends in the inspiration of their affection they are apt not to distinguish between truth and rhetoric (laughter). I ask you not to suppose that in listening to the addresses and taking them in all due humility I have endorsed any of the high flown expressions of admiration and love that have been made in them. I much wish that my presence

among you, that today or in the future, was productive of harmony and peace. When you call me an ambassador of peace in this country no greater honour could be paid to any individual. It is me upon whom you have put that crown. I do not wish for a moment to keep that crown on my head. I lay it down before the Great Dispenser of all things as from Him alone anything that is good conducive to human welfare can come. I am remaining in this country for a period of one year. I cannot do wonders in one year but if to me is given the privilege of seeing that the anti-Asiatic feeling is at least arrested I shall lay down my office at the end of twelve months in the fullest satisfaction that to a humble worker heaven has vouchsafed some peace and harmony (applause).

Mr. Leslie Blackwell

Replying to the toast of "Our European Guests" proposed by Mr. D. M. Nursoo, Mr. Leslie Blackwell, K.C., M.L.A., said:—

"This is a historic occasion and will be writ large on the pages of South Africa. The occasion is the very much to be desired and visible symbol of that peace which has come after so much warfare between the two races in South Africa. I regard that settlement as provisional perhaps, but still a settlement, as one of the greatest acts of statesmanship ever done in S. Africa. I can only sadly reflect after five months of parliament that if the same statesmanship, that same desire to see the other man's point of view, had been present when other matters were discussed we should not be in the political turmoil we were in. Where there was a will to compromise a compromise can be arrived at and where there is a genuine desire to see the other man's point of view. I am full of despair as a member of the legislative assembly that statesmen had been unable to rise to the occasion as they had done when Union representatives met Indian Government representatives. Mr Sastri's speech had moved him very much and he felt humbled. It was a noble speech and struck my heart as few after-dinner speeches have done. It was a speech breathing nobility and candour. Whatever our political views may be it is no good using slighting, insulting or derogatory language of any section of the people of this country. One of the greatest errors in the Legislative Assembly was when the Colour Bar Act was passed. That divided South Africa into the categories of Indians and natives and coloured. That was a gross error but the bill was a still graver error. The time was not far away when we shall recognise that error and remove a stigma which now attaches to South Africa.

Let me speak to my Indian friends: Do not attempt to push the compromise too far; nor to build on that compromise hopes which cannot be realised in this generation. You must realise that you are not the only section of non-Europeans in the country. We have to deal with the natives and the coloured people and the claims of Indians cannot be regarded without the claims of the other sections of the non-European population. It had been said that India had one leg in India and the other in South Africa that their home was in India and their resting place in South Africa. But Indians born in South Africa should look upon South Africa as their home and learn the civic and the national spirit.

With the singing of the National Anthem the proceedings terminated.

A message received by Mr. O. F. Andrews of the Rhodesia Indian Association states that the Stamps and Licensing Bill recently introduced in the local Legislative Assembly has been passed with the alterations proposed by the Indian Community.

Mr. Sastri's Arrival in Durban.

The Rt. Hon. V. S. Srinivasa Sastri accompanied by Mr. J. D. Tyson and Mr. Kodanda Rao arrived by the Transvaal Mail on Thursday morning at 10 a.m. There was a large gathering of Indians and Europeans present at the Durban Central Station to receive Mr. Sastri, among the notables being the Mayor, Mr. A. O. Jones (Town Clerk), Mr. H. N. Venn, Mr. Erickson (president Chamber of Commerce), Mr. Mitchell (Secy. Chamber of Commerce), The Chief Constable and Inspector Whitcutt, Advocate J. W. Godfrey (Deputy President S.A.I. Congress), Mr. A. I. Kajeer, (Secretary S.A.I.C.) Mr. E. M. Ally, (Treasurer S.A.I.C.), Messrs. V. S. C. Pather and Sorabjee Rustomjee, (Joint Secretaries Natal Indian Congress), Messrs. Shaik Himed and P. R. Pather, (Joint Treasurers Natal Indian Congress), Advocate R. K. Khan, Mr. Ajam Haffjee, Messrs. E. M. Paruk, A. M. Lockhat, M. S. Randeree, M. C. Coovadia, M. C. Basa, R. K. Naidoo, Jack Moxley, B. M. Patel, M. A. Motala, R. B. Betty, M. B. Nair, P. G. Naicker, K. Haribhai, Samjee Devsbi, A. C. Moolla (Ladysmith), M. S. Coovadia (Jo'burg), M. M. Gandhi, Brayan Gabriel, Sapurji Jivanji, S. L. Singh, S. M. Moodly and others.

Mr. V. Lawrence, Vice president of the Natal Indian Congress garlanded the guests.

Mr. Sastri and Mr. Kodanda Rao then drove to Mr. E. M. Paruk's residence at Currie Rd. where they will be staying during their presence in Durban. Mr. Tyson is staying at the Marine Hotel.

A public welcome reception will be given to Mr. Sastri by the Natal Indian Congress on Saturday at 8 p.m. at the Durban Town Hall, when Mr. Siedle (Deputy Mayor) will preside.

Johannesburg Farewell to Mr. C. F. Andrews

Mr. C. F. Andrews who is leaving South Africa on the 1st of August was given a Farewell reception by Johannesburg Indians at the same time that they gave a welcome reception to the Rt. Hon. Srinivasa Sastri.

At the Pilkington Hall function in honour of Mr. Sastri feelings of "deep affection and regret" were expressed on behalf of Transvaal Indians by Mr. I. I. Hazaree at the impending departure of the Rev. C. F. Andrews. They had learned, he said, to honour and love Mr. Andrews. His genial presence had been a gleam of sunshine. He had a fund of patience even at the expense of his health. Mr. Andrews had played a great part in bringing about a welcome and noteworthy settlement between the Union and India. Bright as had been his lighter qualities, that shone so happily upon the surface of his intercourse with others, they would remember Mr. Andrews still more for countless kind and thoughtful acts which had lightened the load of the sorrowful and suffering. Mr. Andrews would take with him a mental picture of Indians in South Africa. It was a farewell that was more of an "au revoir."

Mr. Sastri, in an eloquent tribute, said that Mr. Andrews had prepared the ground for him. His gratitude to Mr. Andrews could not be expressed in words, nor easily measured in any other way.

Mr. Andrews, said the Rev. B. L. E. Sizamoney, was one of that class of Englishmen who made others love and respect Englishmen, England and the Empire. "We see the best of the English people in Mr. Andrews," the speaker added, "and we see what England and the British Empire stand for. (Applause). When you have cause to be bitter remember Englishmen like Mr. Andrews."

The Transvaal Colonial-born Indian Association presented Mr. Andrews with a Bible.

At the Banquet in honour of Mr. Sastri, Mr. Andrews was the recipient of illuminated addresses from the

following bodies: Transvaal British Indian Association, Transvaal Darjee Mandai, Transvaal Kori Hitwardhak Mandal and Transvaal Anavil Brahmin Society.

Further Correspondence Between the Minister and the Congress

The following further correspondence took place between the Minister of the Interior and the South African Indian Congress on the Immigration Bill which is already assented to by the Governor-General:—

SOUTH AFRICAN INDIAN CONGRESS
Box 1384, Durban.
14th June 1927.

To Secretary for the Interior
Cape Town.

Sir,—Further to my letter of the 7th May, wherein I mentioned that arising out of your reply to the Memorandum submitted to the honourable the Minister on the 25th ulto., certain points require further elucidation. I beg to submit the following for the earnest consideration of the Hon. the Minister, and would deal with your letter of the 29th ulto. seriatim:—

- (1) I note that each sub-section must read by itself. The addition to sub-section (e) in other words, interferes with the right of a person whose parents were domiciled in the Union at the time of his birth, and who may not take advantage of sub-section (g), from entering the Union at any time attaining the age of 16 years and restrict it to a period of three years from the date of his birth. If this is correct, then it does not in any way confer upon a person who may come under this category any advantage, but on the contrary restricts his right of entry into the Union.
- (2) I note that this matter of the entry of wives and children into the Transkeian Territories is under consideration and will, in due course, hear further from you.
- (3) I note your remarks herein which is quite satisfactory to my Executive.
- (4) You say that the Bill makes no references to recognition of divorces in or outside the Union for the purpose of allowing another wife to enter the Union, and that only divorces affected on grounds that are recognised by the Courts of the Union will be regarded as sufficient for the purposes of permitting another wife to enter the Union, and that any case of hardship can conveniently be dealt with under the provisions of Section 25 (1) of the Principal Act. In the case of a wife, being the guilty party and who being a Colonial born woman could as the law stands to-day, keep the husband, the innocent party, from bringing another wife into the Union, if she returns to the Union with her offspring before him. He may, as suggested by you, only get administrative relief by seeking the Minister's prerogative under Section 25 (1) and then the Minister by virtue of the powers vested in him by that section, can only allow his wife to remain in the Union on a temporary permit which could either be subsequently withdrawn or varied according to the wishes of each succeeding Minister as the Government changes. As it is the desire of the

Hon. the Minister to amend the legislation in strict conformity with the settlement, I beg to submit that legislative relief should be given in this respect to protect the innocent party from being penalised whether it be the husband or the wife.

Further, the paragraph, "Domicile in the Union shall be lost by any woman whose marriage has been dissolved during her absence from the Union," requires clarification, as, a marriage could also be dissolved by death of one of the spouses. There would be a distinct hardship if the husband dies while in India and the wife who not being a South African born woman, precluded from returning to the Union on this score.

- (5) The words "and otherwise have the right of entry to the Union" are not clean, as, if the wife has the right of entry to the Union, she need not seek the Minister's clemency for her stay in the Union. My remarks above as to the meagre protection afforded to a wife who will be dealt with under Section 25 (1) of the principal Act apply in this case as well.

Items 6 and 7 are noted with pleasure and would meet the wishes of my Executive.

In conclusion, I am directed to convey the thanks of my Executive to the Hon. the Minister and his department for the courtesy shewn to its representatives while in Capetown, and for the time and attention devoted by Mr. Pring and your goodself in elucidating the many points which were of a doubtful nature.

I beg to remain,

Yours very truly,

(Sgd.) "A. I. KAJEE."

Hon. General Secretary.

No. C T. 241.

SECRETARY FOR INTERIOR,
CAPETOWN.

27th June, 1927.

Sir,—With reference to your letter dated the 14th instant, I am directed by the Honourable the Minister of the Interior to reply as follows:—

(1) Paragraph (e) of Section 5 of the principal Act is, in the opinion of the Government, too wide in its application, and it was originally contemplated to eliminate the portion referring to persons born outside the Union entirely. It was, however, represented that a child may be born to parents while temporarily absent from the Union and who may both die while their domicile in the Union was still effective. The infant child might thus be left without any protection outside the Union. It was to allow the return of such a child within three years of the date of its birth to its relatives in the Union that the amendment in its present form was introduced.

(2) The matter of the entry of wives and children into the Transkeian Territories is still under consideration.

(3) Noted.

(4) (a) You are under a misapprehension as regards the Minister's powers under Section 25 of Act 22 of 1913. I would draw your attention to the following words ".....the Minister may, in his discretion, Exempt any person from the provisions of paragraphs (a), (b), (c), (d) of subsection (1) of section four or.....may authorise the issue of a temporary permit.

It is proposed to deal with *bona fide* cases of divorce on the lines indicated in the first portion of the above quotation, thereby securing to the second wife absolute security of her position.

(b) To meet the case of a woman whose husband dies while the couple is temporarily absent from the Union, the following words have now been inserted in Section 10 after "dissolved," "otherwise than by death of her husband."

(5) (a) The words "and otherwise have the right of entry to the Union" are intended to convey that only the rights the wife had prior to divorce are preserved in cases where she is the plaintiff. A case may arise where she divorces her husband, after they had lost their domicile in the Union, or a woman who had never been in the Union might divorce her husband, who is entitled to enter the Union. It is obvious that in such and other similar cases the wife has no right to enter the Union.

(b) As pointed out in paragraph (4) above, the protection given under Section 25 (1) is absolutely secure.

It is hoped that this further elucidation of the points under discussion will satisfy your Executive.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

(Sgd.) "C. S. SCHMIDT."

Secretary of the Interior.

A. I. Kajee Esqr.,

Hon. Gen. Secretary,

South African Indian Congress,

175 Grey Street, Durban.

Immigration and Indian Relief (Further Provision) Act, 1927

The above Act has been assented to by the Governor-General and is published in the *Union Gazette* of July 5. The Act as compared with the Bill contains the following alterations:—
Section 3 has been so amended as to render the crime of an indecent assault punishable by deportation.

Section 5 which empowers the principal immigration officer concerned to cancel a certificate of domicile obtained fraudulently has been amended by the addition of the words "subject to the approval of the Minister."

Section 10 dealing with the definition of the term "domicile" has been amended to read that, a person shall be deemed to have lost his domicile within the Union if he absents himself from the Union and does not re-enter within three years from the date of departure therefrom, or from the commencement of the Immigration and Indian Relief (Further Provision) Act, 1927, whichever may be the later.

The latter portion commencing from or, it will be remembered, was not in the original Bill.

The foregoing section has further been amended to read: Domicile in the Union shall be lost by any woman whose marriage has been dissolved, otherwise than by death of her husband, during her absence from the Union.

"Otherwise than by death of her husband" these words did not appear in the Bill.

Steady Improvement in Fiji

[We publish with very great pleasure the following interesting letter by Mr. A. W. McMillan relating to the position of Indians in Fiji. Some of the things the writer has said deserve very careful consideration by Indians not only in Fiji but by those living in South Africa and other Colonies.—Ed. I. O.]

The Editor, INDIAN OPINION.

Sir,—I have been reading in your issue dated Feb. 11, an article entitled, "Indians in Fiji and their position" taken from *Navayug* and written by Mr. C. Chatur Singh of Fiji, who is well known to me.

I think out of justice to Fiji and to enable the public to arrive at an accurate estimate of present day conditions it is desirable to point out that the past five years have seen marked improvement in this Colony. It is nearly three years since I came to live in Fiji after spending more than two decades in the villages of India, and yet even in this short time I have personally witnessed many changes for the better.

Mr. Chatur Singh is quite right in saying that it is good for India's name when men of such outstanding culture as the Rt. Hon. Srinivasa Sastri, Pandit Govind Sahay Sharma, or Dr. S. K. Datta visit Fiji or Australia, and it would be good if more such men were to take the trouble to tour the Empire and thus help to correct the wide spread impression that India is merely a "Cooli Country." The way is open for them to tour as ambassadors of good-will and understanding.

Approximately one column of Mr. Chatur Singh's article deals with the year 1921 and its unhappy Strike and disturbances. But in the aftermath of the Great War there were strikes and labour disputes in almost every country of the world, due largely to high prices, fluctuating exchange and a general spirit of unsettlement. Why live in the bitter past? What needs to be borne in mind is that no useful purpose can be served by brooding over the unpleasantness of six years ago, and to recognise the fact that in many ways 1927 is for Fiji Indians a vast improvement upon 1921.

During these last few years the Fiji Government has provided in various towns new Hospital accommodation especially for Indians where they may receive free treatment, and young Indians are being trained as medical practitioners. As to education, it is quite true that the Government of Fiji, during long decades, has neglected its duty in regard to the education of Indian boys and girls, now numbering nearly 20,000; but let the fact be gratefully recognised that in recent months an important official Education Commission has thoroughly examined the needs of the Colony and a forward move will shortly be taken when a Director of Education is appointed. Indeed only a few weeks ago Indian boys have for the first time won competitive Government scholarships and have been sent to one of the finest High Schools in New Zealand for education.

Mr. Chatur Singh's article says: "there is not one man to represent us in the Legislative Council, not even a nominated member." But since last November the Hon. Badri Maharaj has once more been attending the meetings of the Council, and we are soon to see three representatives chosen by the Indian community to serve them in the Council. Great things will depend upon the calibre of the men who may be selected by the people and whether a wise use will be made of this opportunity.

Then, as to the much-maligned Colonial Sugar Refining Company, without in any way expressing an opinion regarding its policy in the past, it should in justice be known that during the past three years or more it has helped Indian cultivators on to their feet and some growers in a way that one ventures to

say can scarcely be equalled in any part of the British Empire. The result is that since the years of which Mr. Chatur Singh writes, hundreds of independent Indian cultivators have made good profits by selling cane to the Company. One has only to move among the people who are living in cane areas to observe an entire absence of poverty due to prevailing economic conditions, even among the Mill-hands whose minimum wage is about 2s. to 2/3 per day, but who in most cases earn more than this and who generally occupy a plot of land on which a member of the family is growing food and marketable produce nearly all the year round.

I do not deny that there are some questions, such as a Workmen's Compensation Act, which call for examination, but young ambitious Indians will prejudice their own prospects if they neglect to tell the world of the brighter side of things and dwell solely upon the dark past. To be perpetually brooding over and magnifying grievances is psychologically bad for a community, especially when there is so much reform work to be done by these young aspirants which no Government can accomplish. Mr. Chatur Singh refers to the "terrible moral, social and physical conditions" of the community here. Far from being "terrible" the "physical" conditions, if they refer to health, are as ideal as anyone could wish. The housing is a vast improvement on what the people have been accustomed to in India, and it just remains for them to be tidier and cleaner in their habits and pay more regard to appearances and sanitation.

As to the "moral and social," here too, my contact with the people shows me that the outlook is vastly improved. The need of the hour is for enthusiastic agitators who will avoid being obsessed by such matters as political status, and who will dare to speak out with fearless courage against domestic evils within the community such as usurious rates of interest charged by money-lenders, the unworthy commercial spirit shown in the easy disposal of daughters, the readiness with which a woman will desert one man to live with another, and similar matters which all prevent the community deserving respect. Mr. Chatur Singh, like many others, has admitted these glaring weaknesses in quiet conversations with me. What is needed is men of daring and courage who will see to it that their own lives are what they should be and who will devote themselves unselfishly to the all-round betterment of their people.

I have no connection with either Government, Companies, or Planters, but as a friendly observer and a lover of India, I appeal for less whining and more constructive work. "Rights," "status," "privileges" may well be claimed by any important contributing community, but they arrive the more speedily and are in safer hands, when the "duties" of citizenship, the development of lofty standards of character, and right ideals of family life are granted proportionately more attention by man. Permit me to assure your readers, through your courtesy, that conditions in Fiji are far better than is often supposed in distant lands; it is for us to lubricate rather than drop grit in the wheels of progress.—I am, etc.,

Suva, Fiji.

A. W. McMILLAN.

April 23, 1927.

In the course of an article welcoming Mr. Sastri the *Zanzibar Voice* writes:—

Zanzibar has a special pleasure in welcoming Mr. Sastri to these shores as it was Zanzibar from where the civilizing influences first spread in Africa and it was from Zanzibar that the European nations first could procure a pilot to India. It was above all Zanzibar which has earned the reputation in history to abolish slavery....It is perhaps so decreed by fate that what was left half done by Gokhale should be fully accomplished by his illustrious successor.

Johannesburg Reception to Mr. Sastri

The coming to Johannesburg of the Rt. Hon. Sastri, on Tuesday the 5th instant, says the *Rand Daily Mail* was as adventurous as it was warm in the welcome accorded by the city's Indians.

A tyre of the motor-car which brought Mr. Sastri from Pretoria burst when about a dozen miles from Johannesburg. The car kept the road, and Mr. Sastri arrived at 4 p.m. safe and sound at No. 1 Observatory Avenue, the home of the local branch of the Theosophical Society.

In Pitkington Hall a representative gathering of Rand Indians welcomed Mr. Sastri.

Mr. Sastri's arrival was greeted with applause the audience rising. The Agent and Mr. Andrews were garlanded on behalf of the following bodies: Transvaal Colonial-born Indian Association, Transvaal Tamil Benefit Society, Bengal Association, British Indian Dholi Association, Transvaal Soni Society, and the Transvaal Khatri Mandal. The Tamil Society presented Mr. Sastri with a gold mounted walking stick, and the Colonial-born Association gave him two books.

Welcoming Mr. Sastri, Mr. Ernest said that if men like Mr. Sastri who pursued their peaceful way aloof from the storm and turmoil of political strife to whom a deep debt was due. Mr. Sastri's new position marked a new era in the history of South African Indians. Mr. Sastri had made a great sacrifice of private ease. The Indians of South Africa would no doubt give him all the help he required.

Mr. C. F. Andrews stated that the presence of Mr. Sastri in the Union represented all that was in India. It was the prayer of Mahatma Gandhi that prevailed upon Mr. Sastri to come to the help of Indians in South Africa.

Mr. Sastri's Speech

The Rt. Hon. Srinivasa Sastri asked Indians in South Africa always to remember that the agreement concluded a few months ago between the Union and Indian Governments had been ratified by both sides and was now, in full working order. That agreement contained many provisions; some of a beneficent nature, some not altogether of desirable kind. But they arrived at a compromise. When nobody could create a new heaven. Whether it was one part of the agreement or the other, both were binding on the Government of India and on the people of India.

"You must not be indifferent to any part of the Agreement while being keen about another part," said Mr. Sastri. "All are equally binding upon us. I have deliberately chosen this occasion to remind you that if I am to labour to any good purpose here you must assist me to the fullest extent possible in meeting the Union Government, whose intentions are entirely favourable to you and have been for some time past.

"There can be no manner of doubt that the members of the present Union Government with whom we conducted a round-table conference in Capetown met us in a perfectly friendly, even brotherly spirit. (Applause). From day to day we felt that our discussions were common and that we should fully co-operate with each other.

"I have received abundant proof that the members of the Union Government for their part are determined fully to carry out this agreement."

Indian People's Neglect

As he had travelled, said Mr. Sastri, he had often felt that the people of India had never done their duty, fully by their countrymen abroad. He was sorry that India as a nation had never dealt in a generous way with her own immigrants.

Indian people in Australia, went on Mr. Sastri,

in Canada and far-off Fiji, had asked that if the Government of India would not, would the people of India send out someone to look after them in those Dominions. Nearly every country had its consul or agent or someone clothed with authority from the homeland to look after their nationals. Indians alone had seemed to be without that assistance. It was perhaps because of that that Indians found that they fared worse when they became emigrants than the inhabitants of their countries. They found the spirit of oppression was upon them because other countries had known that the Government of India was inert and would not raise a hand to support her nationals.

Union's Application

There had been conditions in the political status of India which had stood in the way. Gratefully to the joy of the Indians, the Government of the Union of South Africa applied to the Government of India for an agent to represent the Government of India. (Applause.) The Government of India were very happy to accede to the request, and he was there on their behalf. (Applause). It was also the unanimous wish of the people of India that interests of her emigrants everywhere should be safeguarded by the presence of some duly accredited representative.

"To South Africa falls the unique honour of having the first of these responsible officers sent out from India. (Applause). To me falls the honour and privilege of being the officer chosen on the first occasion. (Applause). The responsibility is almost oppressively great."

How Conditions Have Arisen

The conditions under which they lived were not the product of a day. They had grown in over two, nearer three, generations. They lived amidst conditions which must be described as the very reverse of provisions. How could they expect their first Agent-General, if he had ten times his eloquence, wisdom and tact, to place them on a proper footing within the tenure of his office.

He warned them against being too sanguine, for if they were their feeling of despair would be deeper. He was not beginning his work as a pessimist. There were many things in the air which smiled upon which the Government of India had launched him. There were many things which were different in tenor and spirit from what they were a few years ago.

A Word to the Children

On the second day of the visit to Johannesburg the Right Hon. Srinivasa Sastri, distributed prizes at the S.A.R. sports grounds, Braamfontein, to Indian school children, and was received by Mr. Patrick Dineen, M.L.A., and ex-Minister of the Interior, and by Mrs. Sarah Gertrude Millin, the well-known novelist.

The reception which the younger generation of Indians on the Reef gave the Agent at the S.A.R. sports ground was arranged by the Transvaal British Indian Association.

There was a large gathering, representative of the 1,000 children attending Indian schools on the Reef. In the morning they participated in athletic sports, and the winners were presented with children's books in English, given by various business firms. A soccer match was played between the Duffells and All-India teams. Half the proceeds of the "gate" was handed over to the S.A.R.

Addressing the children, Mr. Sastri, in congratulating the prize-winners, hoped that all of them would try to become experts in sports to which they devoted themselves. Sports, he said, meant a great thing. They meant not merely their bodies being in good order, but their being able to take part in anything where discipline was required. He hoped

they realised that sports were not mere play, but something more. They should devote as much attention to the deeper things in life as they did to the material benefits.

"Now go and play again. It has been a great delight for me to see you," concluded the Agent with a paternal smile and a wave of his hand which took in the crowd of delighted children.

CITATION

IN THE MAGISTRATE'S COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF PIETERMARITZBURG, HELD AT PIETERMARITZBURG

Case No. 2170/1927

BETWEEN :

CHENGAMMA wife of Respondent.....Applicant and

V. VENKETRUNGUDU (whose present whereabouts are unknown).....Respondent

To The said V. VENKETRUNGUDU :

You are hereby summoned to appear before the abovenamed Court on the 16th day of August, 1927, at 10 o'clock in the forenoon to answer the Applicant's Summons wherein she claims :

1. A dissolution of her marriage with you under Law 25/1891 on the grounds that you have continuously deserted her for a period of over one year.
2. Costs of suit.

AND NOTE THAT in default of your so doing the Applicant may proceed therein and provisional judgment may be given against you in your absence, but that at any time within three calendar months from the date of any order or judgment against you you may appeal to the Supreme Court of South Africa, Natal Provincial Division against the said order or judgment.

DATED AT PIETERMARITZBURG THIS 8TH DAY OF JULY, 1927.

E. B. FOXON,
Clerk of the Court

Von Gerard & Chapman,
Applicant's Attorneys,
P.O. Box 240,
Pietermaritzburg.

CITATION

IN THE MAGISTRATE'S COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF DURBAN HELD AT DURBAN

Case No. 8902/1927.

IN THE MATTER BETWEEN :

MOONIAMMA, Indian woman No 116988/116989 of Cato Manor, Natal.....(Plaintiff)

and

NARAYNASAMY, No. 23295/34231 (DEPENDANT, free Indian, lately of Cato Manor, Natal, male (whose present address is unknown)

To the above named defendant,

You are hereby summoned to appear before the above Honourable Court, to be holden at Durban, on Friday the 29th day of July 1927 at 9.30. a.m. in the forenoon or as soon thereafter as Counsel can be heard, to answer the plaintiff's summons wherein she claims :

- (a) A Dissolution of her marriage with you by virtue of the Indian Immigration Law 25 of 1891 on the grounds of your continuous desertion.
- (b) Custody of Child and Maintenance.

AND TAKE NOTICE that in default of your doing so, the Plaintiff may proceed therein and provisional judgment may be given against you in your absence, but that at any time within THREE CALENDAR MONTHS from the date of ORDER or JUDGMENT pronounced against you, you may appeal to the SUP-

REME COURT of South Africa (Natal Provincial Division) or a Circuit Court against the said ORDER or JUDGMENT.

DATED AT DURBAN THIS DAY OF JUNE, 1927.
(Sdg.) R. O. VAN ONSELEN,
for Clerk of Court.

BY ORDER OF THE COURT.

Jas. W. Godfrey,
Advocate etc.,
437, Smith Street, Durban.



श्रीटीश इन्डिया
स्टाम नेवीगेशन कु.

वीस होवसमां मुयर्थ पहोयाडनारी
स्टिभरो

स्टी. "कारागोला"

जुलाई ता. १८ मीमे मुयर्थ जवा इपल्ले.

स्टी. "कारापारा" जामरर ता. १ वीमे मुयर्थ
जवा इपल्ले.

टीकाटना लावा

सेकंड क्वातः पार्ल २४-०-०

धन्तरः पाल १५-०-०

डेक पाल ८-०-०

मुसबमाना वीली ३. ४०; स्पेसीबनना ३. १००
६६६ वीली ३. ४५. स्पेसीबनना ३. ७५

मुयना-हवाइजोमे पोतानां मेजे हांगीना वीलीवारे ११

जवा इपल्ले इपल्ले पहोयाडनारी कर्वा.

सेकंड अने धन्तर माटे जेके महिना जामररथी न होवस्त करवा.

इके जौडी वेसीनरे पोतानी टीकाट जामररी जौरीसिमाथी

मे अने नदार जामररणी जामररणी जामररी सार्वे फर्मवे

पदार इपल्लेथी पञ्च वरु कर्वा. स्टीभरने जेवतु इके जामर-

कव जामररी जवती इपल्लेथी नीजे जामरर ठे.

पञ्च पुवारां माटे बर्षीं या मर्षीः-

जेमल्ले हीमेक,

Tel. Add. ३७७ पाथेन स्ट्रीट, इरंजनः

"Natal Division"

अडवाडीक पंचाम

व.सं.	व.सं.	व.सं.	व.सं.	व.सं.	व.सं.
१	२	३	४	५	६
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