

Indian Opinion

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NOTES AND NEWS

SIR KURMA V. REDDI, new Agent of the Government of India in South Africa, has sailed on board the British-India steamer *Karoo* from Bombay. In an interview with Reuter prior to his departure, he said that he would stand by the Capetown Agreement and adopt the policy inaugurated by it and so very well pursued by Mr. Sastri. Referring to the political agitation in India, Sir Kurma declared that independence for India as conceived by some extremists would do no good for India at present. Sir Kurma is due to arrive at Durban on Jan. 21. Mr. Sastri sails from Durban on Jan. 28 and arrives at Bombay on Feb. 18. Sir Kurma has interviewed the Viceroy prior to his departure.

Mr. B. M. Patel, hon. Secretary of the M. K. Gandhi Library and Parsee Rustomjee Hall Committee and jt. hon. Treasurer of the Natal Indian Congress, was accorded a farewell reception at the Parsee Rustomjee Hall last Saturday, on the eve of his departure for a short visit to India, by the above Committee and also the Natal Indian Congress. Mr. O. H. A. Jhaveri presided. A glowing tribute was paid to Mr. Patel for the success with which he had discharged the difficult task imposed on him by the chairman and trustees of the Bai Jerbai Rustomjee Trust and Mr. Sorabjee Rustomjee, President of the Natal Indian Congress and other speakers, and was presented by the trust with £101 in recognition of his selfless services in connection with the Library. Garlands and bouquets were also presented to Mr. and Mrs. Patel on behalf of the Library Committee, the Natal Indian Congress and the Hindu Tamil Institute by Mr. V. S. C. Pather, to which he had rendered useful service. All the speakers wished Mr. and Mrs. Patel and their little son a happy voyage and a safe return.

Mr. Patel in making a suitable reply expressed his sincere thanks for the honour done to him and Mrs. Patel.

A farewell reception was given to Mr. and Mrs. Patel also by the Arya Pratinidhi Sabha in recognition of the useful services he had rendered to that body.

Among the recent successes in the London College of Music appeared the name of Miss Amelia B. Godfrey who obtained her L.L.C.M. Miss Godfrey is the youngest daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. S. Godfrey of Durban. The Misses Godfrey have been most successful with their entrants, for they obtained thirteen passes and no failures. The congratulations of the Indian community will go to Miss A. Godfrey and the other successful pupils.

Thus the *Leader* (Allahabad) on the question of India's status:—

Why should we not accept dominion status for India? What are the obligations of a dominion to England? Mr. Sami Venketachalam Chetti, president of the Coimbatore All-Parties Conference, gave

the following very sensible reply in the course of his speech: 'After the authoritative utterance at the Imperial Relations Conference of Prime Ministers, that of the extent and nature of co-operation with Great Britain each dominion is the sole judge, no more haggling need impede our further work.' General Hertzog's utterance after the conclusion of the Inter-Imperial Relations Conference will be remembered. He had been, he said, a life-long enemy of the Empire. But the understanding arrived at at the Conference had won him to the side of the Empire. When people like General Hertzog, who claim perfect liberty of action for their country and would never consent to remain in the Empire except on terms of perfect equality, accept dominion status, Indian politicians should consider whether any object would be gained by dividing the country on the question of Dominion Status or Independence. For our part we believe dominion status is a better ideal to fight for.

MR. SASTRI'S SUCCESSOR

SIR Kurma Venkata Reddi who succeeds Mr. Sastri as Agent of the Government of India in South Africa is now on his way to South Africa. Though Sir Kurma is not so much known to us, the Government of India, we have no doubt, must have made the choice after due consideration of the very difficult task that lies before the Agent in this country. The task would have been difficult even for Mr. Sastri had he not been endowed with the great qualities of head and heart, his eloquence and his magnetic personality. The reason for asking for a non-official to fill the post was that there was not much official work to be done by the Agent in this country. Whatever Mr. Sastri has achieved in this country he has achieved not in his capacity as Agent but as Mr. Sastri. People in this country are aware of the worst about India and even of that they have far too exaggerated notions. Mr. Sastri by his great intellectual powers has given them a glimpse of the best about India. In this respect Mr. Sastri has been of great assistance to the Government, for he has thus been able to keep down the tide of colour prejudice to a very great extent.

Moreover his presence alone in this country has been an education to the illiterate masses of Indians who have been able to learn something about the country of their forefathers of which they knew but too little. This is the kind of work that is required to be done in this country and a leader endowed with the best of everything can only do it. There is no other work of great importance that the Agent has to do. For this reason the task before Sir Kurma is indeed an unenviable one and we can but pray that he will be equal for it. It will be well here to quote an important suggestion made by the *Cape Times*:—

"We venture to suggest," says our contemporary, "one way in which the Indian Government can facilitate the task of its new representative. Mr. Sastri, by virtue of a unique personality has contrived to establish direct touch with a very large proportion of our population. By his lectures, his speeches, and his affable accessibility, he has definitely impressed himself on many thousands. To him such devices of contact as formal entertainment and official hospitality can hardly be essential. But the Indian Government would, we feel, do well to bear in mind that it would not be fair to all his successors to expect them to reach the same results by the same means. Mr. Sastri has been so much bigger than his post that few have noticed how small in itself the post is. We hope that no Indian Agent in South Africa will ever be smaller than his post. That Sir Kurma Reddi is nothing of the kind is already obvious, even from our present too meagre knowledge. Nevertheless, the Government of India will probably find it desirable on general grounds to enlarge the post and to match it somewhat more equally with the man."

Many of us in this country do not quite agree with Sir Kurma's views on Indian politics. We need not, however, be perturbed about that. We are not going to impose upon Sir Kurma the additional burden of guiding us in that respect and Sir Kurma too, we feel quite sure, will not be over anxious to convert us to his views. Indian politics will have no bearing on our position in South Africa and it need not at all be discussed. Sir Kurma can rest assured of the whole-hearted co-operation of the Indian community in this sub-continent in his arduous task and it is only to be hoped that in any compromise he may make he will be stern to the extent of not giving in on matters in which the community's self-respect and the honour of India are at stake.

A New Year's Gift To Indian Community

Indians To Be Thrown Out Of A Transvaal Suburb

The Johannesburg correspondent of the *Natal Mercury* in a message dated Dec. 30 states:—

All Asiatics and other Coloured people at present living or carrying on trade in Braamfontein will have to leave that suburb as the result of a judgment recently delivered in the Rand Division of the Supreme Court by Mr Justice Greenberg, when, on the petition of Frank Klotsch, a Braamfontein property owner, he granted an order restraining Max Pietsch, the owner of a stand adjacent to Klotsch's from allowing a Coloured person to occupy his premises and directing B. B. Dabhelis, an Indian, to vacate those premises by the end of the month.

This judgment is the culmination of an agitation carried on by Braamfontein residents for the last two and a half years in order to prevent penetration into the suburb of Coloured people. Lately, the body that has been active in trying to prevent the granting of licences to Coloured people is the Braamfontein Vigilance Association. The objections mainly urged have been the unsuitability of applicants to carry on trade in the area, and the damage that was likely to be done to White traders, employing highly-paid Europeans, and living at a higher standard.

It was difficult to back up these objections until some time ago, when it was realised that there was a clause in the title deeds of all land sold in Braamfontein, forbidding an owner to allow a Coloured person to occupy his premises or even to reside there unless as his own bona fide servant.

This was urged before the Supreme Court, with the result already mentioned.

[Note:—The secretary of the Transvaal Indian Congress would be rendering useful service by investigating and sending us for publication how many Indians will be thrown out of the suburb, for what period have they been in the suburb and what loss they will have to suffer.—Ed. I. O.]

Fair Breeze Indian School

(Communicated)

The annual prize distribution of the above school took place on Saturday December 22nd, 1928. The school buildings were gaily decorated with evergreens and palm leaves.

A fair gathering of parents, friends, and over 300 children were present. The Rev. J. Metcalf, Grantee of the School, occupied the chair. In a very pleasing speech he remarked upon the proficiency of the school and commented upon the very good results attained by the Headmaster and his hard working staff. He congratulated them upon the good work done, and also the prize winners.

The Headmaster in his report stated that the Europeans and Indians of the district were generous in helping him, for which he expressed his heartfelt thanks and appreciation.

During the year 421 children had been admitted but 68 left the school and left the total at 336. There were eleven teachers on the staff. The speaker expressed his heartfelt appreciation for the willingness, loyalty and energetic support he received from them. Since September a saving club had been opened, and there were 190 members now in the club.

SOME NEW YEAR RESOLUTIONS

BY PROMINENT EUROPEAN CITIZENS

The *Week-end Advertiser* dated December 29 has published a page of new year resolutions by prominent citizens of Durban. If those resolutions are kept, Indians and other oppressed communities may hope for a better future! We reproduce some of the resolutions here as we feel there is much for all to learn from them. There is also included among the resolutions one from Mr. Sastri for Indians.

The Mayor

The following resolution is from the Mayor, Councillor Alex Eaton, M.P.C. :—

"Our efficiency will be increased a hundredfold if we think more of our little world than of what our little world is thinking of us."

Deputy-Mayor

Councillor Mr. A. Lamont, Deputy-Mayor of Durban, has as his motto for 1929 :—

"In essentials, Unity; in non-essentials, Liberty; in all things, Chairity. For—

There's so much good in the worst of us
And so much bad in the best of us,
That it ill becomes any one of us
To find fault with the rest of us.

Councillor C. F. Clarkson, M.E.C.

"Do it now, do it well; make an excellent job of it."

Councillor Frank H. Acutt, M.P.C.

"Look for the good in your fellow man rather than magnify his faults."

Dr. Gunn, Acting M.O.H. Of Durban

"Let Durban's good resolve for the New Year be, to cultivate the spirit of citizenship. Romans of all degrees in older times, prided themselves on their Roman citizenship—a something conferring proud privileges, but equally, definite obligations. To claim the privileges and shrink from the obligations is merely to profess faith without works—the creed of the unworthy.

We are well aware of our privileges as British and Durban citizens. Let us not be less unmindful of our obligations as such. Let us not forget that only in a healthy body can a healthy and vigorous spirit be manifested. That is the first and greatest of natural laws as applied to the survival and development of the body corporate.

The health of Durban is the intimate concern of every one of Durban's citizens not in an abstract, but in a practical personal way. Culture and conserve health as your foremost duty—as a citizen of no mean city."

Resolve Not To Resolve

In the opinion of Mr. T. M. Wadley, M.P.C., the best resolution is to resolve not to make resolutions that one has not the smallest intention of carrying out.

If the resolution be a worthy one (he writes), why wait for one particular day to put it in force ?

Mr. J. W. Coleman, M.P.C.

"Where there is no vision the people perish." Each of us ought to look ahead and try to visualise what benefits, material and ethical, would result to the country and to the generations coming after us if we could but lay the foundation for a close co-operation between the various races for the betterment of the poor and the uplifting of the ignorant. To me it seems absolutely necessary that South Africa's permanent peace and progress can be established only by each of us trying to place himself in the other man's position, having in mind that but for the grace of God any one of us might have been born the other man.

"In men the blunder still you find all think their little set mankind." Each of us is but a unit of a community, the sole aim of which ought to be the common good. Do let us get away from the idea that we are the salt of the earth, that any man is better than another, that temporary position or gain should give us airs.

We must all die, and the world will go on just as well without us. Meanwhile our life's duty is

clearly laid down : "All things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you do ye even so to them."

As citizens of the British Commonwealth of Nations we have a duty towards the Empire which, I fear, we are not carrying out. A population of some 450,000,000 acting together in the interests of social and economic improvement would be unparalleled in history. But it will come. Co-operation between the constituent parts of the Empire would eventually mean a mighty power for the maintenance of the peace of the world; a self-sustaining aggregate of people whose mutual trading operations would eclipse any the world has known.

The possibilities of preferential trade within the Empire seem not to be fully realised or else unconsciously misrepresented, judging from the reports in the daily press. One-tenth of the world's population use English as their mother tongue.

Yet some of us are apt to forget the world wide extent of the Empire. Certain speeches on status, republics, freedom and so forth remind one of "Punch's" Mr. McTavish, who, when asked by his wife "What's metaphysics, guidman?" replied : "Weel, when the pairty wha' listens dinna ken what the pairty wha's speakin' means, an' when the pairty wha's speakin' disna ken what he's blethering about himself; that's metaphysics." One likes to see the humorous side of things sometimes. Let us hope the country will "play the game" towards its people and towards the Empire. Peace, prosperity and contentment cannot fail to result."

Mr. James Henderson, M.L.A.

"There are two well-known injunctions which, it seems to me, if universally observed by the human race would bring peace and happiness to this old

RESOLUTION FOR INDIANS

FROM MR. SASTRI.

The Right Hon. Srinivasa Sastri, P.C., Agent-General for India, responded to the invitation of the Editor of the *Week-end Advertiser* by submitting the following threefold resolution for 1929 as specially applicable to the Indian peoples resident in South Africa :—

(1) I will remember that the great principles of impartial justice and equality of opportunity for all are not yet firmly established in the world, and that I must exercise patience if I am to help towards their firm establishment.

(2) I will remember that in this land I must regard all Indians, Moslem, Hindu or Christian, as my brethren and help all alike.

(3) I will hope for the best from the Capetown Agreement and have faith in the growing friendship and good understanding between Indians and Europeans in this country. ✓

world of ours, and which every civilised being at any rate should inculcate and practice, namely:—

'Do unto others as you would have others do unto you; and

To thine own self be true; thou canst not then be false to any man.'

"Act Right"

Councillor S. K. Elgie thinks we should resolve to do what is considered right and honourable: to be tolerant of criticism and to look for the best motive in the actions of others. In short, if we think right and act right, life will be right."

Discourage Selfishness

Mr. C. W. Lennox, formerly a Town Councillor and now prominently identified with the National Thrift movement writes:—

"Cultivate and practise the law of sacrifice, of Love, of Association and Co-operation.

Discourage individual or national selfishness, and resolve to do all you can to make the people of this land happy and contented."

Mr. O. K. Winterton

"What our country and Empire most need is an abundance of men and women who will study, who will think, and who will serve.

So I say for 1929 let our resolutions be these:—

"Keep young enough to be able to learn, brave enough to change your opinions if you find them wrongly based, and steadfast enough to hold your opinions against all the world when your reason and your heart proclaim their truth."

Councillor H. R. Wickins

"Think kind thoughts. So many people in this world think unkind and harmful things of their fellows. No human being is so bad, however low he or she may have sunk, that there is not still some good in them. Try to bring up the good and suppress the bad by thinking kindly of them. Thought has a wonderful power for good or evil. It has an enormous power, that very few people realise.

"If everyone tried this resolution for one day, one week, one month or one year, it would bring them blessings a thousandfold. This is my conception of an ideal resolution for 1929."

Two Golden Rules

This from Councillor H. L. Buzzard, ex-Mayor of Durban:—

"There are two golden rules which I submit will help one along in 1929, if honest endeavour be brought in as a factor.

"The first I was taught as a schoolboy: *Esto quod esse videris* (Be what you seem to be), and the second is that great rule of life laid down by the old Biblical writers, and confirmed by the greatest Man who ever lived: 'As ye would that men should do to you, do ye also to them likewise.'

"We cannot go far wrong if we work on these principles."

"Do Unto Others—"

Mr. Allan R. Lawrie fears that his conception of an ideal resolution for 1929 is not very original.

It is: Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.

This stands to-day (writes Mr. Lawrie) as it always will, a golden rule for every one.

Councillor Dr. H. E. Arbuckle presents as a resolution moderately easy of accomplishment and one answering all requirements: "Do unto others—etc."

"Play The Game"

"Play the game!" is the resolution for 1929 chosen by Mr. J. E. Borain, president of the South African Federated Chamber of Industries.

If we are prepared (he writes) to carry out this

resolution in all our undertakings during the coming year, irrespective of what those undertakings may be, then I am convinced the world will be a much better place to live in at the end of 1929 than it is to-day.

Mrs. Councillor Siedle

I feel, Sir, (writes Mr. Councillor Siedle), that your request for a good resolution for 1929 immediately leads one's thoughts into the realms of idealism, not always practical of attainment, anyway. I have pleasure in sending my own conception of a good resolution:—To cultivate the golden rule of service to humanity—the joy of life can only be real, if one looks upon life as a service with a definite object outside ourselves, and our own personal happiness—to do good work, earn good friends to be happy to serve where possible, above all, try not to whine, but play the game of life striving always to grasp the golden opportunities which beckon us on to ever increasing fields of service.

Mrs. Mabel Palmer

I will resolve—

To do all in my power to promote comradeship and mutual understanding as between nation and nation, between men and women, between race and race, between class and class between denomination and denomination; not denying the existence of natural differences nor refusing to make allowance for them, but unhesitatingly insisting that natural distinctions shall not be used as a justification for contempt or exploitation of one group by another, but rather as a basis for the higher organisation which results from harmonious mutual co-operation.

Indian National Congress

Further Details

The following further messages have been sent by Reuter's agency at Calcutta in connection with the Congress:—

Friday, Dec. 28.

A solution of the differences at the Indian National Congress in regard to Dominion status has been found in a compromise resolution which will be moved by Gandhi, supported by Srinivasa Iyengar, leader of the Independence Party, thus assuring its adoption.

The resolution lays down that, subject to the exigencies of the political situation, the Congress adopt the Nehru constitution if it is accepted by the British Parliament before December 31, 1929, but in the event of its non-acceptance or rejection the Congress revive non-co-operation by advising the country to refuse taxation and every other aid to Government.

The adoption of the resolution will settle the fiercest political controversy raging since the publication of the Nehru Report.

The Nehru Report demands dominion status, the transference of political power from England to the people, and an Indian two-chamber parliament with supreme authority.

Friday, Dec. 29.

The Subjects Committee of the Indian National Congress, by 118 votes to 45, has adopted Mr. Gandhi's compromise resolution. Gandhi declared that the Nehru Report was not meant for submission to the Simon Commission but for consideration by the British Government and Parliament. Mr. Gandhi said that though he was a non-co-operator he would not mind going before the House of Commons or the Viceroy on terms of equality.

Srinivasa Iyengar, leader of the Independence Party, in supporting, said that the resolution meant

a waiting policy, to give time to convert Dominion status into independence.

Pandit Malaviya and Mrs. Besant opposed, on the ground that the resolution would break the unity attained at the All-Parties' Conference. Mrs. Besant said that the country was not ready for non-cooperation.

Sunday, Dec. 30.

Motilal Nehru, president of the 43rd session of the Indian National Congress eloquently appealed for the acceptance of the All-Parties Committee (Nehru) Report.

There was no reason, declared Mr. Nehru, why they should demand complete severance of the British connection if they were placed on terms of perfect equality with the dominions. The psychological moment for England to offer and India to accept dominion status had arrived. If England did not avail herself of the opportunity then would come the moment for India to wrest her complete independence from Britain. No offer of Dominion status would then be acceptable.

Mr. Sastri's Successor

Opinion In India

We reproduce below some of the opinions expressed by the Press in India on the appointment of the new Agent of the Government of India in South Africa :—

'The Leader'

Thus *The Leader* (Allahabad) :—

The Government of India could not easily have made a worse selection than that of Sir K. V. Reddy to succeed Mr. Srinivasa Sastri. They have developed an extraordinary capacity for doing the wrong thing, and we have no hesitation in saying that they have betrayed utter unimaginativeness and lack of appreciation of the fitness of things and of the situation in South Africa in making such a highly unsatisfactory appointment. Mr. Sastri's mission in South Africa has been an unqualified success. He has achieved wonders. He has succeeded in appealing to the higher and nobler side of human nature of the South African whites and has made infinitely easier by his personal magnetism and his great qualities of head and heart the task of South African statesmen in overcoming strong racial and colour prejudices and in adopting on the whole a fair and conciliatory attitude towards the Indian settlers. To carry on his good and godly work it was necessary that the best man available should have been sent. Do the Government think that Mr. Sastri has so completely changed the heart of South African whites and so thoroughly overcome racial prejudice, that any man, however deficient he may be in the qualities which involuntarily command respect and consideration, can successfully carry on his work? Are they unaware that there is a die-hard section which is and has been opposed to the Indian settlement but which has failed to make headway owing to the powerful personality of Mr. Sastri which radiated goodwill and conquered prejudices? They have been unfair both to the Government of South Africa as well as to India and to Indian settlers in South Africa. We are afraid that the former will find their task rendered harder. And India cannot feel proud of being represented by one who, however much he might have succeeded in becoming the favourite of the bureaucracy, has given no evidence of the qualities necessary for the discharge of the delicate duties of the high office he has been called upon, perhaps as a reward for his loyalism, to

fill. If Mr. Sastri's great work is spoilt by his successor the responsibility will be wholly and solely of the Government's

'The Mahratta'

Thus the *Mahratta* (Poona) :—

Sir K. V. Reddy's appointment to succeed Mr. Sastri in South Africa has rightly evoked feelings of regret. He is neither by his qualifications nor by his training equal to the task that is set to the Indian Agent there. Sir Kurma is out-and-out a Government man and as a leader of the Madras No-Brahman party did undoubtedly yeomen service to the Madras Government in the early days of Non-cooperation, by coming forward to help the forming of a Ministry in Madras. Government ought to be grateful for his services to them as against his countrymen and should not allow him to lag behind as an unemployed on the political stage. But the office to which he is called is not a prize-post to be given away to Government favourites. In South Africa, it is a sort of a battle between the Indian and the Western cultures. Mr. Sastri has, by his splendid virtues, demonstrated that India can, not only stand a favourable comparison but has something more to teach others. Has Sir K. V. Reddy given a proof of this ability and this level-headed tolerance? In his exuberance of enthusiasm as a leader of the non-Brahmans he betrayed himself many a time into an apostle of hatred of not only the Brahmins but all that stood for Brahman learning and civilisation. It is not known how far his outlook has been widened by his last European tour, as is said by his apologists. Government have no doubt made a wrong choice in his appointment. To make the most of a bad job people are bidden to expect much from him. Let us hope he turns a new leaf with the greater responsibility on his head. We wish him success in his mission.

'The Modern Review'

Mr. Benarasidas Chaturvedi writes in the *Modern Review* :—

".....The Government of India have developed a highly reactionary attitude in all these matters and they do not attach much importance to what the leaders of public opinion in India have to say even on such subjects on which there ought to be complete co-operation between the Government of India and the Indian public. Possibly they consider it below their dignity to consult Mahatma Gandhi and Mr. C. F. Andrews on such questions in spite of the fact that the former is the greatest authority on these problems while the latter worked hard for not less than a year and a half to bring about the happy compromise in South Africa. The appointment of Sir K. V. Reddy shows that the Indian Government attaches as little importance to this office as to that of agents to Malaya or Ceylon.

In an interview to the Associated Press Sir K. V. Reddy is reported to have asked his critics to judge him by his action and words in South Africa and not to prejudge him. The critics of Sir Reddy, as far as we know, have no personal complaint against him, and now that the appointment has been made they should gracefully offer him their help and co-operation in the difficult work that lies before him in South Africa.

'The Servant Of India'

The Servant of India (Poona) writes :—

The appointment of Sir Kurma Venkata Reddy to succeed the Rt. Hon. Mr. Srinivasa Sastri as Agent to the Government of India in South Africa is one that is likely to give satisfaction to a large section of the Indian public. There are no doubt critics who feel that Sir K. V. Reddy is not a front-rank poli-

tion in India and that by selecting him the Government has not assessed the situation in South Africa at its true value. We, however, would suspend judgment and wish Sir K. V. Reddy the best of luck. He returned from Geneva recently where he had gone as a representative of the Government of India. This should have considerably widened his vision, as it was bound to do in the case of anybody. It would be difficult for any man to succeed the Rt. Hon. Mr. Sastri; so great is the impression created by him there. But on the other hand it should be recognised that what is well begun is half done. Mr. Sastri has set the ball rolling and in very good atmosphere too. And to that extent, the situation has been considerably eased for Sir K. V. Reddy. Still the path is a difficult one even to-day, not to take account of movements that will be made hereafter on the political chess-board. The Agent-to-be is fully aware of the difficulties of his new position and is determined to do the best in his power. He rightly asks that the country should give him strong support in his work. We heartily second him in what he asks for and trust that the new opportunity given to India's sons for service abroad will bring out their unused abilities into full play.

'Indian Social Reformer'

The Indian Social Reformer, (Bombay), writes:—

Sir K. V. Reddy has been appointed as Mr. Sastri's successor in South Africa. Sir K. V. Reddy went to Geneva recently as a member of the Indian Delegation to the League of Nations. Sir K. V. Reddy has an arduous task before him which is all the greater because of the remarkable achievement of his predecessor. His acceptance of the post will entail his leaving India at a critical juncture and we hope he will meet with every success.

The 'Bombay Chronicle'

The Bombay Chronicle writes:—

The appointment of Sir K. V. Reddy to succeed Mr. Srinivasa Sastri as the Agent in South Africa of the Government of India indicates how difficult it has been for them to choose a man who can follow adequately in the footsteps of so distinguished a predecessor as the famous Indian statesman. That the choice has fallen upon a non-official is all to the good though the public would have liked the selection of a leading Indian with rich experience of political life. However, the good wishes of all are with the new Agent in the difficult work that awaits him.

The Story of My Experiments With Truth

[BY M. K. GANDHI]

Part IV Chapter XLVII.

HOW A CLIENT WAS SAVED

The reader by now will be quite familiar with Parsi Rustomji's name. He was one who became at once my client and co-worker, or perhaps it would be truer to say that he first became co-worker and then client. I won his confidence to such an extent that he sought and followed my advice also in private domestic matters. Even when he was ill, he would seek my aid, and though there was much difference between our ways of living, he did not hesitate to accept my quack treatment.

This friend once got into a very bad scrape. Though he kept me informed of most of his affairs, he had studiously kept back one thing. He was a large importer of goods from Bombay and Calcutta, and it turned out that not infrequently he resorted

to smuggling. But as he was on the best terms with customs officials, no one was inclined to suspect him. In charging duty, they used to take his invoices on trust. Some may even have connived at the smuggling.

But to use the telling simile of the Gujarati poet, Akho, theft like quicksilver won't be suppressed, and Parsi Rustomji's proved no exception. The good friend ran post haste to me, the tears rolling down his cheeks as he said: 'Bhai, I have deceived you, my guilt has been discovered to-day. I have smuggled and I am doomed. I must go to jail and be ruined. You alone may be able to save me from this predicament. I have kept back nothing else from you, but I had thought I ought not to bother you with such tricks of the trade, and so I had never told you about this smuggling. But now, how much I repent it!'

I calmed him and said: 'To save or not to save you is in His hands. As to me, you know my way. I can but try to save you by means of confession.'

The good Parsi felt deeply mortified.

'But is not my confession before you enough?' he asked.

'You have wronged not me but Government. How will the confession made before me avail you?' I replied gently.

'Of course, I will do just as you advise, but will you not consult with my old counsel Mr.—? He is a friend too,' said Parsi Rustomji.

Inquiry revealed that the smuggling had been going on for a long time, but the actual offence detected involved a trifling sum. We went to his counsel. He perused the papers, and said: 'The case will be tried by a jury, and a Natal jury will be the last to acquit an Indian. But I will not give up hope.'

I did not know this counsel intimately. Parsi Rustomji intercepted: 'I thank you, but I should like to be guided by Mr. Gandhi's advice in this case. He knows me intimately. Of course, you will advise him whenever necessary.'

Having thus shelved the counsel's question, we went to Parsi Rustomji's shop.

And now explaining my view, I said to him: 'I don't think this case should be taken to court at all. It rests with the Customs Officer to prosecute you or to let you go, and he, in turn, will have to be guided by the Attorney-General. I am prepared to meet both. I propose that you should offer to pay the penalty they fix, and the odds are that they will be agreeable. But if they are not, you must be prepared to go to jail. I am of opinion that the shame lies not so much in going to jail as in committing the offence. The deed of shame has already been done. Imprisonment you should regard as a penance. The real penance lies in resolving never to smuggle again.'

I cannot say that Parsi Rustomji took all this quite well. He was a brave man, but his courage had failed him for the moment. His name and fame were at stake, and where would he be, if the edifice he had reared with such care and labour should go to pieces?

'Well, I have told you,' he said, 'that I am entirely in your hands. You may do just as you like.'

I brought to bear on this case all my powers of persuasion. I met the Customs Officer and fearlessly apprised him of the whole affair. I also promised to place all the books at his disposal and told him how penitent Parsi Rustomji was feeling.

The Customs Officer said: 'I like the old Parsi. I am sorry he has made a fool of himself. You know where my duty lies. I must be guided by the Attorney-General, and so I would advise you to use all your persuasion with him.'

'I should be thankful,' said I, 'if you do not insist on dragging him into court.'

Having got him to promise this, I entered into correspondence with the Attorney-General whom I

also met. I am glad to say that he appreciated my utter frankness and was convinced that I had kept back nothing.

I now forget whether it was in connection with this or with some other case, my persistence and frankness extorted from him the remark: 'I see you will never take a no for an answer.'

The case against Parsi Rustomji was compromised. He was to pay a penalty equal to twice the amount he had confessed to have smuggled. Rustomji reduced to writing the facts of the whole case, got the paper framed and hung it up in his office to serve as a perpetual reminder to his heirs and fellow merchants.

These friends of Rustomji warned me not to be taken in by this transitory contrition. When I told Rustomji about this warning, he said: 'What would be my fate if I deceived you?'

Silver Fund

The Hon. Treasurer is anxious to close this fund at the earliest possible moment, and he would be obliged if any persons who are still holding any money contributed to this Fund would forward it with the relative lists without delay, to the Hon. Treasurer, Box 388, Pietermaritzburg.

It is further requested that any issued printed lists, which have not been used, which may still be in the possession of any person or persons may be returned to either of the undersigned as soon as possible:—

C. A. B. PECK, Hon. Secretary, Box 389 Pietermaritzburg.

WM. POWELL MORGAN, Hon. Treasurer, Box 388, Pietermaritzburg.

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સુરત હોદ્દા એસોસીએશન

હોદ્દા ભાષ્યોને ધર્મોપદેશ દેનાર

રામાયણ કથા

સર્વે હોદ્દા ભાષ્યોને સવિનય નિવેદન કરવામાં આને કે સુરત હોદ્દા એસોસીએશન તરફથી ૧૨ વીકેટરીના રીટ વાળા હોલમાં પં. પ્રવીણ કાંહીજી દ્વારા રામાયણ કથા વાંચવાનો અદામરત કરવામાં આવ્યો છે. કથાનો ટાઇમ દર રવીવારે સાંજનાં ચારથી છ વાગ્યે રાખવામાં આવ્યો છે. આશા છે કે સર્વ ધર્મ પ્રેમી ભાષ્યો આ ઉત્તમ સત્સંગનો લાભ લઈ આત્મોન્નતીનાં પથે ચઢવા કોશી કરશે.

શી.

૧૨૭ વીકેટરીના રીટ,
સુરત

શ્રી. એમ. પટેલ.
સેક્રેટરી સુરત હોદ્દા એસોસીએશન.

બોમ્બે પ્રેસીડેન્સી હોદ્દા એસોસીએશન

જનરલ મીટીંગ

સુબઈ ઇલાકાના સર્વે હોદ્દા ભાષ્યોને વીનંતી કરવાની કે:- આ એસોસીએશનની જનરલ મીટીંગ રવીવાર તારીખ ૬-૧-૧૯૨૯ના રોજ બપોરના ૩ વાગ્યે કોસ સ્ટોટમાં આવેલા ટામ્બીલ હોદ્દા ઇન્સ્ટીટ્યુટમાં મળશે.

કાય:-(૧) હોદ્દાદારોની તથા વ્યવસ્થાપક કમીટીના મેમ્બરોની સુદૃષ્ટી.

(૨) પરચુરણ

આના ફોટોકોપીના વખતે આ એસોસીએશનની બહુ અમત્ય હોધ તેને પ્રગટમાં સુકવા ઘણી જરૂર છે તો વખતસર પધારી આભારી કરશો.
૬મન ૨૪-૧૨-૧૯૨૮

શ્રી. સેવક

શ્રી. ડી. પુનાતર

સોન, સેક્રેટરી,

બોમ્બે પ્રે. હો. એ.

વેચવાના વાંચવા લાયક પુસ્તકો

નીચેના વિવિધ વિષયનાં ઉત્તમ પુસ્તકોમાં ધારમીક, અર્ધાતહાસીક, બોધદાયક, કથાઓ, વાર્તાઓ, લાજન કાવ્યો વીકેટરીના સમાવેશ થાય છે. દરેક સ્ત્રી, પુરુષ, અને આખા કુટુંબ માટે અત્યંત મનોહરક અને બોધદાયક છે અને પ્રત્યેક ભારત સંતાને અવશ્ય માંચવા અને જાહેર કરવા લાયક છે. અસુકમાં અનેક ચિત્રોનો પણ સમાવેશ થાય છે.

મજાનાનું ઠેકાણું: Manager, INDIAN OPINION, Phoenix, Natal.

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