

Indian Opinion

No. 2—Vol. XXVII. Friday, January 11th, 1929.

Registered at the G.P.O. as a Newspaper.
Price Fourpence.

FAREWELL BANQUET

TO THE RT. HON. SRINIVASA SASTRI

A FAREWELL banquet in honour of the Right Hon. V. S. Srinivasa Sastri, P.C., retiring Agent of the Government of India in the Union, was given by the Transvaal Indian Congress in the City Hall, Johannesburg, on January 5. His Worship the Mayor Councillor W. Fearnhed presided over a large gathering of prominent Europeans and Indians.

After a sumptuous repast which consisted of an elaborate menu speeches were made by Mr. M. D. Bharoochi, president of the Transvaal Indian Congress, the Mayor, the Rt. Rev. Bishop A. B. L. Karney, Col. Deneys Reitz, M.L.A., the Rev. B. L. E. Sigamoney, Mr. Advocate Alexander, M.L.A., Professor J. M. Watt and Mr. Howard Pim.

As the report of the proceedings has reached us very late we have had to hold over these speeches till next week.

Farewell Address

The following is a copy of an illuminated address presented to Mr. Sastri by the Transvaal Indian Congress:—

“TO THE RT. HON. V. S. S. SASTRI P.C.

“Honoured Sir,—It seems but yesterday that we met in an address of welcome. To-day we are bidding you farewell. You leave these shores after eighteen months of strenuous and exacting labour, glad, doubtless, that your task is at last ended; eagerly looking forward to your return to the Motherland.

“You came, you saw, were seen and heard, and you conquered. Hearts and minds, both of Europeans and those of your countrymen, you charmed, bringing to bear upon the problems you found awaiting you a wisdom, toleration and breadth of vision that compelled agreement and admiration on almost every hand.

“Although the difficulties of the Indian position in this country remain not wholly solved, and although our future occasions us some anxiety, we tender our grateful thanks for your whole-hearted and sympathetic labours towards the amelioration of our lot.

“You carry away with you our loving esteem and leave us the memory of a great soul, who greatly achieved.

We are, Honoured Sir, Yours sincerely,

M. D. BHAROOCHI, President.

S. M. DESAI

D. M. NURSOO

P. K. DESAI

} Secretaries.

Mr. Sastri's Reply

Mr. Sastri who was greeted with tremendous applause on rising spoke as follows:—

“You Worship. Ladies and Gentlemen,—I confess to unusual confusion in rising to respond to this toast. You have received it with such warmth and enthusiasm, that I find some difficulty in expressing my gratitude. Words do not usually fail me, but upon this occasion the right ones do not come. You will forgive, therefore, if in the remarks that I shall offer you do not find much continuity or firmness.

It is true that when I accepted office it was with very considerable reluctance. My health was not good, and my people were very unwilling to trust me all by myself to a strange climate. Moreover, I felt that there were some aspects of the task to which perhaps I might prove unequal. Several of

my countrymen to whom the post was offered, seemed to shrink from it. Was I to be ready to accept a responsibility from which wiser and greater men shrank?

My mind was full of misgivings as I landed upon the shores of South Africa. That now I have some hope for the future is largely due to the blessings that Providence has been pleased to confer upon my work in this country. It has pleased Him that a beginning should be made in the work of reconciling two great countries and two great peoples. That I have been to some extent a humble instrument in this great work, is a matter of pride and gratification. But really and truly, ladies and gentlemen, you share with me to the full the credit of this great change that has taken place. If to my appeals you do not turn a sympathetic ear, if your minds were not ready to listen to appeals for justice and fairplay, if by nature and training your hearts were not ready to respond to the call of our common humanity, all my work would have been in vain.

You brought the right spirit, you brought the true brotherliness of view; your anxiety was not less than mine that an end should be put to a controversy that had raged with bitterness upon both sides for too long a time. Was it then a wonder that I hear on all sides, without so much as a single note of dissent, that to-day the position as between Indian and European is full of promise? Do not then turn all the credit to me. Take your share of it, and in all conscience, yours is the far greater share.

Much has been said of the way in which I approached these difficult issues. Ladies and gentlemen, nothing is simpler. When dealing with human nature stirred to its depths, you have only to be patient, to be forbearant, to try to understand, and above all, if possible, to restrain your tongue, so that you may add no word of reproach to embitter an atmosphere already perhaps too full of the elements of bitterness.

I have endeavoured not only to follow this course myself, but to enforce upon my fellow-countrymen as far as possible. My countrymen have told me to-day, within your hearing, that they are conscious now and again of having been disagreeable to me. May I not say in return that perhaps they found me occasionally too fond of sermonising; rather too free with the word “toleration,” and “pardon,” and “understanding;” not quick enough to feel affront and injury, to satisfy them; unresponsive, may I say, to the pangs of a growing citizenship in their minds and hearts? That has been so on both sides.

But I have long been mixed up with public life, and I know this, that if a controversy begins in mutual misunderstanding, that is no cause at all either for surprise or for disappointment or for grief. I am not afraid of the initial misunderstanding; that I regard as only natural, when people bring different aptitudes and different training to the performance of a common task. But what I am afraid of is the continuance throughout the negotiations of this initial tone of bitterness, and the breaking up of the negotiations in that same tone, unrelieved by one

relatives and friends and a number of floral tributes were paid. Deceased leaves behind her husband and seven children to mourn their loss. The sympathy of their many friends will go out to them.

A Reuter's message from Calcutta states:—

Gandhism emerged with flying colours from the National Congress which unanimously passed a Gandhi resolution laying down a comprehensive programme for a mass organisation for the removal of untouchability, prohibition of liquor, the boycott of foreign cloth and stimulation in the production of homespun cloth. Mr. Gandhi remarked that if the programme was pursued with iron determination, the Swaraj would be within their grasp within the year. The Congress for the first time decided to interfere with the internal affairs of Indian States and passed a resolution demanding that the Princes should introduce responsible Government in their States.

Mr. Sastri's Interview With 'Cape Times'

Some Misunderstandings About Agreement Cleared

In a farewell interview before leaving Cape Town, the Right Hon. Srinivasa Sastri confirmed the optimistic views expressed in the message to the *Cape Times* which is reproduced elsewhere in this issue.

"At the same time," he said, "one must be prepared on the eve of a general election for strange happenings. The desire to catch votes twists our nature out of shape. The temptation would be strong to revive the anti-Indian feeling in its worst forms, and it should be no wonder if some politicians were unable to resist it. Let us hope that the leaders of thought, to whichever party they belong, will remember that the new understanding with India should be regarded with something of the sanctity which attaches to international agreements, and not be lightly brought within the range of ordinary political controversy or used for petty party advantage.

Opposition Critics

"Critics have attempted to cast discredit on the party in power by dwelling on the contrast between the promises they made on the Indian question and their practice as embodied in the present pacific arrangements. Too much importance may easily be given to such criticism. I prefer to regard it as a fling at one's political opponents in which it is natural for people to indulge, rather than as an indication of the policy which they would adopt if they came to power. There are plenty of other problems to tax the energy and test the statesmanship of the men of influence in public affairs. In fact, these should be thankful that the Cape Town Agreement has eased the situation generally, and put out of the way a matter which, in addition to its intrinsic difficulties, brings another Government upon the scene, and throws everything out of perspective.

Change Of Heart

"Opponents and defenders alike seem in this country to ignore the upliftment part of the Agreement. Naturally it attracts the best attention in India. The world at large, in so far as it pays attention to the subject at all, regards the upliftment paragraph as embodying a humane and magnanimous policy, and will watch minutely how the Union authorities live up to the promise made in it. The courage and determination required to to fulfil the promise are rare in the political world,

and no one with experience of human affairs will expect, large results to follow in a hurry. A change of heart is difficult enough in an individual; in a community ordering its affairs on democratic principles it is a process which will take many years to be completed, and may be attended with many setbacks. I would earnestly plead with my countrymen both here and in India not to expect the impossible, for impatience only delays what it would hasten. If my experience and judgment are not wholly without value, I have seen during my eighteen months of office here much reason for hope and encouragement.

A Misunderstanding

"The assisted emigration scheme, which forms the other part of the Agreement, is the feature on which the eyes of most people here are turned. The figures have been quoted more than once in the Press, and seem to afford satisfaction. No doubt the increased bonus is largely responsible for this result. But we must not lose sight of the other improvements which were effected in the old repatriation scheme and which were also contributed to it.

"With regard to one feature, however, there seems to be some misapprehension in the minds of the public, and it is somewhat disappointing that this misapprehension should be shared by leaders who might be expected to know better. It is worth while clearing up the matter. Formerly an intending repatriate had to sign a document surrendering rights of domicile and other rights in this country, not only for himself but for his wife and minor children in return for free passages and bonus money received on their behalf. Indian sentiment looked upon this surrender as involving a national humiliation. Besides, it was feared that the irrevocable nature of the step deterred many from taking advantage of the repatriation offer.

Three Safeguards To Remove Old Sting

"To meet these two difficulties the Round Table Conference recommended that in future no document surrendering domicile and other rights should be demanded of the head of the family desiring to go back to India; but that he should be allowed, under certain safeguards, to return to this country within three years of repatriation. At the end of the three years the domicile would come to an end, as it were, automatically, by the operation of the new law which applies to all immigrants of whatever nationality; so that no surrender in writing need actually be made by the parties, and thus the original sting has been removed.

"Now to the safeguards. In the first place, no return to the Union is permitted within one year. In the second place, the family must return as a whole, allowing only for deaths and for girls who might be married in India. In the third place, refund must be made to the Union Government of the passage money, the bonuses, and other expenses incurred by them in the course of repatriation. Of course, the parties would have to find money in addition for the return passages.

Imaginary "Joy-Rides"

"When it is remembered that the repatriates belong to the poorest class of Indians in this country, it will be seen what a difficulty the financial aspect alone constitutes. The Indian delegates at the Round Table Conference were confident that, while this change would attract many Indians to the scheme, it would be safe to reckon that not more than 5 per cent. of those so attracted would find themselves able to return within three years. It may here be stated that the scheme came into operation in August, 1927, and, therefore, from August last year people could return. But although five months have elapsed, the Department has received only two applications

under this new provision. Those, therefore, who think that facilities have been afforded by this Government for joy-rides to India and back are drawing freely on their imagination. If they succeed in getting this new provision cancelled, they would sensibly diminish the number of emigrants, besides reviving what India would resent as a national humiliation."—*Cape Times*.

✓ 'Cape Argus' Tribute To Mr. Sastri

The *Cape Argus* dated December 31, 1928, writes: To few men has it been granted to capture the regard of South Africa to the extent achieved by Mr. Sastri, who leaves our shores on Wednesday. A conspicuous and venerated figure in his own country, he was scarcely known even by name to most South Africans when the announcement was made early in 1927 that he had been appointed Agent-General for India. Yet it was early recognised as something of a compliment to South Africa, as well as a tribute to the delicacy of her Indian problem, that so distinguished an Indian—perhaps the most distinguished of his day—should have accepted a post from which much trouble and little glory could be expected. Mr. Sastri has more than fulfilled the hopes aroused. His knowledge and ability commanded immediate respect. His candour and capacity for seeing both sides broke down the barrier of prejudice. And finally his eloquence won over all but a few "die-hard" extremists. The Indian problem was lifted immediately to a plane on which it had not moved for many years. A spirit of sweet reasonableness began to invade quarters from which it had been conspicuously absent. Within a very short time agreement was reached—rather a vague agreement, it is true, and one which left much to the good faith of the Union Government, but still an agreement that promised a fairer future for South African Indians while restricting their numbers. But Mr. Sastri's work was not finished. It remained for him to reconcile Indians to clauses that they disliked, and by gentle pressure to keep the Union Government from back-sliding. This double task accomplished, he is able to leave his successor a position not, indeed, completely stabilised, but in process of settling down. We, as well as the people of India, owe him a deep debt for that achievement. The Indian question was an open sore in the body politic of the Empire; it has been converted, through Mr. Sastri, into a minor problem.

.....The true secret of his success lies in a fervent devotion to duty, containing no element of personal ambition. It may be that unselfish absorption of this kind comes easier to an Oriental mind than to the pushful, adventurous type of mind developed in Northern Europe, although every country can provide its quota of tireless, unseen workers. Yet there is something specially inspiring in Mr. Sastri's career apart from his works. With glittering prizes for the taking—with all India, so to speak, for his oyster—he preferred a life of poverty and self-expression as a member of that unique Society, the Servants of India, and gave up all that the world holds valuable at the call of patriotism. Service on those terms is understood in India. Unpractical as it may seem to the Western mind, the world would be a better place to-day if it were understood and more widely practised everywhere.

.....If health is spared—and unhappily Mr. Sastri's health is not very robust—we may confidently expect to find him playing a high part in the task of construction, leading, counselling and inspiring his

What do we live for, if it is not to make life less difficult to each other?—George Eliot.

countrymen with the same passionate fervour, combined with common sense, that brought him success in our midst. South Africa parts from him with very real regret. It will watch with quickened interest and sympathy his share in the revival of that wonderful land to which he has devoted his high gifts. ✓

New Year Greetings From Mr. Sastri

Mr. Sastri writes as following in the *Cape Times* dated January 1:—

"Thanks to the editorial courtesy of the *Cape Times*, I am enabled to say good-bye, on the eve of my departure, to friends and well-wishers whom I cannot meet, and to offer them cordial New Year greetings.

"There is unanimous testimony to the fact that the relations between the Indian and European communities in South Africa have greatly improved. For my part I ascribe this improvement mainly to the good nature and sound political instincts of the dominant race; and to them I render deep and heartfelt thanks for the kindly and considerate response which they have accorded to my efforts on behalf of the Indian community.

"Full credit must be given to the Press for the spirit of fair-play and chivalry with which it has treated the issues arising out of the Capetown Agreement and the large Imperial issues lying behind them. These last have now happily come to the forefront and receive generally the consideration to which they are entitled.

"I go back with the feeling that the Agreement was framed on sound lines, that its faithful execution will serve the best interests of both countries, and that good ground exists for hoping that it will be maintained and strengthened from time to time."

V. S. SRINIVASA SASTRI. ✓

Mr. Sastri On The Liquor Act Special Plea For His Successor

On leaving Capetown in the course of an interview with a representative of the *Natal Witness* Mr. Sastri is reported to have said:—

"May I put in a special plea on my successor's behalf, and ask that he should be received with the same cordiality and consideration everywhere? I am aware that I leave a heavy task for my successor. In eighteen months it has not been possible to do more than make a beginning."

"It is a regret to me that one difficulty which started in my time will face him immediately. It arises from the operation of Section 102 of the Liquor Act and of the regulations made under the Act. About 80 Indian barmen and waiters will be thrown out of employment in the Transvaal, and perhaps as many and more in Natal. They were born in the Union and have done nothing to deserve that fate. It is next to impossible for them to find other employment and support themselves and their families.

"The Liquor Act contains a new principle—that a person to whom liquor is forbidden must not be allowed to handle it. Since Parliament has thought fit to enact that principle let me not discuss it. But is it not for existing interests to be duly safeguarded? The interests of European, barmaids now

Who digs a hole for his brother falls headlong into it.—Arabic Proverb. ✓

actually in employment, for instance, are protected by a special provision, although the barmaid as an institution is to be abolished. This is right and proper, and my plea is for similar protection to existing Indian barmen and liquor servers.

"Immediate relief can be afforded by the granting of exemptions, which the magistrates are empowered under the law to grant, for specified periods. When Parliament meets again, a simple amendment to that which protects the present bar maids could easily be passed for the benefit of the Indian waiter."

Mahatma Gandhi On India's Demand For Self-Government

The London correspondent of the *Natal Mercury* states:—

In a special interview with *The Daily Telegraph* correspondent at Bombay, Mahatma Gandhi has interpreted "for the benefit of my British friends," what he and the National Congress, Calcutta, stand for:—

"To get rid of the suspicion of Great Britain's good faith, which is poisoning the political atmosphere in India, and make the way clear for an understanding between the leaders of the British people and my own people. That will solve our difficulties," he said.

"My position is very clear to me. Dominion status means independence. Others, partly through suspicion of Britain's good faith, and partly for party purposes, have sought to make a distinction between the two, but it has been largely a battle of words.

"There's really no ground for misunderstanding as to what both I and the Congress stand for. We want Home Rule, freedom, a constitution built up by ourselves, something not imposed from outside. If the Nehru constitution is accepted, it means that we become partners at will, and makers of our own destiny."

The correspondent asked why Mr. Gandhi made a surrender to those who do not regard Dominion status as equivalent to independence, but frankly avow a desire for severance of the British connection?

The British Connection

Mr. Gandhi replied: "I admit that in a sense, I made a surrender to the extremists, but it was a surrender on a point not affecting the real position, for which I have always stood. Severance of the British connection, on any account, is not my goal, but the power of severance when desired is!"

"The correspondent declared: "You nevertheless added to the demand for Home Rule an impossible time limit, and presented a pistol at the head of the British Parliament. You declared that unless the Nehru Constitution were accepted before Dec. 31, 1929, something dreadful was going to happen."

Mr. Gandhi sadly shook his head: "Quite wrong! We are in no position to present a pistol at Great Britain, but I do not agree that the time limit laid down is impossible.

"If another war threatened, Great Britain would face it, and deal with the situation immediately, but the Indian situation is not considered serious enough to warrant handling. There Great Britain makes a very big mistake. Indian problems are treated as a minor affair in the business of the Empire, which can be put off until there is nothing else to worry about. That is what India resents, what is poisoning the whole atmosphere of our political life. Let the leaders of the British people make some definite, serious, sincere move to meet us within the year, then ultimatums and time limits will not matter."

Asked what would happen if Britain did not concede the Nehru Constitution by December, Mr. Gandhi smiled and said: "I am an incorrigible opti-

mist, and until midnight on Dec. 31, I shall hope and pray that the definite move for peace which we ask will be made by Great Britain.

"If that hope is not realised, and our prayer is not answered, I shall wake up on New Year's Day, 1930, to find myself an advocate of complete independence."

The Pitfalls

The following article by Mahatma Gandhi under the above caption in *Young India* dated December 13, will give an idea to people in this country who are ignorant about Indian affairs of what British rule in India is:—

Describing the incidents of Lucknow in a private letter Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru writes:

"An incident which took place yesterday morning might interest you. I have not mentioned it in my statement. Soon after the mounted and foot police had driven us back near the station, a young man, whom I took to be a student, came to me and said that he could bring me two revolvers immediately if I wanted to use them. We had just experienced the baton and *lathi* charges and there was a great deal of anger and resentment in the crowd. I suppose he thought that it was a favourable moment to make the offer. I told him not to be foolish. Soon after I found out quite casually that this particular person was known to be in the C. I. D."

Pandit Jawaharlal was safe as he has no secrets. If he finds any use for revolvers in his scheme for the freedom of the country, he will not need the offer from an outsider to lend him one. He will carry it himself openly and use it effectively when in his opinion the occasion has arrived. So he was safe from the blandishments of the C. I. D. And what applies to Pandit Jawaharlal applies in a measure to all Congressmen. For happily the Congress politicians abhor secrecy. Congressmen have ceased to talk with closed doors; they have shed the fear of the C. I. D.

But the C. I. D. will not be itself if it does not have emissaries whose business among other things it is to expose people to temptations and entrap them in the nets prepared for them. It is difficult to imagine an occupation more debasing and degrading than this, and yet it has been reduced to a science by the chief governments of the world and has attracted to it some of its cleverest brains. Britain takes perhaps the first place in this occupation. Lying in the C. I. D. is cultivated as a fine art. Pousonby's *Falsehood in War Time* gives a painful record of lying on the part of all the powers that were engaged in the pastime of mutual destruction on the false plea of philanthropy. It is a black record of crimes committed by the nations of whom Britain was not the least but probably the greatest offender. She could have stopped the War if she had been less greedy and less selfish.

Wherever you turn in India you encounter pitfalls. To me every institution—be it the most philanthropic—run by and in the name of the Empire in India has an unmistakable taint about it. That we run to and hug most or some of them is no test of their goodness. It is test of our helplessness, short-sightedness or selfishness. We have not the courage to sacrifice much in order to save ourselves from criminal participation in sustaining an Empire which is based on fraud and force; and whose chief, if not one, aim is to perpetuate the policy of ever-growing exploitation of the so-called weaker races of the earth.

In a way the C. I. D. is the least dangerous of the traps so cleverly laid by the builders. Those whose exterior is attractive are really the most

dangerous of all. We often fall into one of these enticing but deadly traps, before we hardly know where we are. It was for some such reason that the Romans said: 'Beware of the Greeks, specially when they bring you gifts.' When an enemy comes to you bearing the look of philanthropy, he is to be most dreaded. Would that the youth of the country learnt this simple truth and avoided the pitfalls into which they daily fall even whilst they are cursing the Empire and hoping to deliver the country from the intolerable yoke which is not only ruining the nation economically but is also causing unfathomable moral mischief.

Indian Womanhood

Woman Delegate Nominated

Mrs. Kamala Devi Chattopadhyaya, has been nominated as a delegate on behalf of the All-India Teachers' Federation to the world Federation of Educational Associations at Geneva. She is leaving for Europe next May and will also attend the International Women's Congress at Berlin and the International Labour Conference.

Agra Women's Conference

The second Agra Province Women's Educational Conference was held under the presidentship of Mrs. Kamalavati Chattopadhyaya. The conference deeply deplored the effect of early marriage on education and emphatically condemned the custom allowing immature boys and girls becoming fathers and mothers. The conference demanded that the legal age of marriage of girls and boys should be sixteen and twenty-one, respectively, while it welcomed the legislation prohibiting early marriage. The conference demanded that at least two women should be nominated in the U.P. Council from Agra and Oudh to adequately represent the educational interests of women and urged the women of other provinces to make similar demands. Many other resolutions were also passed.

Rajput Women's Education

At the Conference of Rajput women at Ajmer, the following resolutions among others were passed:—

"This Conference deplores the very backward condition of women's education in Rajputana and asks the Government of India and the various Durbars to do their duty towards the women of this great and important province by taking early steps to open Girls' Schools in all towns and villages of Ajmer-Merwara and the Indian States. The Conference further requests the local Government of Ajmer-Merwara to open at Ajmer a well-equipped Training School for Women Teachers.

"This Conference deplores the lamentable effects of child-marriage on the education and health of boys and girls and puts on record its considered opinion that the heavy mortality among married girls is entirely due to this pernicious practice. This Conference, therefore, strongly condemns the evil of early marriage and calls upon the Government of India and the various Durbars of Rajputana immediately to enact legislation to make it a penal offence to celebrate marriages of boys below 18 and girls below 14 years of age."

Abolition Of Purdah

Under the caption "Purdah and the Mussalmans" Mr. Ch. Abdur Ghani has given his considered views on purdah in a letter to the *Leader* from which we take the following:—

"In the struggle for existence the *purdah* is a heavy weight tied to our necks and hinders us from coming to the forefront. Just imagine what would be the condition of the wealth of the nations of the West

without the co-operating hand of the womenfolk. The commandments for the *purdah* in the holy Koran and in the sayings of the Prophet, are not so rigid as to debar women from all public activities. Islam is a universal religion. Its commandments are very elastic and can hold good for all times and circumstances. It is the interpretation of the Mullahs and the Maulvis that makes them look narrow. One should follow the spirit and not the literal translation of the words: 'Pouring old wine into new bottles' is not always a pleasant task. In the great work of nation-building no foundations can be well and truly laid without the cementing hand of our women. The test of morality is that it should hold fast and good under temptations. With the increase of female education the character of our girls will become strong enough to withstand all occasions and vicissitudes. The different forms of *purdah* in the various provinces shows that it is more a matter of custom and established tradition than of religion."

Assisted Emigration Scheme

5125 Returned In Eighteen Months

Mr. Bhawani Dayal Sanyasi sends us the following figures of Indians who have returned to India under the Assisted Emigration Scheme since it has come into force:—

20th August	1927	244			2801
17th September	"	416	19th May	1928	353
22nd October	"	210	23rd June	"	155
26th November	"	271	28th July	"	237
24th December	"	436	1st September	"	241
14th January	1928	229	6th October	"	352
11th February	"	424	10th November	"	247
17th March	"	290	15th December	"	451
14th April	"	281	To Bombay same period		290
		2801	Total		5127

South African Indian Congress

The Ninth Session of the South African Indian Congress will be held at Durban on the 23rd, 24th, 25th and 26th January, 1929.

The affiliated bodies are requested to send their full quota of delegates.

An opportunity will be taken of welcoming the incoming Agent Sir K. V. Reddi and bidding farewell to the outgoing Agent, the Rt. Hon. V. S. S. Sastri, P.C.

All correspondence relating to the Conference should be addressed to the Joint hon. Secretaries, care 175 Grey Street, Durban.

Telegraphic Address: "Nicely."

P. K. DESAI | Jt. Hon.
I. L. HAZAREE | Secretaries.

POCKET DIARY FOR 1929, FREE.



A friend, guide and daily Diary. Contains many useful information. To be had Free of Cost. Apply at once with Six Pence British Postal Order. The K. C. Works, Post Box. No. 11435, (I. N.) Calcutta, INDIA.

ઈન્ડિઅન ઓપિનિઅન.

પુસ્તક ૨૭ મું.

ફ્રીડેસ, શુક્રવાર, તારીખ ૧૧ જાન્યુઆરી ૧૯૨૯

અંક ૨

નોંધ અને સમાચાર



વર્ષભેદ ઉપર બે મત

૩૨૨ ઘંડનથી જણાવે છે કે દીનપંથુ એન્ડ્રેએ લીવરપુલમાં ૨૬-૨૮ સી ડીસેમ્બર એસોસિએશનના સંમેલન સમક્ષ ભાષણ કરતાં દક્ષિણ આફ્રિકાના વર્ષભેદના કાયદા સામે વિરોધ દર્શાવતાં જણાવ્યું હતું કે એ કાયદો મનુષ્યજાતીનું હક્કહતું અપમાન કરનારો અને પ્રાચીન ગુલામી પદ્ધતિનું સ્મરણ કરાવનારો છે.

એ સાથે ખીને મત આપતાં ૩૨૨ કહે છે કે મોઝેટી (એક બાન્ડુ પ્રતિનિધિ) એ બાન્ડુની એક મીટીંગમાં જણાવ્યું હતું કે: “અમે એટલે દરબે વર્ષભેદને માટે આભારી છીએ કે તે નેટીવાને પીકેન્ગિમાં જઈ અધોમતીએ પહોંચતા અટકાવશે.”

મી. મોઝેટીને ઝાઝીબ ખબર દશે કે જે અધોમતીએ પહોંચતા તે પોતાના દેશીબાઈએને અટકાવવા છુટ્ટે છે તે અધોમતીએ પહોંચવાને સાફ તે સરકારે તેઓને માટે પુસ્તાં સાધનો સ્થાપેલાં છે અને સરકાર પોતે તેને નિભાવે છે. પણ તેઓને ખરી હરકત કરનારો વર્ષભેદ તે ઉદ્યોગમાં છે કે જેમાં તેઓ કદી આગળ વધી જ નહિ શકે. આખે જનમારો જોરાની સરકારી નીચે રજાગુલાબ (કેદાણી પાવડા સલાવવા) કરવું પડશે.

આવકાર અને વિદાયગીરી

ના. શાસ્ત્રીને વિદાયગીરીનું માન આપવાને અને નવા એજન્ટ સર કે. વી. રેડીને આવકાર આપવાને નાટાલ ઇન્ડિઅન કોંગ્રેસ તરફથી જાન્યુઆરી તા. ૨૬ મીએ શાસ્ત્રીજીના માનમાં ખાણ આપવામાં આવશે.

શાસ્ત્રીજીનો પ્રોગ્રામ

ના. શાસ્ત્રીજી યુનીયનની મુસાફરી પુરી કરી જાન્યુઆરી તા. ૧૬ મીએ ડરબન આવશે. જાન્યુઆરી તા. ૨૧ મીએ ઇન્ડો-યુરોપીયન કોંગ્રેસીલને વિદાયગીરીનું ભાષણ આપશે.

હિંદી મહાસભા—ગાંધીજીના ઠરાવ પસાર

કલકત્તાથી ૩૨૨ જણાવે છે કે રાષ્ટ્રિય મહાસભામાંથી ગાંધીવાદ સંપૂર્ણ રીતે દેશી ઉદય પામ્યો છે. એ સભાએ ગાંધીજીનો એક ઠરાવ સર્વાનુમતે પસાર કર્યો છે કે જે અરપૂરવતા નિવારણ, રાધનિષેધ, પરદેશી કાપડનો બહિષ્કાર અને હાથવણાટના ઉદ્યોગને ઉત્તેજીત કરવાની સમસ્ત દેશીય હિલઆલને માટે વિસ્તૃત કાર્યક્રમ સ્થાપનારો છે. ગાંધીજીએ જણાવ્યું કે એ કાર્યક્રમને વજનમાન નિશ્ચયથી પાર પાડવામાં આવશે તો વર્ષની અંદર સ્વરાજ મેળવી શકાશે. મહાસભાએ આ પહેલીજ વખત દેશી રજવાડાઓની આંતરિક બાબતોમાં

કાઠીએને પણ ટક મળે લારે વિકાસ સિંહનું આમંત્રણ આપ્યું હતું.

પણ પ્રવેશ કર્યો છે અને મહારાજાએને પોતાના રાજ્યોમાં જવાબદાર રાજતંત્ર દાખલ કરવાની મામણી કરનારો ઠરાવ પસાર કર્યો છે.

ના. શાસ્ત્રીજીને જોહાનીસબર્ગમાં વિદાયગીરીનું માન

ટાં. ઇ. કેંગ્રેસ તરફથી સીટીહોલમાં આપણું ખાણું

ના. શાસ્ત્રીજીને વિદાયગીરીનું માન આપવા ટ્રાંસવાલ ઇન્ડિઅન કોંગ્રેસ તરફથી જોહાનીસબર્ગના સીટીહોલમાં જાન્યુઆરી તા. ૫ મીએ ખાણું આપવામાં આવ્યું હતું. પ્રમુખસ્થાને જોહાનીસબર્ગના મેયર મી. ફરનહેડ બેરોલ્લા હતા અને જાણીતાં યુરોપીયન તેમજ હિંદીઓની મોટી સંખ્યા હાજર થઈ હતી.

ખાણું લેવાયા બાદ ટાં. ઇ. કેંગ્રેસના પ્રમુખ મી. એમ. ડી. બરૂમી, મેયર, ખીસપ કાર્નો, રેવરન્ડ સીમામણી, મી. એટવેકેટ અલેક્ઝાન્ડર, પ્રેક્ટિસર વોટ અને મી. હાવર્ડ પીને ભાષણો કર્યાં હતાં.

આ જલસાનો રીપોર્ટ અમને ધણેજ મોટો મળેલો હોવાથી આ સંખ્યામાં ભાષણો અમારે આવતાં અઠવાડિયામાં સુધી મુલતવી રાખવાં પડ્યાં છે.

વિદાયગીરીનું માનપત્ર

ટ્રાંસવાલ ઇન્ડિઅન કોંગ્રેસ તરફથી શાસ્ત્રીજીને નીચે પ્રમાણે માનપત્ર આપવામાં આવ્યું હતું:—

“માનવતાં સાહેબ,—હજી તો ગઈ કાલેજ અમે આપને આવકારનું માનપત્ર આપેલું હોય તેવું લાગે છે. અદાર માસની સખ્ત મહેનત બાદ આપનું કાર્ય સંપૂર્ણ થયા બલ આનંદ પામી માતૃશુભી તંદ્ર પાછા વળવાને આપ આતુરતાથી રહ જોતા હશેજ.

“આપ અહિં આવ્યા, આપે જોયું, આપને ખીજાઓએ જોયા અને સાંભળ્યા અને આપે વિવચ મેળવ્યો. યુરોપીયન તેમજ આપના પોતાના દેશબંધુઓનાં મન અને અંતઃકરણને આપે મોહિત કર્યાં અને આપની સમક્ષ આવેલા પ્રશ્નોને આપે એવાં ઉદાપણ, ધીરજ અને દુરદેશીથી હાથ ધર્યાં કે દરેકને સંમત થવાની દરબ પડી.

“જો કે આ દેશની હિંદી કોમની મુશીબતોનો સંપૂર્ણ નિવેડો આવેલો નથી અને અમારાં બનિબને વિશે હજી અમને ચિંતા ઉત્પન્ન થવાને કારણ છે છતાં અમારી સ્થિતિને

આ સાદી કોમની મહરબાની શાંક ના, પરવરોમાર ખખજ-મકે છે મેજ ખજ છે.