

Foundations of Indian Swaraj



K. VYASA RAO

FOUNDATIONS OF INDIAN SWARAJ

FOUNDATIONS
OF
INDIAN SWARAJ

BY

K. VYASA RAO, B.A.,
AUTHOR OF "THE FUTURE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA"

MADRAS
V. RAMASAMY SASTRULU & SONS
1925
Copyright.

By the same author

“The Future Government of India.”

(Macmillan & Co., Ltd.)

The Times.—This volume is the most notable contribution that has yet been made by any Indian writer to the constructive side of the Indian problem. Mr. K. Vyasa Rao is an original and independent thinker.

The Glasgow Herald.—One is bound to recognise the thoroughness with which he has investigated one of the gravest matters ever brought before the British electorate.

The Adelaide Observer.—Few Englishmen could have produced a volume of this size and importance giving fewer chances for fault finding.

The Quarterly Review.—The most valuable contribution from any Indian writer to a constructive study of the problem.

New Statesman.—One of the most full, sane and original studies of the Indian problem produced either by Englishmen or Indians.

The Yorkshire Post.—A contribution original in conception and vigorous in exposition.

FOREWORD

I OWE it to the reader to explain why I have not attempted in the following pages to offer any alternative suggestions in regard to the attainment of Swaraj by India. The atmosphere in India is such that not until we are in a position to appraise correctly the value of factors which at present command the tacit approval of the bulk of the country will there be much chance for other lines of advance. The country must shake itself free from the present incubus before it could be expected to consider earnestly other schemes of political betterment.

The whirl of non-co-operation with its various phases, through which the country

Foundations of Indian Swaraj

has gone, has its very valuable aspect no doubt; but it could hardly be gainsaid that it has left the political mind of India in a state of utter unpracticality. It is desirable therefore that the basic idea of attaining Swaraj through non-violent non-co-operation should undergo a close analysis as a subject of primary importance in itself.

Whatever other programme may be adopted by a majority of Indian politicians, the present programme of Mahatma Gandbi cannot be suffered to absorb the public mind as a scheme that could effectuate a change in the character of the Indian political situation. Its inadequacy as well as its impracticability, its delusive nature as well as its failure so far, have to make way through the rank and file of its adherents before the country may be expected to admit the need for turning to other courses of action.

Foreword

It has appeared to me therefore premature to enter on any fruitful discussion of alternatives. I have for this reason sought to concentrate attention on what is still exercising the public mind as suitable foundations for raising the edifice of Swaraj.

I need hardly conceal that a vein of pessimism may seem to run through the following pages. I am confident, however, when the country ceases to hug delusions and begins to face realities, it will derive a new vitality, born of the effort, whose impetus will be transmitted through the whole civilised world. Western civilisation is a game, the nature of which India, being in it and not of it, can accurately gauge. It can also take a hand in the game, if driven to. No one need despair of a country which can see far into the past and far into the future as India alone can and dedicate

Foundations of Indian Swaraj

itself to the service of humanity in its higher and loftier needs in a spirit of true self-effacement as no other nation is equipped to do. A nation that makes up its mind not to live for itself can never die ; nor could it fail to accomplish what is indispensable for its allotted mission in God's providence. India has only to realise her power, awakening from the stupor of a century, and requisition those gifts which are hers for ever and she will not fail to prove a match to the greatest single power of the world.

TRIPPLICANE, }
6th July, 1925. }

K. VYASA RAO.

CONTENTS.

CHAPTER	PAGE
I.—Introductory	... 1
II.—The Fallacy of Soul Power	... 10
III.—The Outlook of the West	... 43
IV.—The Fallacy of Common Dis- abilities	... 65
V.—The Creed of the Charka	... 79
VI.—The Fallacy of Birthright	... 94
VII.—Surrender or Decadence?	... 106