

Gandhi." The quick-sighted Police Superintendent was already there trying to keep the crowds under control, not by threats but by humouring them. But he was not entirely free from anxiety. He sent me a message to this effect: 'If you would save your friend's house and property and also your family, you should escape from the house in disguise as I suggest.'

Thus on one and the same day I was faced with two contradictory positions. When danger to life had been no more than imaginary, Mr. Laughton advised me to launch forth openly. I accepted the advice. When the danger was quite real, another friend gave me contrary advice and I accepted that too. Who can say whether I did so because I saw that my life was in jeopardy, or because I did not want to put my friend's life and property, or the lives of my wife and children, in danger? Who can say for certain that I was right both when I faced the crowd in the first instance bravely, as it was said and when I escaped from it in disguise?

It is idle to adjudicate upon the right and wrong of incidents that have already happened. It is useful to understand them and, if possible, to learn a lesson from them for the future. It is difficult to say for certain how a particular man would act under a particular set of circumstances. We can see that judging a man from his outward act is no more than a doubtful inference in as much as it is not based on sufficient data.

Be that as it may, the preparations for escape made me forget my injuries. According to the suggestion of the Superintendent, I put on an Indian constable's uniform and wore on my head a Madraasi scarf, wrapped round a plate to serve as a helmet. Two detectives accompanied me, one of them disguised as an Indian merchant and with his face painted to resemble that of an Indian. I forget the disguise of the other. We reached the neighbouring shop by a bye-lane, and making our way through the gunny bags piled in the godown, we escaped by the gate of the shop and threaded our way through the crowd to a carriage that had been kept for me at the end of the street. In this we drove off to the same police station where Mr. Alexander had offered me refuge a short time before, and I thanked him and the detective officers.

Whilst I had been thus effecting my escape, Mr. Alexander had kept the crowd amused by singing the tune:

'Hang old Gandhi,
On the sour apple tree.'

When he was informed of my safe arrival at the police station, he thus broke the news to the crowd: "Well, your victim has made good his escape through a neighbouring shop. You had better go home now." Some of them were angry, some laughed, some refused to believe the story.

"Well then," said the Superintendent, "if you do not believe me, you may appoint one or two representatives, whom I am ready to take inside the house. If they succeed in finding out Gandhi, I will gladly deliver him to you. But if they fail, you must disperse. I am sure that you have no intention of destroying Mr. Rustomji's house or of harming Mr. Gandhi's wife and children."

The crowd sent their representatives to search the house. They soon returned with disappointing news, and the crowd broke up at last, most of them admiring the Superintendent's tactful handling of the situation, and a few fretting and fuming.

The late Mr. Chamberlain, who was then Secretary of State for the Colonies, cabled asking the Natal Government to prosecute my assailants. Mr. Escombe sent for me, expressed his regret for the injuries I had sustained and said: 'Believe me, I cannot feel happy over the least little injury done to your person. You had a right to accept Mr. Laughton's advice and to face the worst, but I am

sure that if you had considered my suggestion favourably, these sad occurrences would not have happened. If you can identify the assailants I am prepared to arrest and prosecute them. Mr. Chamberlain also desires me to do so."

To which I gave the following reply:

"I do not want to prosecute any one. It is possible that I may be able to identify one or two of them, but what is the use of getting them punished? Besides I do not hold the assailants to blame. They were given to understand that I had made exaggerated statements in India about the Whites in Natal and calumniated them. If they believed these reports it is no wonder that they were enraged. The leaders, and if you will permit me to say so, you are to blame. You could have guided the people properly, but you also believed Reuter and assumed that I must have indulged in exaggeration. I do not want to bring anyone to book. I am sure that when the truth becomes known, they will be sorry for their conduct."

"Would you mind giving me this in writing," said Mr. Escombe. "Because I shall have to cable to Mr. Chamberlain to that effect. I do not want you to make any statement in haste. You may if you like, consult Mr. Laughton and your other friends before you come to a final decision. I may confess, however, that if you waive the right of bringing your assailants to book, you will considerably help me in restoring quiet, besides enhancing your own reputation."

"Thank you," said I. "I need not consult any one. I had made my decision in the matter before I came to you. It is my conviction that I should not prosecute the assailants and I am prepared this moment to reduce my decision to writing."

With this I gave him the necessary statement.

Notes at Random

(By M. RUTHNUM MOODLEY)

As India's Agent-General the Right Hon. V. Srinivasa Sastri P.C. has arrived in this country to take up his important post, the time has come for the various parties and factions to consider the situation a new, and agree upon some common course of action. The adage, "United we stand, divided we fall" is profoundly true and applicable to us.

X X X

We are all of course animated by a desire to raise the status of our community in this country, but to those who appear to think that the measure of alleviation offered by the agreement reached at the Round Table Conference, is meagre, I would counsel patience. As Mr. Sastri so aptly put it in one of his speeches, the disputes of two generations cannot be settled in as many weeks.

X X X

When one considers the political atmosphere that prevailed when the Class Areas Bill was brought forth by the S. A. Party when it was in power, and subsequently when the Areas Reservation Bill was ushered into Parliament by General Hertzog's Government, the wonder is not that so little was achieved by our representatives, but that so much was gained by them.

X X X

If one were to analyse the criticisms passed on the Agreement, it becomes patent that much of it is actuated by personal motives, the broader point of view being completely overlooked. If for no other reason, our duty towards the distinguished Ambassador from India demands that we conduct our controversies in a sensible, broadminded and dignified manner. Mr. Sastri's task is an extraordinarily difficult one, and let us on our part resolve not to add to the difficulties of a complex position.

X X X

-Appropos of Mr. Sastri's new appointment, it is interest-

ing to note that Madras has lately figured prominently abroad as representing India in one capacity or other, the instances apart from Mr. Sastri being of course Mr. Govindaraghava Iyer in Canada, Mr. Shunmukam Chetty with the Parliamentary Delegation to Australia, and Mr. Rangachariar at the opening of the new Australian Capital. Truly Madras is no longer the "benighted Province!"

x x x

It is the writer's intention to contribute notes under the above heading from time to time, and he ventures to hope that any shortcomings will be indulgently treated by the numerous readers of the INDIAN OPINION.

બેઠાએ છે

સ્કુલ સાર અંગ્રેજી તથા ગુજરાતી ભણાવી શકે એવા એક માણસની જરૂર છે.

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નેતાઓની સુંદર છબીઓ વેચાવાની છે
આ ત્રણ થોડી નકલો રહી છે કિંમત ૧/૬ ડાહનની છે.
તાકીદ કરો આરડર સાથે પૈસા મોકલવા:
દાદાભાઈ નવરોજી, સાઉથ આફ્રિકન સ્ટેચર એરર કંપની
મરુદમ ગોખલે, બાલા હસરાજ, ઉમર હાજી આગ્રાદ પ્રવેરી,
હીદી સ્વચ્છેવક ટોળી, ટ્રાંસવાલની ત્રણ સત્તામંત્રી માનુઓ,
મીસીસ રોષ મહેતાજી, હીદી રાજભક્ત, (કાદુન) સર શીરોજી
મહેતા, સર રતન જે. વાતા, વીલ્યમ વેડગર્ન, ટોલરટોચ
શામમાં પહેલા રહેનારો, મરુદમ ડોક, મરુદમ નામાપાન, લોડ
જેમ્સીલ, મી ગોખલે આન્ના ત્યારનો પાર્ટ સ્ટેશનને દેખાવ,
સોરાજી શાપુરજી આગ્રાનીઆ ટોલરટોચ શામની ઉભણી,
હીદુ ટેમ્પલ વેરુમ, મીસ વલીગમા મુહલીઆર, રાજના મુપુતો,
ટ્રાંસવાલ સરકારે ૬૦ માણસને ડીપાર્ટ કર્યા, જેહાનીસખમ
હીદી કવિસ્તાંભ, સ્ટેન્ડન સત્તામંત્રી કેદી, રવિવ્રતાચ ટ્રાંજોટ,
સવદ ગમીર ગલી, બેનબમીન રોજરટસન અને સ્ટાક,
કાકાજી સ્વામજી વેરવોડુ, પી. કે. નાઈક, સરોજીની નાયકુ,
સી. વી. જી હીદી વચ્ચે હીદી વેપુરેચન, આગ્રાદ કોષાતી

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FAREWELL BANQUET

IN HONOUR OF MR. C. F. ANDREWS

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MR. C. F. Andrews who sailed for India per *S. S. Karapara* on Monday last was the guest of honour at a farewell banquet given by the Natal Indian Congress at the Town Hall, Durban on Saturday July 30, the Rt Hon. V. S. Srinivasa Sastri, P.C. presiding. There were three hundred people present including about a hundred prominent Europeans.

The daughters of Mr. and Mrs. V. Lawrence who are well trained in music ably entertained the gathering throughout the function.

After full justice was done to an illaborate menu the guest of the evening and several other distinguished guests were garlanded and the King was toasted.

Mr. Sastri's Speech

The Chairman, Mr. Sastri, then delivered the following speech:

"Ladies and gentlemen: It is now my privilege to toast the guest of the evening. There is not one amongst us who will not feel a void in his life when the next boat takes away Mr. Andrews from us. It is not only his work that we will miss, it is his kindly presence, his sweet engaging personality, his noble conversation and purity, and in these troubled times, it is a pleasure to add the sincerity of his thought. It is not an easy task to review the life and work of our guest to-night, and we in South Africa, whether European or Indian, merchant, journalist, or statesman, we must all feel alike that amongst those who have contributed to the peaceful contented state of the country, Mr. Andrews is amongst the prominent. His mission was one of peace and good-will. I have never known a word from his lips which would make matters worse than they were, which would not make things better than they were, which would make human relationship more strained than it was. He has an unrivalled capacity of loving and drawing love. To the Indian community he has been a stand-by second to none, the Indian community not only in South Africa but everywhere in the world. I do not know a single place in the wide Empire where Indians live where Mr. Andrews has not also been to live. And all over this wide area the name of Mr. Andrews is known as a friend, as a lover for fairness and justice. (Applause). His marvelous capacity for work is well-known. The care with which he sorts his facts the method in which he presents them to those interested, his great power of affection, and his way of trying to bring the other man round to his way of thinking are unique. I have known times in England, in India and here in South Africa also, times when we have been deeply engaged with men inclined to be controversial, when they did not trust each other, when all minds were turned to Mr. Andrews and he was listened to with attention and earnestness. They listened to the words of one whom they knew had no interest but one of goodwill and a desire to serve.

Nowhere is he unwelcome. In every circle, lay or cleric, his name is high as one who helps poor men and women, orphans, and little children. Whatever he says is received with respect. People may not always like it, and some may not always believe it, but they know that an earnest man is speaking to them, and that they must listen with respect. Of the work he has done all of you must have much personal knowledge as I have but you will observe that when prominence or congratulations are going round when complimentary remarks are being made then Mr. Andrews is not easily discovered, and he gives his place to those who have certainly not done as much and have but taken the cue from him. Sometimes I have felt with reason that I could have put him right out in front of me so that all might see who was responsible for the particular offence which was being castigated, (laughter). You will not need to be told, ladies and gentlemen, whether in England, India, or South Africa there is one whose word is received as gospel as implicitly as Mr. Andrews, unless it be that man whom he revered above almost all others, Mahatma Gandhi himself. (applause). Sometime ago a bill, drastic as no other bill has been drastic, was in contemplation. It was then thought that the intervention of the churches was necessary. Mr. Andrews took up the idea and achieved a miracle which only he could. In England, and places in America, all over South Africa, on the same day and at the same hour, thousands upon thousands of people belonging to Christian churches, irrespective of denomination, held a service and prayed to the Almighty God that wisdom might be granted to the authorities here, that a solution might be found to the problems which threatened to attack Indians not merely here but all over the British Empire. Mr. Andrews certainly had the largest share in bringing that phenomenon about. He is one who feels where trouble is and knows almost instinctively how to compose it. Ladies and gentlemen, when he goes away on the day after to-morrow we are sure to feel that an influence, kindly and loving, is being withdrawn from us, from this part of the world, but I know that wherever he is we are sure not to be left without his guidance for he is an indefatigable correspondent. Although he may be far away he will certainly send us views in one form or another and we will still have Mr. Andrews by our side. I shall feel helpless when he has gone for in the work that I have taken up I will be blind, lame and impotent without his watchful guidance, but we cannot have everything our own way. There is only one Mr. Andrews, and more than one place in the world that wants him. Let us therefore wish him a happy voyage to India. Let us wish that he will have in the *Shanti Niketan* the rest and quiet which he so much needs. Ladies and gentlemen, before I ask you to rise in your places and drink to his toast, I have a very pleasant duty to perform. The Natal Indian Congress have given me this envelope. I do

not know what it contains I have not seen, and I expect that Mr. Andrews when he sees will not tell us. But I know that it is some little token which will go a little way to something which is intended to further the greatest educational institution which Mr. Andrews is proud to have given his life to. Now I ask you, ladies and gentlemen, to rise in your places and drink to the health of Mr. Andrews (applause).

Mr. Andrews

Mr. Andrews then rose amid applause to reply and after expressing his deep appreciation for the great honour done to him he said :—

On my last visit over a year ago—in April last year—I made a great mistake in ending my visit at that time with saying things which were very precarious and somewhat controversial indeed at Maritzburg. In that speech which was fully reported I recalled many of the old evils of the past, evils which were far better to both sides to have been forgotten. They were really a mistake and I was sorry for it afterwards. On this account on saying farewell to you I will certainly not repeat that mistake I made at Maritzburg. For to-night I would strike an entirely different note and only look forward instead of backwards. For I love to think that my more intimate experiences of South Africa and Natal which I have gained throughout the present year, although it was on the whole strenuous labour, have made me, I hope, both a wiser and better man ready at least to judge charitably human affairs. This year of my life has been a very eventful one and one in which I have seen more intimately into the conditions affecting the Indian community than ever I have been able to do before as I have gone up and down the country, I have been impressed with the prosperous conditions in which Indians are now living in Natal compared with those of six years ago. Compared with those conditions which obtained in 1913-14, when I first came out it has changed substantially, changed let me emphasise in the country districts where it is very marked indeed. The Indian community in the rural areas has made good. They have proved themselves to be citizens and cultivators of no mean quality. In the banana trade there has been a very remarkable development and the trade is competing with Jamaica. This is due to the thrift and intelligence of the small Indian cultivators. Furthermore we can all recognise that the plentiful supply of vegetables and fruit and also of delightful flowers come from the Indian gardens. These we can truly be thankful for. In many other ways, as I have gone up and down the country wandering here and there I have been struck by the intelligence of the Indian colonial-born as he works in his little plot of garden and I have been wonderfully struck with the thought of how fruitful is mother earth. That is one side of the picture; but I wish I could speak with equally high assurance of that other part of the community which has drifted—drifted is the right word—from the country into the city, especially into this city of Durban. During the epidemic I was able to see as never before at close quarters the slum conditions of Durban city. Nothing which I have seen has depressed me so much as what I saw during these days. For it made me feel that the drift of the Indian community from the country into the towns which was going rapidly on ought to be avoided at all costs before further demoralisation, such as I saw, in those slum quarters, eventuated. I know—we all know—that the problem is one of extraordinary difficulty. It is not a Natal problem alone, not a Durban problem alone, but a problem of other countries as well, of modern civilisation. So in that experience which has come to me there has also come at the same time the realisation of an intense longing to find a remedy. The first remedy seems to me to be quite obvious, it is to make the

country life for the Indian community more attractive and offer more incentive for them to live there. One example of a progressive Indian family being deprived of education for their children is a family which is doing wonderful cultivation in an out-of-the-way place. I urge with all my heart at the same time that education to be given in those country districts should be strictly practical and with agriculture instruction at its basis. We are aware—if you will allow me to speak my mind before I leave—that the wages board is bound to affect many Indian homes adversely and at first to cause unemployment among many who are now employed. It should not therefore be impossible in a fertile country like Natal, the most fertile part of South Africa to find new employment for those who may be hardly fit, in the country. It should not be impossible to bring some of them back to the cultivation of the soil, rescue them from the slums and give them healthy surroundings in the country. It should not be forgotten that life in the country, that the cultivation of the soil is in the very blood of the great majority of those who came out from India to Natal and especially from South of Indian where Mr. Sastri himself comes from. For example when I was visiting, during the epidemic, the Depot Barracks, the railway and municipal barracks, it was quite pathetic how here and there some Indians had begun to cultivate the small patch of ground outside of their own rooms and even before the doorstep, so deep in them was the love for the soil and their desire to get back to it. A new housing scheme is necessary to do away with the slum quarters and that we are getting, I was most thankful to hear. I must express my deep appreciation to the head of the Corporation who is here for the most inspiring activity which has characterised his year of office, and for the energy which the Corporation displayed in securing the property on the outskirts of the Borough for the purpose of removing the slum conditions within the municipal boundaries. This very afternoon I went down to the electric power station and found to my great joy that the old quarters there had been pulled down. Thank God they are gone, we are well rid of them. What I think is necessary is a careful town-planning scheme not merely in view of the property outside the borough but in view of certain parts of the town such as places in Grey Street and Field Street where decent houses might be put up for Indian residents. In Johannesburg, I saw houses put up with Indian capital for Indians in handsome style and sanitary manner. There was a long waiting list for them, they were so good. It should be possible to have some such scheme here in which Indian capital could be invested. I do feel that the Indian community itself must take the main share in solving its own problem. We all know that in this very gathering here to-night there is great wealth and I would impress upon them even at this last moment of my visit, that if only we help ourselves, if only we set about to improve conditions ourselves, if only the wealthy Indians can be persuaded to help, then there would be no Indian question in Natal at all. It is true that some years ago I was under the impression that the question was mainly political but I have now changed my opinion. Every year has convinced me that the Indian question is far more a question of better houses and better education than any political question at all. I do most truly feel that the way to strike down any prejudice which may exist is in this way only, by self-improvement, by upholding higher ideals within our own community which can be started by generosity and noble gifts. One of the most noble and generous gifts which has ever been made in this city was given by the late Parsee Rustomjee which amounted to some £50,000. I know that it is well pent to-day with libraries and classes being held

and the like and I thank God for Parsee Rustomjee's work. (applause). I have had the experience of similar gifts of a Musselman Aladina Vishram who will long be remembered in Kenya colony as having donated one of the noble gifts in East Africa. (applause). Anyone can see that memorial over-looking Mombasa harbour. The sum given there was in the neighbourhood of £40,000. (applause). His name will be remembered, but can we here in South Africa, in Durban or Johannesburg name similar gifts such as I have mentioned? How can we then improve the community. I tell you again that we can, with Mr. Sastri's help and encouragement, and with the help of the wealth among the Indian community solve this problem. Ladies and gentlemen, and Mr. President, I have ventured and, I know you will pardon me, to take this opportunity of speaking out at a dinner of this kind but the matter is so deep in my heart that I can speak of nothing else. I would say in conclusion to both Europeans and Indians how very deeply grateful I have been for the wonderful kindness I have always receive in your city and the remarkable way you received me whenever I come back as one who sincerely wishes to do good. In saying good-bye I feel that I am leaving a great part of my heart here in South Africa. When I leave you I will certainly try very, very hard to come back again." (applause).

Mayor's Speech

Mr. Andrews' speech was followed by other speeches and the Mayor, Mr. Buzzard, responded to the toast of "Our European Guests." In the course of his speech the Mayor said that there was not one of the Europeans present at the banquet who did not have the welfare of the Indian community at heart. We wish them to better the condition in which they live and I would like also to refer to the remarks of the guest of the evening, Mr. Andrews, and say that the Durban Corporation is trying its level best not only to improve the housing of the Europeans but to look after the housing conditions of the Indian population of this town. Unfortunately we have no jurisdiction or control over the land adjoining the Borough boundary but I can assure you that if we are successful the conditions will be immediately changed for the better. Now, Sir, in responding to this toast I would say that many Europeans who have come here this evening to the banquet to Mr. Andrews have come here to show our sincere sympathy and interest in the work he has done in India and for the work he is doing for South Africa. I well remember the time back in last September when we had the small-pox epidemic, that Mr. Andrews was the gentleman who stepped in to the breach and did noble work for the Corporation which the Corporation never could have done themselves.

"India, to-day," said the speaker, "is receiving that attention which is going to solve many of its problems and it will also solve the problem of relationship between the Indian community and the European population. I do feel that the departure of Mr. Andrews from this country will be South Africa's loss. I sincerely hope that he will find it possible to come back sometime and give us the benefit of his wonderful mind and help to solve our difficulties. I would again like to thank you for proposing the health of the European guests and also to pay tribute to the excellent band which played to us during the course of the dinner. I consider that the three Indian ladies who discoursed music to us and who I believe are daughters of Mr. Lawrence to be an excellent example of what can be accomplished. I would not like to sit down without asking you one and all to drink the health of Mr. Sastri.

With the singing of the National Anthem the function terminated.

A FIRST STEP INDEED

THE attitude of the *Natal Mercury*, in regard to the Capetown Agreement is indeed most amusing. The childish manner in which it argues makes it all the more laughable. We thought there were some childish people only amongst us but we find that they exist also amongst those known to be responsible and who are supposed to guide public opinion. Everything that suits its purpose and is to its liking, our contemporary, hails with "did we not say so!" and everything that does not suit its purpose and is not to its liking, it sheds crocodile tears and lodges its strongest objection. For instance, when Mr. Andrews said in his farewell address that the Indian question was a question of better housing and better education it was a joy to our contemporary and when he said that Indians should by their own capital raise a scheme to promote it our contemporary was overjoyed. For that suited its purpose well.

Now as regards housing we have the Land Alienation Ordinance which takes away the right of Indians to freely own landed property anywhere in the Borough, and the only land available for Indian housing within the Borough of Durban was, as was stated some time back, only three quarters of an acre! Indians had therefore either to go out of the Borough or to 'stew in their own juice.' Several attempts were made by the Corporation to lead the Indian community to accept a sort of an Indian village scheme but as the motive underlying such a scheme was no other than to segregate Indians the scheme did not receive any support from the Indian community. A bote was then thrown in the shape of a suggestion of an Indian Advisory Committee to discuss the formation of a housing scheme, but, having deprived Indians of the right to purchase land wherever they wished to within the Borough by legislation which was strongly opposed by them, as establishing the principle of segregation, the Indian community thought it inconsistent on their part to participate in any scheme that the Corporation might suggest. Mr. Andrews now appeals to the wealthier Indians to expend some of their wealth in building houses to house their poorer brethren. The *Mercury* is pleased at this as the Corporation, would thereby, as it were, be relieved of the burden and their coffers would, nevertheless, be filled with fat revenues derived from Indian

taxation. Similarly with the question of education the appeal of Mr. Andrews for self-help has pleased our contemporary. If Indians were only to pay taxes quietly and would look after themselves without claiming any representation that would perhaps just suit the purpose of the *Natal Mercury*. Our contemporary is further pleased with Mr. Andrews' suggestion that the problem here is not mainly a political question but that it is far more truly a problem of better housing and better education. We cannot imagine our contemporary to be so dense as not to understand that the Indian problem is, as are the problems of the Coloured and the black races nothing else but a political problem. That we may reconcile ourselves for the time being, for expediency's sake, by not calling it such is entirely another thing, and we do not believe that Mr. Andrews could have meant it in any other light.

Now we come to the point where the shoe pinches our contemporary. All that Mr. Andrews said was very palatable; but no sooner Mr. Sastri dwells on that part of the "gentleman's agreement" dealing with the uplifting of the Indian population it becomes distasteful to our contemporary. It accuses Mr. Sastri for giving a more political edge to the Indian demand. That education must inevitably play its due part in the establishment of better standards of public health among the members of the Indian population is readily conceded to by our contemporary but it goes on to suggest to Mr. Sastri that "if he wishes to further the cause which he and all enlightened members of the European population have at heart he will best serve our mutual interests by doing his best to expedite the Commissions of Inquiry under the Public Health Act for which the Capetown Agreement also makes provision." It points out the difficulties of an Educational Inquiry, and as one of the difficulties, it ~~points out~~ ^{points out} the country into the

wrong done to it. Our contemporary then thinks "it is manifestly futile for Provincial Council to run its head into other financial noose, (for the provision of further educational facilities for Indians in this Province is primarily a matter of finance), in order to give quite unnecessary proof of its goodwill to Mr. Sastri." But our contemporary somewhat lets the cat out of the bag in the last paragraph of its article which it says, "that while South Africa has heard a great deal of the educational and moral needs of her Indians, very little indeed has been said by Mr. Sastri or anybody else of the benefits of the new system of assisted emigration by which it is hoped that Natal and the Transvaal will be relieved of the presence of Indians who show their incapacity to assimilate as a permanent part of a civilised population. It would be helpful if that side of the agreement were more fully expounded by Mr. Sastri in a spirit of goodwill."

In our opinion all this is nothing else but quibbling on the part of our morning contemporary as there are quibblers amongst our own brethren too who are not satisfied with what they have received and are greedy to get more and still more. There is only one thing at the back of all this argument and that is that the question of uplifting of the Indians to the European standard does not so much interest—if it is not entirely odious to, our contemporary and its followers as does the scheme of eliminating the Indians from this country. There is a deal of goodwill among the Indian community to carry out its own responsibility in regard to the Capetown Agreement and there would be a deal of goodwill among the Europeans too if only papers like the *Natal Mercury* would not launch out their mischievous propaganda of misguiding public opinion. ^{at the} ^{last} ^{moment} ^{of} ^{my} ^{visit,} ^{that} ^{if} ^{only} ^{we} ^{set} ^{public} ^{opinion.} ^{That} ^{help} ^{ourselves,} ^{if} ^{only} ^{we} ^{set} ^{public} ^{opinion.} ^{That} ^{is} ^{our} ^{first} ^{step} ^{for}

City Indians' Welcome to Mr. Sastri

A welcome reception in honour of the Rt. Hon. V. S. Srinivasa Sastri was given by the Natal Indian Congress (Maritzburg Branch) in the City Hall, Maritzburg, on Monday August 1, at 8 p. m. Councillor Mr. J. H. Hardy, Mayor presiding. His Honour the Administrator Sir George Plowman was present and the hall was fully packed with a mixed gathering of Europeans and Indians.

In extending a hearty welcome to Mr. Sastri the Mayor, Mr. John Hardy, explained that Mr. Sastri was representing 300,000,000 people of India. This was not the only reason for Maritzburg welcoming him. Mr. Sastri was a striking personality and a statesman. He had performed many past services for the nation and was now in South Africa to attempt to solve one of the greatest of South African problems—the Indian question. Mr. Hardy felt sure that everyone wished Mr. Sastri the greatest success in this great task, and if he decided to live in Maritzburg rather than in Durban, Maritzburg would be glad to have him.

The president of the Natal Indian Congress Mr. R. B. Maharaj, welcomed Mr. Sastri on behalf of the Indian community.

At this stage Mr. Sastri, J. D. Tyson, Mr. Kodanda Roa, Sir George Plowman, the Mayor and Mr. Venn, the new Commissioner for Asiatic Affairs, were garlanded. An address was given to Mr. Sastri in which the Natal Indian Congress wished Mr. Sastri to know that they would do their best to assist him in his task by offering their fullest co-operation in carrying out both the spirit and letter of the agreement.

Sir George Plowman ably summarised the Indian problem as it affected Natal. The essentials from the European point of view were that Mr. Gokhale's pledges that the European should have no fear of being swamped and that his political dominance should not be questioned, should be observed. Mr. Sastri, he understood, accepted those pledges and he was sure that no better representative of the Government of India could have been found. The agreement was a friendly understanding between the two Governments rather than a legal agreement, and it therefore depended very largely for its success upon the character of the men who would have to work it. Mr. Sastri had not been in South Africa long but he had already shown that he could do more than any other individual to solve this problem. Necessarily he must spend much of his time between Pretoria and Capetown, but Sir George hoped that he would devote as much of it as he could to Natal—and incidentally, to Maritzburg, which some distinguished visitors were inclined to overlook.

Mr. H. H. Janion told both the European and the Indian populations a few home truths in a drily humorous style which pointed them effectively and, incidentally, stressed the economic value of the native and the extraordinarily little use which South Africa made of him.

"We are a nation of aristocrats" he said, "whose notion of a hard day's work is watching the native working for us."

Mr. Sastri made a moving appeal for help in the working of the agreement and the solution of the Indian problem in South Africa. We hope to publish Mr. Sastri's full speech in our next issue.

During his visit to Maritzburg Mr. Sastri addressed a meeting of Indian women and was entertained by the City Mayor at a luncheon party at the Victoria Club.

Mr. Sastri returned on Thursday morning to Durban and performed the opening ceremony of the St. Aidan's Indian Girls' School on Old Dutch Road.

Mr. Sastri's Rebuke To Colonial Born Indians

The following speech was delivered by the Rt. Hon. V. S. Srinivasa Sastri at the Banquet given in his honour a few days ago by the Colonial Born Indian Association at Peters Cafe, Grey Street, Durban:—

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen—You have done me a great honour tonight and conferred upon me a very great obligation. I tender my most hearty thanks. I realise that there are many among you here who do not believe in or agree with the agreement concluded between the Government of the Union and the Government of India. You have much difficulty in reconciling yourselves to the Capetown agreement. Nevertheless, you have all joined in wishing me well, in paying the most handsome compliments to me personally and recognising in the most generous manner such work as it has been vouchsafed to me to do. Believe me, I shall serve you in the same manner as I have served others of the Indian community. That does not leave out any section or individual, for my duty is to serve the Indian community. The Association of Colonial Born Indians has its own individuality and its own rules and more than one of you have said that it represents a different culture and a distinct section of the community. I have taken account of all that you have said and you will find that I am as accessible to you as I am to others. Let me go on! Mr. P. S. Aiyar in his remarks could not really have intended it when he said that in all your struggles in this country you have received no assistance or encouragement from the Government of India. Even if I were not a servant of the Government of India, as I am to-day, I should challenge that statement. The Government of India have stood by the Indian community here throughout their struggles. I have not known a period during the last twenty years when you have not had the full support of the Government of India. Those of you whose minds perhaps do not go back for that period but remember the events of the past five years, will not hesitate to acknowledge that you cannot accuse the Govt. of any neglect. Two famous Viceroy's of India, Lord Hardinge and Lord Reading, both incurred the displeasure of the British Cabinet for their efforts to help the South African Indian community.

In the discussion on the Class Areas Bill and its successor the Government has done all in its power for you. I was therefore astonished when Mr. Aiyar, who in other respects seems a careful student of current events, should say that about the Government of India. Referring now to Mr. Gopaul's address in regard to the Capetown agreement, so far as I can see, the serious difficulty you find is the scheme for the reduction of the Indian population. Mr. Royeppen dwelt at some length on the same point and regretted that Indians were not considered fit and proper persons for South African citizenship. Yes, you are right to dwell on this feature of the Capetown agreement, but may I point out that the emigration scheme is nothing new? The Habbibullah deputation did not invent that clause for the first time. You have had the repatriation scheme in use since 1914. Thousands of people have gone back home under the scheme. In some years there have been 3,000 emigrants and in others 2,000 and so on. We found it in existence and whether we desired it or not, whether we liked it or not, we had to take it up as a means of effecting in a proper and legitimate manner the reduction of the Indian population which it was the Government of the Union's wish to effect by harsh and coercive means. It replaces the odious bills which were meant to squeeze the Indian population and drive them out. Would you rather have had those than this system of assisted emigration? We were not free agents in January last, we had to take the less odious, the less cruel of two alternatives. You must admit when you look at it from that point of view that our choice was good. Mr. Gopaul quite took my breath away when he attacked one portion of the emigration scheme which was really an improvement. That was the provision made for the return to the Union within three years of a repatriate. Mr. Gopaul, with a

certain amount of satire, points out that the conditions for the return of the repatriate are so stringent that they make it practically impossible for a poor man to return to this country. I am not prepared to say that there is no truth in it. It may be practically impossible, but that arrangement was not designed to enable many people to return, but to preserve for the community their self-respect. They will no longer be called upon to sell their birth-right for a mess of pottage. If you examine the new emigration form you will now see no mention of "I hereby resign all my rights ... appertaining thereto" We have removed the section which on all hands was condemned as a most humiliating thing. If you say that our self-respect means nothing to us, then all I can say is that I take a very different view of it. I am astonished that it has not occurred to you in that light. Moreover, in assessing the value of this improvement, ask yourself if, under the old repatriation scheme no one could come back? If this is no gain, then it is at least no retrogressive step which you must deplore and condemn in such strong terms as Mr. Gopaul has used. I do not contend that the agreement we got was all that we desired but it was the best we could get under the circumstances. However much you may differ from Mr. Gandhi, you must admit that he is capable of judging the situation here. Mr. Gandhi said to me that in his opinion the agreement exceeded his most sanguine expectations. In the third part of the scheme under the heading "upliftment," you have good reason to congratulate yourselves. The proof of the pudding is in the eating. To be sure, that is a very wise saying. How can you say how the food tastes until you eat it? We have not yet begun to eat our pudding—to cook it, in fact. Everyone of you must help to cook it in this case. Come and talk to me, discuss your difficulties with me, perhaps between us we can contrive something. Let us get from the Government of the Union some fulfilment of the third portion of the agreement in which the new policy is laid down. Now here I would implore for a moment the closest attention of people like Mr. Gopaul. Please put out of your minds the pre-conception that you are considered by the people of this country to be a foreign and unassimilable element. They tried to get rid of us and because it was not possible to repatriate us completely—it would have taken more gold than there is in Africa—they were at pains to discover all sorts of improper and cruel measures to drive us out of this country. Now what a change must have come over the hearts of the people of this country to prompt them to say "the Indians who remain here are our own, we will faithfully discharge our duty towards them and, to the best of our power, improve their educational and economical conditions and see to it that the Indian community does not lag behind other sections of the community." Please do not tell me that this is mere pious sentiment and platitude, which they never intend to fulfil. Whether it is immediately fulfilled or not believe me it is a mighty advantage to have it down on paper. It is proclaimed by the Government to the entire world. Neither you nor I will allow the Government to forget this sentiment. In the history of India the Queen's proclamation remained for years unfulfilled. Year after year at every function it was solemnly read, it was repeated almost by every schoolboy and yet it was not fulfilled. Did we tire? Many wise people like you said it was rotten, but we never let it go, we constantly reproached the British people with it. Because we stuck to our purpose we got it fulfilled at last, this great charter of progress enshrined in our hearts. What was possible in India is possible in South Africa, especially when the whole of India is behind you. Now to Mr. Royeppen and to Mr. Paul I wish to say that I agree that education is the sovereign remedy for all evils. I need no reminder of that. I have been a teacher for the greater part of my life. Children are dear to me and I realise since coming to S. Africa that your greatest need is ampler and richer provision for the education of your children. I will never forget to awaken to the needs of the public the richer members of the community nor that the Government of the Union still owes a duty towards Indian children.

If you second me in my efforts you will find that you and I think of the same goal. You and I must join in a common effort to effect some progress for our community. Now, my friends, I must go on to another subject. I wish to emphasise to you that the South African Indian Congress is the proper vehicle of your wishes. There is no time for me to enter into any controversy of that kind but be pleased to remember that the Government of India is making no mistake when they support the South African Indian Congress. Your association is an association of colonial born Indians. When you separate yourselves from the rest of the community and stand on your own platform, you greatly weaken the cause. In strictly constitutional usage the Government of India might be out of court if they took up the cause of colonial born Indians. Believe me, a community such as you are cannot afford to be divided without weakening your whole position. If you take a different view from the South African Indian Congress, the people and the Government of India will not know what to think. Are you prepared to go your own way defying the Government of India and ignoring all the help that the people of India can give you. Anyone who heard Mr. Pather speak will not believe for a moment that your love for India has departed. If I am right in thinking that you still wish to remain children of India and claim her as your country, then do not mislead and confound the people of India by speaking in many voices. Give us one clear voice and India, you will find, will still respond nobly to your appeal.

નેહ એ છે

રકુલ સાર અમેલ તથા યુવરાતી ભણાવી શકે એવા એક માણસની જરૂર છે.

શબ્દો:

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BOOKS FOR SALE

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