

Indian Opinion

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INDIAN HOUSING

THE Indian community has reason to be grateful to the Central Housing Board for its very illuminating report on the sanitary and housing conditions of Indians in and around Durban. The report is valuable more for what it reveals than for what it recommends. "Whereas the Corporation (of Durban) has done a great deal for the better housing of Europeans in its area, little or nothing in this respect has been done for the Indian population other than for those actually in municipal employment." The Indian municipal employees are housed in barracks—a system of housing which the Committee characterises as "one of the greatest evils." The Tramway Barracks and the Magazine Barracks are so constructed and tenanted that "it will be difficult to ensure adequate sanitary supervision over these quarters." The Power Station Barracks "had been condemned as unfit for human habitation" and yet Indian employees have been housed in them, though temporarily. So much then for the vaunted solicitude of the Durban Corporation for the welfare of the poorer Indians over which Mr. Mayor Eaton waxed so eloquent and shed such crocodile tears, and denounced Indians for doubting the good faith and benevolence of the Corporation towards its Indian residents. The Committee admits that there is very little Corporation land available for housing; but at the same time it quietly ignores and by implication, turns down, the Corporation's persistent plea for an Indian village at Cato Manor. It asserts that there are several vacant pieces of ground contiguous to Indian-owned properties in wards 4 and 6 of the Borough "suitable for Indian housing. It finds that some land in the Eastern Vlei is also available and suitable for the purpose. Thus every one of the statements, contentions and recommendations of the Corporation is set aside. The indictment is clinched when the Committee prefixes one of its recommendations by the words, "if the Council is really desirous of doing its duty towards the Indian population....." ! The implication is obvious.

The Committee admits tacitly if not expressly, the justice of the contentions of the Indian community. Besides the matters referred to in the above paragraphs, it admits that the absence of Indian representation on the Health Boards is a "very real grievance;" that the Indian criticism of the system of rating in the peri-Durban areas based on flat rates instead of valuation of properties "can hardly be controverted" and that the rate of interest charged on unpaid rates at ten per cent. per month is a "hardship."

The recommendations of the Committee are sound as far as they go, but they might easily have been more bold, more adequate and less halting. It proposes that the sum of £50,000 earmarked for Indian housing should be split up, and £25,000 be given to the Durban Municipality for building houses in the Eastern Vlei, and the

balance of £25,000 be divided between the Corporation and the Health Boards to be utilised in granting loans to Indians who own land in which they intend to build houses for themselves. While the principles underlying these recommendations are admirable, the moneys made available are inadequate in the extreme. The Committee may well have recommended that a much larger grant should be made, may be, spread over a number of years, until the housing question is satisfactorily solved. We welcome the recommendation of the Committee that land within the Borough should be made available for Indian housing, that the Corporation should build two and three roomed cottages, and not barracks for Indians; that they should sell some land in the borough, in wards 4 and 6 without the anti-asiatic clause, and that peri-Durban Health Boards should give loans to Indians with land to build houses. The Committee's suggestion that Indian Advisory Committee should be given statutory recognition and that the Administrator should remit for reconsideration or over-rule the Health Boards when they have differences with the Indian Advisory Boards, may have been more firm and pronounced. The same may be said of the rates of interest on arrears of rates, and the flat-rating system. A more definite recommendation that these should go would have been more helpful.

Despite these criticisms and regrets, we heartily welcome the report. It has demonstrated in the most authoritative manner that the responsibility for insanitation and bad housing of the Indian community rests largely with public authorities, and not on the Indians themselves. The Committee bears witness to the fact that where the Indian gets the chance, he lives better. Referring to Indian housing in peri-Durban areas, the Committee records that, "bad housing and insanitary conditions were unquestionably seen at their worst on leasehold land, whereas the conditions on freehold land were very much better." The fact is that the better class Indian in the Borough is not allowed to buy land to build houses on, and the poorer Indian receive too low a wage to live decently, and the majority outside the Borough hold land on annual leases, and that gives no incentive for improvement. Under these circumstances, it is unfair to blame the Indian for insanitation and bad housing. It is perfectly wicked to make political capital out of it. In any other country, and for the matter of that, in this very country if the people concerned were Europeans, no such charges would be made, and no insults hurled, and no segregation advocated. It would simply be treated as a problem of housing the poor, and every nerve would be strained to put facilities in their way and every encouragement given for their uplift. It is only when Indian housing is dealt with in the same spirit that a permanent solution would be forthcoming.

TRANSVAAL INDIANS IN A PLIGHT

INDIANS in the Transvaal whose only means of livelihood is trade find themselves in a plight as they have never before been as a result of a recent Supreme Court judgment in an application made to that Court for an order to prevent an Asiatic carrying on business at a stand in Braamfontein, the court holding that the Indian tenant was a "prohibited coloured person" and would, therefore, have to vacate the premises, and this followed up by the action of the General Purposes Committee of the Johannesburg City Council in holding up consideration of all applications, numbering about 365, made by Indians for general dealers' certificates.

This position with regard to residing on or occupying any property in a Township has existed for many years and was one of the causes of passive resistance in the time of Mr. Gandhi. This was then considered to be a grave injustice to the Indian but when the great struggle was ended in 1914, the matter was left in the following terms:—

Secretary for the Interior wrote to Mr. Gandhi in a letter dated 30th June, 1914 constituting the settlement arrived at between the Indian community and the Union Government:—

"With regard to the administration of existing laws, the Minister desires me to say that it always has been and will continue to be the desire of the Government to see that they are administered in a just manner and with due regard to vested rights."

In reply to the above letter Mr. Gandhi wrote to the Secretary for the Interior on the same date:—

"As the Minister is aware, some of my countrymen have wished we to go further. They are dissatisfied that the trade licences laws of the different Provinces, the Transvaal Gold Law, the Transvaal Townships Act, the Transvaal Law 3 of 1885, have not been altered so as to give them full rights of residence, trade and ownership of land.....They have asked we that all the above matters might be included in the passive resistance struggle. I have been unable to comply with their wishes. Whilst therefore they have not been included in the programme of passive resistance, it will not be denied that some day or other those matters will require further and sympathetic consideration by the Government."

This is old history. Our object in drawing attention to it here is merely to point out that these were standing injustices which Indians expected to be removed in time to come but not be intensified. Several delegations from India have since come and have gone into the whole Indian question but to our dissatisfaction they have allowed these matters to remain as they were.

But did Indians behave themselves? To this question we regret to have to give a negative reply. Indians in the Transvaal, instead of fighting a clean fight against these laws, preferred to be guided by ingenious lawyers who were moved by none too philanthropic motives. They created devices to defeat the object of the law by forming limited liability companies and acquiring land in the name of such companies. Similarly, they circumvented the law in regard to trading also by pretending to be servants on the premises whereas in reality they were masters. Thus the Indians began increasing their interests notwithstanding that the laws were kept on the statute book for the express purpose of restricting those interests. Steps were naturally taken in 1919 to prevent this state of affairs by the enactment of the "Asiatic (Land and

Trading) Amendment Act," which prohibited companies controlled by Asiatics from acquiring land. And protected the rights of those Indians who "on the 1st May 1919, were under the authority of a trading licence lawfully issued, carrying on business on proclaimed ground or on any stand or lot in such township, or to the lawful successor in title of any such Indian in respect of such business; so long as such Indian or successor in title continues to carry on business on the same ground or stand or lot on which or in the same township in which it was being carried on on the first day of May 1919."

Since then we do not know if Indians have still continued to increase their interests by still circumventing the law. If they have, and if the Braamfontein Judgment followed up by the holding up of applications for certificates for licences by the General Purposes Committee of Johannesburg City Council is the result of those interests then we have to blame ourselves. We await further particulars about the matter.

Meanwhile we would appeal to the authorities concerned for a sympathetic treatment of a question in which the fate of more than a thousand souls is concerned.

We will defer further comment on this subject until further developments have come to light.

Bombshell For Indians

Trading Certificates Held Up

Under the above headlines the *Rand Daily Mail* dated Jan. 17 writes as follows:—

At a meeting of the committee held on December 14 last, Councillor W. Wilkinson drew attention to a judgment given by Mr. Justice Greenberg in an application which had been made to the Supreme Court for an order preventing an Asiatic from carrying on business in Braamfontein. The Judge held that the owner of the property could not let the stand to any prohibited coloured person, and that the Asiatic tenant who was then in occupancy had to vacate the stand.

The committee then realised that the refusal of certificates on the ground that the title deeds did not permit coloured persons to occupy premises raised a big question, because it was found that this restriction applies to nineteen townships, as follows:

Albertekroom, Braamfontein (Lindeques), Braamfontein Werf, Burgersdorp. City and Suburban (including all extensions), Denver, Fordsburg, Ferreiras, Jeppestown South, Johannesburg, Marshalls, Mayfair, Malvern, Springfield, Sunnyside, Kenilworth, Wanderers View, and Booysens (portion on claims).

The position as it stands at present is that coloured persons are debarred from trading in practically every district of the city; but many hundreds of licences have been granted to Indians and other Asiatics for years past. The committee is now in the difficult position of having to decide whether it will refuse all certificates, without which the applicants cannot obtain a trading licence from the Receiver of Revenue, and thus bring the Indian question up in an extremely acute manner, or overlook Supreme Court decisions and title deeds, and continue to grant certificates. That is why the committee want time to go into the whole question thoroughly and come to some uniform line of action.

The personnel of the committee which sits to hear applications for certificates changes from day to day, dependent upon the particular members who can spare the time from their daily business duties to sit on the committee. It often happens that the committee gives varying decisions from day to day according to the particular views of the members who happen to constitute it.

Councillor Wilkinson, in conversation with a representative of the *Rand Daily Mail* yesterday, remarked that some members of the committee felt that if the law laid it down that coloured persons must not trade in these townships, the committee had no alternative but to refuse certificates, for surely it was the business of a municipal committee to observe the law, and not induce the Revenue Department to grant a licence to a person whom the law obviously prohibited from trading on a particular stand. If the Indians felt they were being wronged by the adoption of such a course, then they had the remedy in their own hands of applying to the Legislature of the country for an amendment of the laws. It was not the business of a municipal council to make laws for the whole country, but to see that they were administered fairly and justly.

The following table gives the approximate number of licences granted in the Magisterial district of Johannesburg:—

	1928	1928	1929
	14th Jan.	15th Jan. to 31st Dec.	1st Jan. to 14th Jan.
Hawkers	100	Hawkers 179	Hawkers 78
Pedlars	89	Pedlars 172	Pedlars 51
Gen. Dealers	228	Gen. Dealers 455	Gen. Dealers 252
	417	746	381

It would appear from the above figures that the difference between 746 and 881, namely, 865 applications for certificates, approximately, have been held up, and over a thousand licences, it is said, will be affected if the present course is adopted throughout the Transvaal.

Mr. Sastri the Agent of the Government of India received a deputation of the Transvaal Indians in this connection and was given a sympathetic hearing. Although the position was an extremely difficult one Mr Sastri promised to do all he could.

Indian Housing Conditions

Board's Findings

The following is the full text of the report placed before the Minister of Public Health Department by the Executive Committee of the Central Housing Board who recently inquired into the conditions of Indian housing and sanitation in Durban and peri-Durban:—

1. In accordance with your instructions as conveyed by the Secretary for Public Health in his minute dated 19th September, 1928, the Central Housing Board, through its three members constituting the Executive Committee of the Board, has carried out an inspection and investigation of the housing and sanitary conditions of Indians in and around Durban.

2. The enquiry was the outcome of one of the conclusions reached at the Round Table Conference on the Indian question in South Africa, held at Cape Town in 1926, under which the Union Government expressed its willingness

"to take special steps under the Public Health Act for an investigation into sanitary and housing conditions in and around Durban, which will include the question of (i) the appointment of advisory committees of representative Indians and (ii) the limitation of the sale of municipal land subject to restrictive conditions."

3. The enquiry opened on Tuesday the 23rd October, 1928, and concluded on the Friday following. The Durban Corporation kindly placed a committee room in the Town Hall at the Board's disposal where the evidence was heard on the Tuesday and Wednesday. The Thursday and Friday were devoted to making a tour of inspection of various localities in the Borough and peri-Durban area.

4. Evidence was given by representatives of each of the local authorities concerned, namely: the Durban Corporation and the seven Local Administration and Health Boards established in the peri-Durban area at Greenwood Park, Sydenham, Maville, South Coast Junction, Umhlatuzana, Malvern and Pinetown.

5. The Indian community was afforded full opportunity of expressing its views through representatives who attended on behalf of the Natal Indian Congress and the Natal Branch of the South African Indian Federation. Each local Authority also extended an invitation to representative Indians or designated members of the Indian Advisory Committee in its area to attend the enquiry at the same time as the local authority's representatives. It is to be mentioned that the Indian Advisory Committees in question were primarily established for the purpose of watching the interest of Indians as affected by local government measures enforced by the Health Boards functioning in the peri-Durban area. The somewhat hostile attitude of some of

these Committees should, it is thought, disappear once it is recognised that the Health Boards are trying, as your Committee believes they are, to bring about an improvement in existing conditions and are prepared to consult the Committees and refer to them for opinion proposals affecting the Indian population. The fact that the Indian community is in no way represented on the Health Boards and that even the Indian Advisory Committees have no official recognition remains, however, a very real grievance.

6. Dealing first with the position as it obtains in the Durban Borough area it is necessary to refer to the correspondence which passed between the Government and the Corporation in 1922 as an outcome of representations made by the Natal Indian Congress regarding the Durban Land Alienation Ordinance passed by the Provincial Council which empowered the Council to restrict ownership or occupation of municipal land and which it was contended would operate against the interests of the Indian community. In a letter dated 3rd July, 1922, the Town Clerk pointed out that it was the Council's policy "to separate the population of European descent, so far as possible, from Asiatics and Natives in residential area—not to segregate any section or class entirely in parts of the Borough—or from areas where at the present time any section has property or interests;" further, that "all sales of immoveable property belonging to this borough are subject to the consent of the Administrator, and should the Council impose any condition in any land sale that would seriously affect the interests of the Europeans, Asiatics or Natives, the persons affected could petition the Administrator to refuse consent until such interests were safeguarded." In intimating to the Indian Congress that the Government had advised assent to the Ordinance the Secretary for the Interior in letter dated 19th July, 1922, added that "the Government considers it reasonable that the Administrator, in giving his approval to racial restrictions introduced into land sales, should see as far as possible that Asiatics are given reasonable opportunity of acquiring adequate residential sites."

7. It was represented, *in'er alia*, on the Council's side that the available land in the Borough is very small and, apart from low-lying ground which it was contended is unsuitable for residential sites, that there is no land in Durban today which can be utilized for housing the poorer class of Indian as an economic proposition; that the Corporation had bought at a reasonable price land outside the Borough area at Wentworth, Springfield and Cato Manor, suitable for the housing of Natives and Indians, which land will be made available for these purposes in fulfilment of the Council's undertaking to the Administrator upon the passage of Ordinance No. 14 of 1922 which gave the Council power to introduce a restrictive clause into its conditions of sale; that the leaders of the Indian community are not, however, inclined to co-operate with the Council in the proposed establishment of an Indian Village at Cato Manor; and that consequently the claim of the poorer class of Indian, whom the Council is anxious to assist as being in greatest need of better housing conditions, remains unmet up to the present.

8. On the other hand it was stated, *inter alia*, by the Indian representatives that the Council undertook to provide land for Indians within the Borough; that out of 14 municipal land sales all the land was earmarked for Europeans and none for Indians which was held to be a breach of the undertaking by the Council to the Government, particularly as some of the land sold might clearly be regarded as situated in Indianized quarters of the town; and that as Cato Manor, where it was proposed to establish an Indian Village, was outside the Durban Borough and the Council would accordingly not be able to exercise any rights over it as a local authority, there was the consideration that, apart from the opposition to the scheme on the score of segregation, the Village would likely be neglected in the matter of the provision of roads and other essential services which would thus tend to the creation of slum conditions.

9. In 1927 the Durban Corporation endeavoured unsuccessfully to promote the passage through the Provincial Council of an Ordinance providing for the extension of the Borough boundaries by including therein all areas already acquired or to be acquired by the Council outside the existing Borough, for the housing of its employees or others. Differences had arisen between the Council and certain Health Boards in the peri-Durban area regarding the same use of the land owned by the corporation in their jurisdiction and the council's object was to secure municipal control over such land. Thus, to mention one point of difference, the corporation wished to dispose of the land in building plots of one-eighth acre each whereas the by-laws of the Local Boards concerned required that building plots should not be less than one-quarter of an acre each.

10. Whereas the corporation has done a great deal for the better housing of Europeans in its area, little or nothing in this respect has been done for the Indian population other than for those actually in municipal employment. The new dwellings erected at the Tramway Barracks as also those under erection at the Magazine Barracks are of the double-story type and a feature calling for criticism is the upstairs portion of the buildings which is designed for single quarters but in certain cases has been allowed to be occupied by families. Your committee fears that it will be difficult to ensure adequate sanitary supervision over these quarters.

11. An inspection of the Barracks near the Power Station was also made; these Barracks had been condemned as unfit for human habitation and had apparently been evacuated, but were re-occupied temporarily by Indians employed by the council's Waterworks Department pending accommodation being made

available for them in the new dwellings under erection at the Magazine Barracks.

12. Although there is very little land available for building purposes which is owned by the Council, several vacant pieces of ground contiguous to Indian-owned properties in Wards 4 and 6 of the Borough were inspected, certain of which it appeared could suitably be utilised for housing. If the latter were put up for sale as residential sites without the restrictive condition, it would not alleviate to any great extent the overcrowding problem, but it would tend to remove the sense of injustice caused by previous land sales to which reference is made in paragraph 8.

13. Amongst other land inspected was the Eastern Vlei near the Umgeni River. Your Committee considers that the higher portion of this land would be suitable for building purposes and that if the Council is really desirous of doing its duty towards the Indian population it might fairly consider the question of erecting houses here which would either be sold or let to Indians. It is considered that these houses should be erected in such a manner as not to spoil the amenities of the entrance to the Borough from Durban North.

14. In the peri-Durban area the real difficulty lies in the Indians not having title to the ground. A considerable proportion of the area is leasehold land let in small allotments by big landowners. The plots in many cases are very small and often contain more than one dwelling. Bad housing and insanitary conditions were unquestionably seen at their worst on leasehold land, whereas the conditions on freehold land were very much better. The explanation lies in the fact that leases are usually only annual ones and as there is no security of tenure there is no incentive to improve conditions. Freehold land at any rate carries with it security of tenure and improvements effected are not subject to abandonment at the whim of the landlord. The barrack system of housing is very prevalent in some parts of the area and undoubtedly is one of the greatest evils the local authority has to cope with. The barracks generally consist of two rows of rooms badly planned and constructed and often having no light or ventilation. Each room is usually occupied by a separate family and the sanitary conditions surrounding many of the barracks are very bad and a menace to health.

15. In none of the peri-Durban areas has a valuation of properties been carried out on account of the expense involved and the local authority's main source of revenue is a flat rate levied on each dwelling. The system of imposing a flat rate was criticised by Indian representatives as being unfair on the poor man who occupied a small dwelling, and their contention can hardly be controverted.

16. On the whole the peri-Durban local authorities have done a great deal in effecting improvements in their areas, but it is clear that they are not strong enough financially to inaugurate any large measures of reform in the matter of housing and sanitation. There was one direction in which it was suggested that the local authorities in the outside areas could assist and that was by utilising funds placed at their disposal under the Housing Act for the purpose of granting loans to Indians who owned ground and wished to erect thereon small cottages for personal occupation.

17. There is unquestionably an overwhelming case for the enlargement of the Borough boundaries but there are vested interests in the way and opposition from such quarters is to be expected from both within and without the Borough. Generally, however, public opinion in Durban appears to be ripe for an extension of the city boundaries, but owing to likely opposition from the quarters mentioned it was very doubtful whether the proposal for extension can be expected to come from the people themselves.

18. Although the question of the need for extension hardly falls within the terms of reference of your Committee, it is quite apparent to any impartial observer that from a public health point of view the Borough boundaries should be extended to include at least the whole of the areas falling under the jurisdiction of the Health Boards of Sydenham and South Coast Junction and possibly also a portion of Greenwood Park. In this connection also the question of including Durban North should be considered.

19. In fact the principle of the need for extending the Borough boundaries should be accepted by the Provincial Administration which should, in your Committee's opinion, appoint a Commission to decide definitely what should be the extended boundaries and to prepare a draft Ordinance for criticism by the local authorities concerned prior to its introduction to the Provincial Council.

20. While your Committee is convinced that the main solution of the problem lies in the extension of the Borough boundaries, it recognises that some considerable time may elapse before such expansion becomes an accomplished fact and that it is necessary to consider in what other directions useful action can be taken meanwhile with a view to easing the acute position which obtains in regard to the housing of Indians.

21. To this end and as a first step it is suggested that of the sum of £50,000, which is earmarked under the Housing Act for Indian housing, an amount of £25,000 be made available to the Durban Council for erecting, under a scheme to be carried out on a suitable site at the Eastern Vlei, two and three roomed cottages for letting or sale on easy terms to Indians.

22. Subject to adequate steps being taken by the local authority for safeguarding itself from possible loss, it is recommended that the balance of £25,000 out of the £50,000 referred in the preceding paragraph be placed at the disposal of the Durban Council and of the Health Boards in the areas immediately adjoining Durban for the purpose of granting loans in terms of

Section 6 of the Housing Act to selected Indians who own small plots of ground in freehold and desire to erect thereon small cottages for personal occupation. It is to be pointed out, however, that the power which the Housing Act confers on local authorities to grant loans to individuals is purely permissive and not compulsory and that in any case the sanction of the Administrator must first be obtained before such loans can be granted.

23. During the hearing of evidence a matter that was specially stressed by Indian representatives was the Indian Advisory Committee system to which reference is made in paragraph 5. These Committees are not expressly provided for by law and as organised it seems doubtful whether they are the useful bodies they might be in procuring the co-operation of the Indian community in matters of sanitation and housing. The Local Urban Areas Administration Ordinance No. 4 of 1926 lays down the procedure for the constitution and periodical re-election of Health Boards, and if provision on similar lines could be made by law for the constitution and re-election of Indian Advisory Committees the status of the latter bodies would be considerably raised which would be for the general good. It was also asked whether in the event of the Health Board rejecting advice formally tendered by the Indian Advisory Committee, the Administrator could be empowered on appeal to remit the matter to the Board for reconsideration or after due enquiry to overrule the Board. Such a procedure, it was contended, would ensure that advice tendered by the Advisory Committee would not be lightly set aside.

24. There were several other matters brought to the notice of your Committee which are, strictly speaking, not cognate to the enquiry, but which it is considered might fairly be reviewed by the Provincial Administration. Among such was the hardship created on the very poor through the operation of Section 42 of the Local Urban Areas Administration Ordinance No. 4 of 1926 which lays down that, "all rates remaining unpaid for one month after such rates become due and payable shall become charged with interest at the rate of ten per cent. per mensem, provided such interest shall not exceed the amount of the rate unpaid."

25. Another matter was the unanimous request on the part of the Indian community that in place of the flat rate at present levied, the rating by the Health Boards in the peri-Durban area be based on the valuation of property.

26. In conducting its enquiry your Committee is indebted for the assistance received from His Worship the Mayor of Durban, as also from the Town Clerk who accompanied the Committee on its inspections and was present throughout at the taking of evidence. The thanks of the committee are due also to Mr. J. D. Tyson, representing the Agent of the Government of India in South Africa, who did much to assist the labours of the committee, particularly in ensuring that it received evidence from individuals who were really representative of the Indian community. Your committee also cordially acknowledges the help and assistance it received from the chairman and others representing the Natal Indian Congress.

E. N. THORNTON, Chairman.
J. LOCKWOOD HALL, Member.
R. S. GORDON, Member and Secretary.

Pretoria,
5th December, 1928.

Sir K. V. Reddi

Madras Students' Address

The students of Madras presented an address of congratulation to Sir K. V. Reddi on his appointment as Agent to the Government of India in South Africa. The function was held in the Pachaiyappa's Hall under the presidency of the Raja of Pithapuram and was well attended by students and members of all students of public opinion.

The chairman paid a high tribute to Sir K. V. Reddi whose career he said was marked by sincerity, ability, honesty and conspicuous independence. At Geneva he acquitted himself with great credit to himself and to his country. He was now going to South Africa to safeguard the interests of his countrymen overseas. The task was arduous and complicated and beset with many difficulties. They should give him all possible support and sympathy. It was gratifying to see that prominent members of different political parties and different castes and creeds had come forward on this occasion to do him honour, to express confidence in him and wish him success in the very responsible work he had undertaken. This fact, the speaker was sure, would greatly encourage Sir K. V. Reddi in his undertaking.

An address by the students was then read and presented to the guest,

Several other speakers spoke highly of Sir Kurma's ability.

Mr. Satyamurthi, in paying his tribute to Sir K. V. Reddi, said that he regarded him as an honest public man. The speaker recalled a speech of Sir K. V. Reddi on the floor of the Legislative Council wherein as a Minister he condemned diarchy, and said that it showed that, whatever party loyalty might demand, the man in him was a patriot and would rise above all party shackles. In distant South Africa Sir K. V. Reddi would stand by his convictions and self-respect. He would hold aloft India's honour and self respect. The problem of Indians in South Africa were by no means solved. The position of Indians outside the country would not be safe and honourable until the position of Indians in India was safe. Only a free and independent India could have her nationals respected. In the meantime there was much work to be done. Man like Sir Kurma should convince the proud people of South Africa that India was not a nation of coolies and that she could produce cultured ambassadors who could stand comparison with the tallest men of other parts of the world. That was the work done by Mr. V. S. Srinivasa Sastri and others and Sir K. V. Reddi, with the long experience of public affairs, with his command of English knowledge and vigorous personality, would convince the proud South Africans that India was a land whose nationals ought to be respected.

✓ Sir K. V. Reddi's Reply

Sir K. V. Reddi thanked them for the great honour done to him by assembling in such large numbers and furnishing him with that sympathy and support which he needed in what had been called the arduous task of his, four thousand miles away. It was a source of strength and support to him, that the students should have given him this grand reception. He would carry their good wishes with him and feel always supported by the opinion in India which they, students, would be able to control. When one remembered that constitutional changes in this country were imminent, changes for the better and changes of a far-reaching nature, they could not forget that the discharge of those new duties would fall upon the shoulders of young men. Therefore their support was a source of encouragement to him. They had referred to the great patriots of this land who had preceded him in going to that distant land. Some people were apt to think that it was a disadvantage to him. He did not think so. That great man, Mr. Srinivasa Sastri, had by his wonderful genius placed things in such trim that it ought not to be difficult for him to continue the work so ably begun. ✓

The speaker would be carrying to South Africa that spirit of conciliation and making use of it in his work with both the rulers and the ruled. That generous spirit for which they were historically famous ought to carry him through in South Africa where the ground had been so beautifully prepared by his predecessor. They could rest assured that he would do nothing which would disgrace the great name, fame and ancient civilisation of this country. More than that he could not say at present. But he would again ask his countrymen to reserve judgment till he came back. A clean conscience, an honest mind, a sense of duty and responsibility ought to enable him to discharge his duties to the satisfaction of those in whose midst he was going and to the satisfaction of not only the Government but also the people of India.

A few remarks from the chair brought the proceedings to a termination.

Grant the Heaven a middle state. Neither too
Doubtful nor too Great. — Mallet

✓ Johannesburg's Banquet To Mr. Sastri ✓

(Continued from last week)

We published in our last week's issue the speech delivered by Mr. Sastri at a farewell banquet given in his honour by the Transvaal Indian Congress. We give below the speeches made at the banquet

Address In Gold

The address presented to Mr. Sastri was worked on the face of a solid gold plate a replica of the map of India and Ceylon.

A silver casket was presented to Mr. Sastri on behalf of the Transvaal Patidar Society. Mr. Sastri and the Mayor were garlanded, and the Mayoress and Lady Oppenheimer were presented with bouquets. ✓

The Mayor's Speech

✓ His Worship the Mayor (Councillor W. Fearnhead) said ✓

"It is a very great privilege to be allowed to preside at this gathering, and it is a very great honour to be asked to propose the principal toast of this evening. We all know that Mr. Sastri has had a distinguished career, but I must frankly confess that until it became my duty, in order to enable me to deal more adequately with the toast which I have the honour to propose, to make some inquiries, I did not know just how distinguished that career has been, nor what great achievements Mr. Sastri has carried out on behalf of his mother country, and through India for the British Empire generally. (Applause).

Every one of you present this evening, and many thousands of men and women in South Africa, said the speaker, will agree with me when I say that Mr. Sastri has proved himself to be the right man in the right place. (Applause).

His mission in coming to South Africa was three-fold. First of all, to endeavour to remove the prejudice which exists—which did exist and which still exists, amongst many Europeans with regard to his fellow-countrymen. And the fact that Mr. Sastri is so well able to appreciate both sides of the question has, I think, enabled him to do much to break down the barriers which have separated us. In the second place he came in order to assist the Government in carrying out its repatriation scheme; and when I remind you, ladies and gentlemen, that during the past twelve months some four thousand Indians have been repatriated to India, there can be no doubt that Mr. Sastri has assisted the Government in this respect. His third object in coming to South Africa, I think, was in order to educate those Indians who have settled in this country, of whom it may be said that this country is now their own, they having brought up their families here and having to all intents and purposes severed their connection with their own country. And when I tell my European friends that, largely due to Mr. Sastri's influence, an amount of twenty thousand pounds has been raised for the erection of a college for the education of Indian youths in Durban, it will be seen that this is both a practical example of his third object and mission in South Africa and at the same time a striking tribute to the affection and regard which Mr. Sastri's own countrymen hold for him. (Applause). ✓

One can only regret, ladies and gentlemen, as has already been emphasised in the address presented on behalf of the Transvaal Indian Congress, that Mr. Sastri's stay in this country cannot be prolonged

Waste of wealth is sometimes relieved; waste of health seldom; waste of time never. — Benvenuto da Cataforina

for a greater period, that he might continue to assist in erecting that edifice of mutual understanding and goodwill, the foundations of which he has taken so prominent and great a part in laying. But at the same time one feels confident that, although Mr. Sastri is returning to India—and it is well to remind ourselves, ladies and gentlemen, that India is a country whose area is as large as that of the Continent of Europe, excluding Russia, that the number of its inhabitants is no less than three hundred millions, and that they speak one hundred and fifty different languages; and in returning to that country, a country which Mr. Sastri loves and to whose people he is devoting his life, I feel certain that although he is leaving our shores, he will not forget or lose touch with South Africa. I feel certain also that his stay in this country is bound to materially assist in the solution of what is known as the Indian question; a question, ladies and gentlemen, which after all is not purely an Indian question, nor a South African question, but an Imperial question, a problem of the Empire itself.

There are others who are going to support this toast, but I should like, ladies and gentlemen, in conclusion to pay my personal tribute first of all to Mr. Sastri as a distinguished son of the Empire to which we belong, as a great scholar, and as a cultured gentleman. And on behalf of the City of Johannesburg, Mr. Sastri, I want to express the hope that although you are leaving South Africa, you will carry away with you very many happy memories of your stay with us; that the coming days may be crowned with happiness and still greater honour; that you may be blessed with long life and health, so that you may better be able to carry out whatever work the future holds for you. (Continued applause).

Bishop Karney's High Tribute To Mr. Sastri

The Rt. Rev. A. B. L. Karney, Bishop of Johannesburg, in seconding the toast said:—

It is hard to imagine, I think, a more difficult task than that which Mr. Sastri shouldered when he came to South Africa. He stepped into an arena of suspicion on the one hand and scorn on the other; of ignorance and, one is bound to say, and I do not hesitate to say it, of considerable injustice. (Hear, hear.) And it is hard to imagine anyone accomplishing so difficult a task with such signal success. Mr. Sastri, as you, Mr. Mayor, have pointed out, brought to this task a very unusual combination of qualities; a very rare, wonderful type of mind, a mind at the same time of the scholar, the philosopher, the statesman, the enthusiast; a mind capable of entering into other people's positions, of understanding other people's difficulties and fears, and at the same time holding on with great tenacity of purpose to the object for which he came to this country. And at the disposal of that same mind Mr. Sastri has been able to place an almost, in my experience, unrivalled eloquence. It is indeed really humiliating for an Englishman to hear one who was brought up in an Indian school, handling an Englishman's language in a way that I suppose not a single Englishman in this country could even begin to hope to do.

Those of us who have heard Mr. Sastri, whether on philosophical or historical questions, or seen him lift political questions into the arena, into the atmosphere of high statesmanship, are all bound to realise that in him we have had one who is a very real orator, in the highest sense of the word. If it were only for his speeches, one would be able to treasure his visit to South Africa, and be thankful again and again for the privilege of sitting under him. But when we know that behind all that eloquence, behind all that delicate manipulation of our language, there is a heart burning with love for India, and I would venture to say, and I believe I speak truly, a heart burning with love for the English Empire,

then I think we are fortunate indeed in South Africa to have secured for so long so distinguished a son of India and of the Empire. (Applause.)

It has been my privilege to see quite a little of Mr. Sastri. I shall never be sufficiently proud that we have been allowed to entertain him in our house, that he has found time to come and see me on more than one occasion, and on those occasions to discuss with extraordinary frankness and fairness of mind the difficulties and problems with which he has to deal. And I have been tremendously struck with that very rare combination, to which I have already referred, of extraordinary fairness of mind, of ability to see other people's point of view, and at the same time with that burning desire to be the champion of liberty and the friend of his people. And if that is the quality of mind and the type of character which the Servants of India Society turn out, all I can say is that the sooner we have a Society called the Servants of South Africa, the better. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. Sastri, I will not say much more, as others are to speak—all of us are looking forward most of all to hearing you—but I can assure you from the bottom of my heart that when you leave South Africa, you are leaving behind you those who would like to be counted always afterwards as your real friends. (Hear, hear.) Myself, I have always longed to visit India, where some of my family have spent long years, but I can only say that since I met Mr. Sastri (I would like to include my friend Mr. Rao too), I feel a much greater desire to visit India than I have ever felt before.

Now I think, ladies and gentlemen, that there is one thing we have got to do to show Mr. Sastri that we are not thanking him with idle words, and that we really mean what we say. It must be, I think, a little depressing to him to feel that he is leaving at a time when all that these petitions have asked for have certainly not been granted. In fact, you might feel at this very moment that certain legislation which has been passed is dealing even more hardly on the Indian to-day, making his position more difficult to-day than it was a month ago. I refer to those clauses in the Liquor Act which strike me, I don't hesitate to say so, as quite monstrously unjust. (Applause.) I do not hesitate to say that. And I think the Mayor is right, even if there are at the present moment clouds hanging on the horizon, yet the foundations of a better understanding, so the Mayor's language, have been laid. Mr. Sastri, by his wonderful tact and fairness, by his urbanity and liberality of mind, has done so much to draw the two countries together, that it is up to us to see that his work does not now fall to the ground.

We must work for justice; there is no hope for South Africa unless we work together and work for justice all round. (Applause.) I think one of our misfortunes is this, that we do not seem able to produce people who are capable of looking fifty years ahead. That is our need to-day. And I wish some people would look fifty years ahead and ask themselves, "What will the verdict of posterity be if I drag into the arena of party politics these great racial questions which are so perplexing and which need the highest type of statesmanship?"

We must see to it that we carry on the good work which Mr. Sastri and others have done, and that we build on those foundations which he has laid; that we bring about that better understanding between the nation; and that we work as Mr. Sastri has worked and as the Servants of India are working. In his name and in memory of him let us work for justice, for brotherhood, for liberality and for freedom. (Applause.)

Col. Deneys Reitz

Col. Deneys Reitz then supported the toast proposed by the Mayor, and in doing so said:—

It gives me very great pleasure to participate in

this toast of honour. Mr. Sastri, I hope you will believe me when I say that I am indulging in no rapid after-dinner flattery when I say that, to many of us, your high character, your lofty idealism, your austere life, have revealed to us, to many of us, the soul of India as we have never known it before.

South Africa is a country of many races and many racial problems, and I don't know that we have always dealt with them as liberally as we might have done. But, coming as you do from a country where racial problems and racial complications are even more pronounced than with us, you, with your wide vision and deeper insight, will have realised that so long as mankind is constituted as it is, until we have reached perfection, so long will there be national rivalries, so long will there be local antagonisms, so long will there be racial prejudices.

And what we admire most of all in your work in South Africa is the fact that, instead of refusing to recognise these differences of outlook, you have, without necessarily agreeing with them, acknowledged that these differences do exist. And on that basis you have dealt with the problems which have confronted you with regard to your own people in the Union; and in doing so you have done more to establish a better understanding, and a clearer atmosphere, than any man that has ever come to South Africa.

Sir, as a man of culture, as a man of high intellectual attainments, there are many aspects of our internal racial conditions and restrictions which must have caused you much unpleasantness, which must have seemed galling to you, humiliating to you, but you have sunk self and with splendid statesmanship, have striven to ameliorate the cause of your fellow-countrymen in the Union. And at the same time you have taken into account that with all our own local, indigenous racial problems, the superimposing of yet another racial problem, in the shape of Asiatic immigration to South Africa, has caused somewhat of a clash—perhaps the word "clash" is too strong—somewhat of a difference between two opposing civilisations, both of ancient validity, but each differing from the other in psychology and temperament.

As a statesman and as a student of human nature, Mr. Sastri, you know that all men are clannish by primordial instinct; and that you have taken this fact into consideration in your great work in South Africa, is one of the reasons why your task has been so successful. And I hope that, after making due allowance for that fact, for the existence of an inherent instinct held by almost every nation in the world, and possessed perhaps by your own countrymen to an even greater degree than ours, an instinct to keep its own usages, its own institutions, and its own customs, to preserve them; after, I say, taking into allowance all that, I think, Mr. Sastri, you will be able to carry with you to your own mother-country the conviction that all-in-all, South Africa is going to do justice by your fellow-nationals within our borders. (Applause.)

And in dealing with these problems I would like to propose a formula to my own countrymen; a formula which you, Sir, may smile at, but it is a formula which has by no means received general acceptance amongst the European people in this country. And the formula is this: "The Indians are not an inferior people to ourselves, but they are a different people to ourselves." That is a formula that is not very generally understood in this country, and I would ask my fellow-countrymen to remember, in dealing with the Indian problem, that the Indians are not an inferior people, but they are, they may be, a different people to ourselves. I would ask them to remember that the Indian civilisation is older, and in several respects one of higher spirituality than our own; I would ask my country-

men to remember that they are dealing with a nation as proud of their origin as we are of ours. I would ask my fellow-countrymen not to deal with the Indian as a man of lesser plane; and I would ask the Indian people here and in India to understand that whatever of affliction there may have been, whatever of injustice, whatever of slights and wrongs, real or fancied; I would like them to understand that they are the result, not of racial superiorities or racial inferiorities; they are the result of no desire to oppress or to harass, but that they are the result of temperamental and spiritual variations between two great but different civilisations, between two great but different social fabrics.

Well, Sir, I cannot and I do not seek to justify everything that has been said or done towards the Indian community by us in South Africa, but nonetheless I would ask all Indian citizens not to judge harshly or hastily. You know, Sir, I am a South African of Dutch-speaking descent, and when one of my Dutch-speaking countrymen speaks bitterly to me of our past grievance with the British, I say to him, "Look here, the test is this: Assuming that we have been wronged, if the positions had been reversed, would we have dealt by our opponents other than, better than, they have dealt with us, if we had had the upper hand?" I ask them to judge whether we would have acted differently in their positions; whether we would have made fewer mistakes; whether we would have acted less magnanimously or more magnanimously.

Until a man can answer those questions in his own favour, he cannot constitute himself a fair judge, or utter a fair condemnation. And I ask the Indian people, both in India and here, to apply the same test. I ask them to remember that if sometimes we have imposed harsh conditions; if sometimes we have drawn adverse discriminations, I ask you, of your charity, to remember that such things are not unknown in India itself. I mention this, not in any captious mood, but merely in the desire that we should not judge each other narrowly or hastily, and that we should put ourselves in each other's place and try and judge from the viewpoint and the angle of the other side. I am sure, if we approach the problem in that spirit, we will very soon be on the high road to a complete understanding.

Well, Mr. Chairman, ladies and gentlemen, I know that you have not come here to-night to listen to a homily from me. We have gathered to say "Good-bye" to a distinguished guest. Mr. Sastri, I can assure you we are all very sorry you are going, but we realise that your great mother-country has more work for you. And I can assure you, too, that you carry away with you our heartfelt wishes for your future welfare and happiness. We salute in you the wise statesman, the profound scholar, the deep thinker; and more than that, we salute in you the man who loves his fellow-man. We who have listened to you, who have heard you speak, who know your doctrines and your philosophies, we know that you have a very wide love for all mankind, an all-embracing love of mankind. We know that you judge their frailties with pity, and that you judge their weaknesses with mercy.

I know, Sir, that to a man of your ascetic temperament the outward pomp and vanities do not appeal, but I know that you will value the very real personal esteem that you have earned in this country, and that you have earned the very wide personal esteem and regard, not only of your own people but of the entire European community, this gathering to-night will testify. I wish you farewell, Mr. Sastri, and good luck, and God bless you. (Applause.)

The Rev. B. L. E. Sigamoney

The Rev. Mr. Sigamoney then spoke in further support of the toast:—

It may seem very strange that after the eloquent tributes paid to Mr. Sastri by the two previous speakers, a third has been called upon to support the toast. The Committee, whether rightly or wrongly, felt that on an occasion of this kind an Indian at least should give expression to the sentiments of the Indian people in supporting the toast; and that is why I am on my feet to-night.

The Indian community in South Africa are very deeply grateful to Mr. Sastri for all he has done for us. Firstly, because in this country, in this unthinking country, he has made them realise what India is; he has raised the prestige of the Indian people in this land; he has made the average unthinking white man in this country look upon an Indian as, not a coolie, but as an Indian. It is a great change to us, and we are deeply grateful to Mr. Sastri. Secondly, he has brought to South Africa the philosophies of India, the learning of India, the Eastern civilisation of India, so that the people of South Africa may be drawn nearer to India and India may be drawn nearer to South Africa, and the conditions of Indians in South Africa may be bettered by those relationships. And thirdly, Sir, we are grateful to you for coming to South Africa at a time when things were looking black for us.

We know that you have sacrificed in coming to South Africa, and I know—I had it from your own lips—that the whole of India pressed you to come, and you came, in spite of your own wishes to serve the Motherland, to South Africa. We thank you very much indeed. As our President very correctly remarked, we are a very difficult people to deal with in South Africa, but we live in a very difficult country, and therefore, if we are difficult, you must forgive us.

We wish you long life, and may your meeting with your dear ones be happy, and may God spare you to serve India and humanity in the best way that God has ordained for you. (Applause.)

Mr. Sastri's Reply

Mr. Sastri then replied, His speech appeared in our last week's issue.

European Guests

Mr. I. I. Hazaree proposed the toast of the European guests. In the course of his speech he said:—

We owe our European friends a great deal of thanks for they have come along this evening and helped to make this function an absolute success. I hope they will carry away good feelings and thoughts of friendship and particularly the change of heart that has been alluded to by Mr. Sastri. I hope there will be a complete change of heart on the part of the Europeans towards us, and that this will be the key-note for our future welfare in this country.

Mr. Morris Alexander

Mr. Morris Alexander, replying to the toast, said that the Asiatic question was one which could only be settled with a little tolerance by either side, and a little bit of fairplay and justice on both sides. The time would come when this very big question would no doubt be settled.

With regard to the toast that had just been proposed, he wished to say, on behalf of all the European guests present, that they had thoroughly enjoyed the privilege of being there and listening to the speeches made. And furthermore, they had gained a lot of information which would help them in their future dealings.

Professor J. M. Watt

Professor J. M. Watt said:—I must begin by congratulating my Indian friends upon the size of this

gathering and upon the success with which it has met. I need hardly mention that the presence here of so many of your European friends is a very good sign. It indicates that the spirit of greater tolerance and wider sympathy is broad, and, I think, makes very good augury for the future. I venture to express the hope that there will steadily develop a greater knowledge of each other's hopes and aspirations in our lives, and that this will lead to a much greater spirit of toleration and of justice in the future in our mutual relationships. On behalf of my fellow-guests, I thank you for your hospitality to-night.

Mr. Howard Pim

Mr. Howard Pim said:—Even though last on the list, I still think there are two or three points I would like to bring to your notice. Mr. Sastri, whom we part from to-night with such regret, belongs to a civilisation beside which ours is but as yesterday. Saturated with this spirit, he in South Africa has brought again most prominently before us that courtesy is still a power in the world, that manners adorn character, and that greatness of soul and magnanimity are not the prerogative of any one race. (Hear, hear.)

I am sure, as we listened here to-night, and remembered that Mr. Sastri was not talking his own tongue, we must have marvelled more than ever at the capacity and brain and mind which have been devoted to the service of India, of South Africa, and of the Empire.

There is one other thing I would like to say, and that is, great as is our regret at Mr. Sastri's departure, I am sure there is a still stronger feeling among us all, of thankfulness for the wisdom that selected him out of all the millions of India, on this mission. And I think you will agree with me that there never has been a mission in this country, sent to this country, in which the personality of the envoy has had a greater effect. (Applause.)

Mr. Chairman, ladies and gentlemen, we wish Mr. Sastri all health and long life and happiness. We the Europeans whom the Indian Congress has been good enough to ask to come here to-night, are proud that we have been able to attend this history-making conference. (Applause.)

This terminated a function which was unique in the history of Indians in the Transvaal.

Transvaal Indian Women's Association

Bids Farewell To Mr. Sastri

Mr. Sastri's Fine Tribute To Sir E. Oppenheimer

A picturesque gathering of members of the Transvaal Indian Women's Association in Johannesburg to bid farewell to the Right Hon. V. S. Srinivasa Sastri, P.C., says the *Rand Daily Mail*, presented to him a fountain pen and a pencil, and asked him to convey to Mrs. Sastri in India a brooch made from two Kruger sovereigns. Mr. Sastri, who was garlanded and sprinkled with rosewater, was deeply moved by the affection displayed towards him.

Miss Singaran Padiachi, president of the association, presided. Among the Europeans present were Mr. Justice Krause, Lady Oppenheimer, Mrs. Julius Vogl, Miss Albn, Miss J. Pim and Miss J. Dick.

Children of the Johannesburg Tamil School struck an intimate note in the welcome when they chanted

a song, composed by their headmaster (Mr. S. P. Moodley) with Mr. Sastri as theme. In essence the song invoked God's blessing on Mr. Sastri for the noble work he had done.

The president's speech of welcome, delivered in Tamil, expressed the gratitude of the Indian Women's Association to the retiring Agent-General, and implored him to convey to his wife their appreciation of the sacrifice she had made as the result of her husband's absence from her.

Miss F. Ernest, secretary of the association, paid a tribute to Mr. Sastri, whose wise counsel and intellectual capabilities had cleared the threatening clouds. The Indian women were deeply solicitous of his future welfare as well as that of Mrs. Sastri.

Mrs. Julius Vogl, a well-known friend of the Indian community, conveyed thanks to Mr. Sastri for the better understanding he had created.

Lady Oppenheimer's Speech

Lady Oppenheimer, on behalf of the European community, assured Mr. Sastri that no effort would be spared to honour the pledges which had been given in regard to the Indian community. She was sure the appeal he had made the previous evening would not fall on deaf ears. It was the duty of European mothers to see that their children—the men and women of to-morrow were taught to keep the promises made. Everything possible should be done to see that justice was given to a very great country. They were not unmindful of the debt that was owing to India for her great war services, and those who realised this would bring to right-thinking the people who at present were uncertain what line of action to take.

Lady Oppenheimer, in wishing Mr. Sastri God-speed, hoped he would carry away kindly thoughts, and he would not think of the evils of this country, but would put the good first. While they would give every help to his successor, they would always remember Mr. Sastri as the first Agent-General, and the first man always had the most difficult job. (Applause).

Mr. L. W. Ritch, for many years identified with the Indian community's affairs, paid a tribute to Mr. Sastri's work and traced the difficulties which had for a long time confronted the Indians in South Africa.

Mr. Sastri expressed his warm thanks for the cordiality of the reception given, and said he was glad to know that the community had not forgotten the name of Mr. Gandhi. Touching on the period of passive resistance in this country, he said that the women of India knew well of the sufferings that their womenfolk here endured, and were full of admiration for them.

Discussing his appointment as Agent-General, Mr. Sastri said he had the strong recommendation of Mr. Gandhi himself.

Mr. Gandhi

"During his fairly long life Mr. Gandhi has been engaged nearly always in a fight with a Government, either here or in India," said Mr. Sastri. At the present moment he has emerged from his retirement and has resumed this fight in what I am afraid is going to be of a very intense style. Nevertheless, in regard to the conditions of Indians in South Africa and the remedies to be applied, the Government of India and Mr. Gandhi have been almost entirely at one.

"During my eighteen months' work here it is a matter of the greatest gratification that I have received the support both of Mr. Gandhi and the Indian Government. It is a singular political phenomenon, and I am happy to have been the instrument that united these two upon a common platform and an agreed form of action."

He is the only man in the world who has done this.

After referring to his debt to the late Mr. Gokhale—"his revered teacher in political and spiritual matters"—Mr. Sastri proceeded:

"My friend, Lady Oppenheimer, in a speech of great beauty and charm and personal friendship, has added to the obligations which I cannot fittingly acknowledge in this place. She has reminded us that there are many people in this country from whom the Indian community may always expect the most cordial sympathy and the most ungrudging help. That is no doubt a matter of great comfort and great joy. One word, however, I may add in this connection, if it be not already sufficiently well-known. I wish that we all knew how great our debt of gratitude is to Lady Oppenheimer and Sir Ernest Oppenheimer.

Staunch Friends

"When the first Indian deputation—headed by Mr. Paddison—came to this country, the ground was very hard indeed. On every side they met a coldness of reception that caused great misgivings throughout the mission. Few were their friends. Ordinary living facilities were not afforded them, and if the truth be told there were some humiliations and indignities to which the members of the deputation were subjected, and which it were well for South Africa that they should be forgotten.

"But there was one silver lining in the clouds. It was the courageous and generous assistance of Sir Ernest Oppenheimer. (Applause.) Unmindful of what other people might say or do, he stepped forward and acclaimed the Paddison deputation as brothers and friends, and gave them the right hand of friendship."

Mr. Sastri remarked on the pleasure that came to him on seeing in the confidential report the fact recorded that of all the friends made by the deputation in this country Sir Ernest Oppenheimer was the foremost and staunchest. It must not be forgotten, however, that many more friends had been made in all ranks of life here. From these they might expect similar assistance.

Mr. Sastri agreed that there were still questions which might give cause for misgivings, but he hoped that the current had been arrested and that in the course of time it would be turned back in the contrary direction. Co-operation and the will to understand one another was essential to the complete solution of the difficulties, and he trusted that the support given him would be wholly transferred to his successor. He thanked the Association for the gifts to himself and his wife and the great kindness shown towards him.

Pretoria Indians' Farewell To Mr. Sastri

A distinguished gathering of Europeans and Indians bade farewell in Pretoria on Jan 10, to the Right Hon. V. S. Srinivasa Sastri. Those present on the platform included Mr. Justice Feetham, Mr. C. M. de Vries, Colonel R. R. Edwards, and Mr. R. van der Merwe.

In a stirring address, Mr. Sastri indicated that politicians in South Africa may find it no loss when the Indian question was removed from the political arena. Attention could then be devoted to the internal needs of the country, much more vital to its happiness and prosperity.

He urged the observance of the Capetown agreement by both sections, and denied a statement that the Indian community was being left, on account of his departure, helpless and undefended. Referring to the many addresses which had been presented to

The highest and most profitable lesson is that the knowledge and loyalty of the Indian community is the key to the future of South Africa.

him, and the many encomiums he had received, Mr. Sastri said that he hoped that when he sailed from Durban on January 28 he would be able to say for himself: "They have tempted you, but you have stood firm."

The Principles Of Truth

"My services have been exaggerated, but I realise that the exaggeration comes out of friendship and love, and I dare not criticise it further," proceeded Mr. Sastri. "I cannot help going back in mind to the day I was received in Pretoria by a large and enthusiastic audience. On that occasion I ventured to ask the Indian community to observe the principles of truth and good faith which Mr. Gandhi had taught some years before. For a stranger my words were rash, but I took liberties with my own countrymen, believing that they might forgive what may seem to be rude, and accept the advice in the spirit in which it was offered. I am glad to say that my own people have dealt with me faithfully and fairly, and have enabled me to be their spokesman and representative in truth. (Applause.) On the same occasion I asked the European community to carry out the Capetown agreement in its entirety and not only those parts most favourable to them. In such a compact every part is the care and concern of both sides. I said then that both the Indian and the European communities were equally bound to that compact, and I am happy to add that my appeal did not fall on deaf ears."

In Safe Hands

"In South Africa I have found a degree of sympathy and understanding for the issues between us which, before I landed here, I had not always hoped to discover. I would ask my countrymen here to remember that the Capetown agreement is in perfectly safe hands, whether on one side or the other. (Applause.) I find on the whole that even in the excitement of the coming General Election the Capetown agreement, and the relations between Indians and Europeans, will be left, with the exception of a few aberrations, almost entirely alone, said Mr. Sastri. (Applause.) I believe that the Capetown agreement looks after these relations, and there seems to be no doubt that in the next Parliament the agreement will be observed and upheld, instead of being destroyed and denounced.

"I want to correct an impression which may have been given in the addresses. I am not leaving you in a helpless or perilous condition. You are living in a new environment. Your destiny is as much in your hands as in the hands of the white community amongst which you have come to live. On yourselves depends to a large measure your future relations with the European community.

Indians' Public Duty

"The conditions in which many of you live are such that your energies are solely occupied in obtaining a means of livelihood. A very small part of your energies is left over for the improvement of your cultural conditions. I find many of your business people concentrating only on making money and refusing to take part in national affairs, which is their duty."

In Pretoria there were not half-a-dozen people whose sole aim was the welfare of the community. Each seemed to be engrossed in his own little affairs. Men with whole-heartedness for the community were lacking. That was a pity. A change of heart was not easily made, but he would ask his countrymen to change their hearts in a particular way. Let them devote four hours daily for others. They would then find that the words "change of heart" were easily uttered, but were in difficulties when translated into actions.

"If at all, my fellow-countrymen, there is one deep lesson which I think you ought to learn in this world—it is that things go from bad to worse because we all have pride, and that pride is generally false pride."

By lack of Christian charity and forbearance, conditions changed from bad to worse until something drastic was done. Peace was quickly restored by the bearing and forgetting of a harsh word or deed.

"There is one sentiment in your address to which I will take exception," continued the speaker. You think I saw a greater opportunity of service in India. You are much mistaken. India to-day, as you know, is the scene of turmoil and of tremendous political agitation. When I go there it is not to a place where I shall find a peaceful or more favourable atmosphere for work. In fact, it seems to me that I am perpetuating the worse possible folly in returning there at this time, but somehow I am drawn. Now I want to make a confession. In all my public and political life I have never for two days running enjoyed greater popularity and love than I have had during the last 18 months. (Applause.)

Mr. Sastri mentioned that he was more accustomed to an atmosphere of political strife than which he had found in South Africa. I want to go back to my natural environment. (Laughter.) India to-day is in a more troubled state than three years ago. I am going to throw myself into a sea of troubles, but I hope that the time is not far distant when the constitutional and other questions now agitating the minds of the people will be settled. The gentleman who is going to take my place is an able and trusted public worker. He will be an invaluable ally."

"The relations between the two people will improve from time to time until we shall never hear again of the Indian problem which now seems, so disastrously, to vex the politicians whose attention and energy would be better directed to matters of importance to the welfare of the country. There will be no regret at the Indian Agreement being removed from the political arena."

Mr. Sastri concluded by thanking everybody for the cordial support which had been given to him.

The Mayor of Pretoria (Mr. F. Dev) presided. He described Mr. Sastri as an ornament to the Empire to which all present had the privilege to belong. South Africans were grateful to Mr. Sastri, whose eloquence, tact and personality had made such a deep impression. Indians in South Africa owed an equal debt of gratitude to the man whom all hoped would one day return.

Mr. C. M. de Vries, ex-Mayor of Pretoria, said that as a Conservative Dutch-speaking South African he could say that his views on the colour question had undergone a radical change since his knowledge of the work and character of Mr. Sastri. The latter was an asset to the British Commonwealth of Nations and served to bind closer together that Association of Nations which stand for peace and civilisation.

As the result of Mr. Sastri's stay in South Africa he had become still more convinced that cleaner politics, cleaner business and cleaner morals were the main essentials for the solution of many problems, said Mr. De Vries. (Applause.)

Two addresses were presented to Mr. Sastri. One was presented by Mr. Essop Ackoojee, on behalf of the Pretoria branch of the Transvaal Indian Congress. The other was presented on behalf of the Pretoria Indian Women's Association.—*Das Rand Daily Mail*.

P. K. Das and Mr. E. Mall, Secretary and treasurer, respectively, of the South African Indian Congress are in Durban to prepare for the forthcoming Session of the South African Indian Congress.

Capetown Bids Farewell To Mr. Sastri

British Indian Council

At Schotsch Kloof, the residence of Mr. Hadjee Khan Gool, the president of the Cape British Indian Council, a reception was given on Tuesday Jan. 1, to the Rt. Hon. V. S. Srinivasa Sastri, P.C., (Indian Agent in South Africa) and Mr. P. K. Rao, M.A., in connection with their impending departure from the Union. There were present Messrs. J. D. Tyson, I.C.S., C. S. Ricketts, M.B.E., A. Ismail, S. A. Rochlin, J. S. Reddy, C. B. Reddy, Ockhim Khan, M. I. Khan, S. Dawood, A. Malik, A. E. Buchshpmitz, Hadjje Hassen, M. Y. Hawa, D. Kalan, E. Booley, E. I. Patel, R. Rattanjee and A. Hamid.

Eloquent addresses were delivered by Messrs. Hadjee Khan Gool and A. Ismail, testifying to the universal regard with which the Rt. Hon. Mr. Sastri is held in South Africa and overseas and to his valuable contribution to the solution of Indian problems in South Africa. In the name of the C.B.I.C. and kindred societies, both speakers prayed that Mr. Sastri would be spared a long, happy and useful life in the service of India and humanity.

The Rt. Hon. V. S. S. Sastri, in a short but inspiring reply, wished the C.B.I.C. well. He hoped that the future of the Indian community in this land of sunshine would be a happy and prosperous one. He would never forget the kindness and hospitality extended by all sections of the population to him and his staff during their stay in South Africa.

A distinguished gathering was present at Capetown station says the *Cape Times*, to bid farewell to the Right Hon. Srinivasa Sastri on Jan. 2. Mr. Sastri was accompanied by Mr. J. D. Tyson, Mr. C. S. Ricketts and Mr. P. K. Rao. Among those who held conversation and exchanged final greetings with the distinguished representative of the Indian Empire were Captain E. Birch-Reynardson, who was there as the representative of the Governor-General, Dr. D. F. Malan, Minister of the Interior, and Mrs. Malan, Professor W. M. and Mrs. Bell, Dr. C. T. Loram, the vice-chairman of the Native Affairs Commission, Mrs. Morris Alexander and Advocate N. E. Nixon.

Many of the leading representatives of the Indian community of Capetown also were to pay their respects, and to bid farewell to their distinguished countrymen.

'Cape Times' Tribute

In the course of a leading article on Mr. Sastri the *Cape Times* dated Jan. 3, writes:—

Mr. Sastri will be terribly missed in South Africa, where his influence has been a triumph, principally, of personality. Long before he came to South Africa as the Agent of the Indian Government, his gifts had been recognised both in his own country and in Great Britain. He had risen to eminence in India as a thoughtful, supremely cultured, most eloquent and utterly disinterested man. In London, he had been one of the representatives of his country at two Imperial Conferences, in 1921 and in 1923. At the moment when the Government of India was searching for a representative to come to South Africa and give shape to the Agreement made between the two Governments, India was on the threshold of great events. The Simon Commission was about to go to India to investigate the working of the Constitution that had been granted to India after the Great War. Yet Mr. Sastri accepted, after long hesitation, the invitation of the Government of India to go to South Africa as its Agent. It was an act of true self-sacrifice and his accomplishments in the

Union are in debt to Mr. Sastri, beyond any possibility of repayment, because he thus put his concern for their welfare above his own natural wishes.

It is not at all too much to say that the whole South African idea of India and her people has been greatly altered since Mr. Sastri has been at work in South Africa. The great tradition, the profound culture, the deep serenity and the un-self-conscious dignity of India have all been personified in him. Before he came to South Africa, the popular idea of the Indian political leader was of a glib, plausible, not too honest person, with slightly ludicrous ways and an inflated idea of his own importance. The mere sight of Mr. Sastri, dignified and imperturbable among a hustling crowd at some official function, has withered that idea in the minds of numberless South Africans. The strong impression of personal dignity that he makes is the result of no conscious effort on his part. Far from that, he is the most simple and the least pretentious of men. And the thought has come into the mind of many South Africans, when they have seen him for the first time, that, if he is typical of the best of India, their ideas about India and her people must be sadly wrong.

It need hardly be said that when Mr. Sastri has spoken in public the effect of his eloquence has been immense. He is among the greatest living speakers in the English tongue, a natural orator, with a most effective delivery. Slowly, with a sure choice of words, his speeches drop upon the ear, each sentence verbally perfect. The thought that he is expressing turns itself, without hesitation or fumbling, into graceful yet forcible language. Capetown will remember for many years how his addresses in the University Hall drew great audiences to listen to him and to come away lost in admiration of his speaking. These gifts have of course been the foundation of the immense popular impression that he has made in South Africa. They make it very difficult for his successor to live up to the memory that he will leave. Yet, in another way, he has prepared the ground so as to leave an easier task for Sir Kurma Reddi. South Africans in authority have learnt to have confidence in Mr. Sastri. They know that his word is trustworthy. They admire his intellectual gifts. They have come to appreciate his simplicity and charm as a man. They have shared the glamour of his sense and humour; simple in essence, strangely complex and subtle in grain. To have known Mr. Sastri in this way is to look forward with confidence and pleasure to the coming of his successor. And that perhaps is the greatest of Mr. Sastri's works in South Africa.

'Rand Daily Mail's Tribute To Mr. Sastri

In a leading article headed "Better Relations With India" in its issue dated Jan. 10 the *Rand Daily Mail* writes:—

Mr. Sastri's speech at Tuesday night's banquet in Johannesburg is possibly the last important public utterance of the distinguished Agent-General for India before he departs for his homeland on January 28 after handing over the duties of his important office to his successor, Sir Venkata Reddi. It was a characteristic utterance, noble and lofty in thought and faultless in delivery. Mr. Sastri is one of the great orators of our time, and for the most part holds his audience spellbound. But actually he is much more than that, for he is also a great idealist and a great statesman who has done, and will continue to do, work for the British Empire the importance of which it would be impossible to overestimate. His achievements in South Africa alone have been very great. In the first place, he was largely responsible

for the Capetown agreement, which represented a change of heart in South Africa, so far as the Indian section of the population is concerned, which was little short of miraculous. That in itself was a wonderful tribute to the persuasive and pacificatory powers of Mr. Sastri. Having achieved so much, he might well have been content to rest upon his laurels; but, in spite of indifferent health and pressing demands upon his services in India, he decided to return to South Africa in the capacity of Agent-General to consolidate the work of the Capetown agreement by ensuring, so far as might be possible, its smooth working and scrupulous observance on the part of his own people.

Mr. Sastri is now preparing to leave the country after a residence of nearly two years in our midst. It would be idle to pretend that all his hopes have been realised or that there have not been on both sides moments of friction and periods of disappointment. It was inevitable that this should have been so in the case of a question which has so long been the plaything of prejudice. But on the whole the agreement has worked surprisingly well, and credit for this achievement is very largely due to Mr. Sastri's statesmanlike handling not only of each new difficulty as it has arisen but also of the situation as a whole. There are, however, difficulties still to be overcome, and it was to these that Mr. Sastri referred on Tuesday night when he ventured to express the hope that during the coming general election in South Africa no front-rank politician would seek to obtain votes in his constituency by playing upon the anti-Indian feelings of the electors. That is a hope which all right-thinking and patriotic men will support. In no circumstances must injustice be done to any section of the population, and it is particularly desirable from every point of view that the better relationship which has been established between South Africa and India during the past two years shall be fostered, maintained and developed to the lasting benefit of both countries and the greater glory of that Empire in which they are associated.

In this connection the hope may fittingly be expressed that there should be in future a closer communion between the two countries—a communion which might best be established by an interchange of visits on the part of distinguished representatives of both nations. Mr. Sastri himself provides the best possible justification of this idea. India has never had so fine an interpreter. He has created in this country an entirely new atmosphere towards his own land and its peoples, and he has made conditions incomparably better for the Indians resident in the Union. Not only this, but he has also placed the whole South African community under a heavy debt of gratitude to him by his interpretation of Eastern philosophy and his personal demonstration of the serenity and loftiness of mind which comes from the constant contemplation of the things of the spirit. Mr. Sastri's stay amongst us has been a great intellectual and moral stimulus to the South African community, and for that, as well as for his great personal charm and distinguished statesmanship, he will always be remembered with affection, not only by those who enjoyed the privilege of his friendship but also by all who had the happy experience of hearing or reading those remarkable speeches of his which afforded so many vivid glimpses of a mind which is a veritable treasure-house of learning.

Political freedom will not give us freedom which our
 mind is to be free from the shackles of the past

The Story of My Experiments With Truth

[BY M. K. GANDHI]

Part V. Chapter I.

THE FIRST EXPERIENCE

Before I reached home, the party which had started from Phoenix had already arrived. According to our original plan, I was to have preceded them, but my pre-occupation in England with the War had upset all our calculations, and when I saw that I had to be detained in England indefinitely, I was faced with the question of finding a place for accommodating the Phoenix party. I wanted them all to stay together in India, if possible, and to live the life they had led at Phoenix. I did not know of any Ashram where I could recommend them to go, and therefore I cabled to them to meet Mr. Andrews and do as he advised.

So they were first put in the Gurukul, Kangri, where the late Swami Shradhdhanandji treated them as his own children. After this, they were put in the Shantiniketan Ashram where the Poet and his people showered the same love upon them. The experiences they gathered at both these places served them and me in good stead.

The Poet, Shradhdhanandji and Principal Sushil Rudra, as I used to say to Andrews, composed his trinity. When in South Africa he was never tired of speaking of them, and of the many sweet memories of South Africa, Mr. Andrews' talks, day in and day out, of this great trinity, are amongst the sweetest and most vivid. Mr. Andrews therefore put the Phoenix party in touch also with Sushil Rudra. Principal Rudra had no Ashram, but he had a home which he placed completely at the disposal of the Phoenix family. Within a day of their arrival, his people made them feel so thoroughly at home that they did not seem to miss Phoenix at all.

It was only when I landed in Bombay that I learnt that the Phoenix party was at Shantiniketan. I was therefore impatient to meet them as soon as I could after my meeting with Gokhale.

The receptions in Bombay gave me an occasion for offering what might be called a little Satyagraha.

At the party given in my honour at Mr. Jehangir Petit's palace, I did not dare to speak in Gujarati. In those palatial surroundings of dazzling splendour, I, who had lived my best life among indentured labourers, felt myself a complete rustic. With my Kathiawadi cloak, turban and dhoti, I looked somewhat more civilised than I do today, but the pomp and splendour of Mr. Petit's mansion made me feel absolutely out of my element. However, I acquitted myself tolerably well, having taken shelter under Sir Phirozeshah's protecting wing.

Then there was the Gujarati function. The Gujaratis would not let me go without a reception, which was organised by the late Uttamlal Trivedi. I had acquainted myself with the programme beforehand. Mr. Jinnah was present, being a Gujarati, I forget whether as president or as the principal speaker. He made a short and sweet little speech in English. As far as I remember, most of the other speeches were also in English. When my turn came, I expressed my thanks in Gujarati, explaining my partiality for Gujarati and Hindustani, and entering my humble protest against the use of English in a Gujarati gathering. This I did, not without some hesitation, for I was afraid lest it should be considered discourteous for an experienced

Without industry and frugality nothing will do and
 with them the world is a prison

man, returned home after a long exile; to enter his protest against established practices. But no one seemed to misunderstand my insistence on replying in Gujarati. In fact, I was glad to note that every one seemed reconciled to my protest.

The meeting thus emboldened me to think that I should not find it difficult to place my newfangled notions before my countrymen.

After a brief stay in Bombay full of these preliminary experiences, I went to Poona where Gokhale had summoned me.

✓ "India Looks At Christ"

Mr. Sastri's Address At St. Mary's Cathedral

"India looks at Christ" was the subject of an address delivered by Mr. Sastri before a crowded congregation at St. Mary's Pro-Cathedral, Johannesburg recently.

After describing Christ as an *avatar*—one of the manifestations of the Deity—Mr. Sastri went on to deal with the growing movement in India for Independence from Western ideas in religion and expressed his misgivings at the fact that Christianity had not succeeded in disabusing the minds of their Indian converts of the narrow-minded caste system.

"Last time I was here," said Mr. Sastri, "I ventured to say that among Indians of culture Jesus Christ is regarded as an 'avatar.' An 'avatar' by Hindu notions is a form assumed by the Deity in the world's crises. In the Gita, which is our sacred book, it has been said, in as clear terms as possible, that, whenever in this world virtue seems to sink and vice threatens to prevail He comes down among men to redress the balance, to encourage the righteous, and to punish and subdue the wicked. It is our belief that these descents of God among mankind are a continuous process; they have never ceased; they come not in one hemisphere only but throughout the world, not for the benefit of all His creatures. Several such manifestations have occurred in the history of man.

Buddha And Gandhi

"The Lord Buddha was an 'avatar.' It is no blasphemy to consider Jesus Christ as a manifestation made for another people, in another age, in another environment. It is in that light we regard Jesus.

"Then take Mr. Gandhi, who is recognised by the Christian Indians as approaching, more nearly than anyone else, to the character and life of Jesus Himself. I say it in no sense of criticism that among all your exponents of Christianity none in their judgment, exemplifies Christ and His teachings so nearly as Mr. Gandhi. And Mr. Gandhi, for a wonder, admits without stint or hesitation that in his make-up the religion of Christ and the teachings of the Bible had played no small part; and I think I have said before than on Sundays, or at least once a week, he sits down with his pupils and reads from the Bible, explaining it to them as he understands it.

"It seems to me that facts such as these should convince you that in the Hindu outlook on religion and spiritual matters there is something broadminded, something that knows no distinction between truth in one place and truth in another place, truth in one garb or truth in another garb, truth for one colour or truth uttered for another colour."

Mr. Sastri in conclusion said that the institution of caste had outlived its period of usefulness and he was grieved that in South Africa one of our great men had praised this institution which they abhorred so much in India.

"I feel we have suffered in India sufficiently and that the lesson we have learned in India throughout the ages may be learned by the world without further cost."

Rand Daily Mail.

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.
L. L. HAZAREE | Secretaries.

વેચવાના વાંચવા લાયક પુસ્તકો

નીચેના વિવિધ વિષયનાં ઉત્તમ પુસ્તકોમાં ધાર્મિક, અર્થતિહાસીક, યોધકાયક, કથાઓ, વાતચીત, લખન કાવ્યો વીચરેનો સમાવેશ થાય છે. દરેક સી, પુસ્તક, અને આખા કુટુંબ માટે અત્યંત મનોરંજક અને યોધકાયક છે અને પ્રત્યેક ભારત સંતાને અવશ્ય વાંચવા અને સંબંધ કરવા લાયક છે. અમુકમાં અનેક ચિત્રોનો પણ સમાવેશ થાય છે.

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

	પાના	શી. રો.
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ઈન્ડિઅન ઓપિનિઅન.

પુસ્તક ૨૭ મું.

ફ્રીનીકસ, શુક્રવાર, તારીખ ૧૮ જાન્યુઆરી ૧૯૨૯

અંક ૩

“ઈન્ડિઅન ઓપિનીઅન”

શુક્રવાર, તા. ૧૮ જાન્યુઆરી ૧૯૨૯

ટ્રાંસવાલના હાંદીઓ કે જેમને માટે નિર્વાહન સાધન એક માત્ર વેપાર છે તેઓની ઉપર ટ્રાંસવાલમાં હાંદીઓની કુદરતી સમૃદ્ધિ છે. આમરનદીના કાંઠાની પાસે એક મકાનમાં વેપાર ચલાવતા એક હાંદીને એ મકાનમાંથી કાઢી કુકવાની વાણી બંધ કરવામાં સુપ્રીમ કોર્ટ એવો ચુકાદો આપ્યો કે એ મકાનમાં એકરૂં મિલખ કાપ, પશુ હાંદીને રહેવાને હક નહિ હોવાથી તેને આંધ્રી ચાલ્યા જવું પડે. આ ચુકાદા પછી જેહાનસરમાંની કાઉન્સિલની જનરલ મેમ્બરશીપ કમીટીએ એવા ટાઉનશીપમાં એવી જ સ્થિતિમાં વેપાર કરી રહેલા સમગ્ર ૩૬૫ હાંદીઓની પરવાના માટેના સર્ટીફિકેટની અરજીઓને ધ્યાન દેવાનું એ બાબતમાં વધુ વિચાર કરવાને આદર સુલભી સમજી છે. આથી ટ્રાંસવાલની હાંદી કોમ સ્વાભાવિક રીતે આગ્રહ કરી છે. ટાઉનશીપમાં મકાનમાં સ્થલાટ કરવાના હક સંબંધી આ સ્થિતિ વધેથી વરતલી આવેલી છે અને માંધીલના વખતમાં સલામતની લડતના એક કારણરૂપ પણ હતી. હાંદીને આ એક મંબીર, અન્યાય થતો મહુવામાં આવ્યો હતો પરંતુ જાન્યુ ૧૯૧૪ની અંદર સમાધાની થઇ ત્યારે એ બાબતને આ પ્રમાણે ઓડામાં આવી હતી:

તા. ૩૦ જુન ૧૯૧૪ ના હાંદી કોમ અને જર્મીન સરકાર વચ્ચે થયેલી સમાધાનીના પત્રવ્યવહારમાં મુદ્દી પ્રિન્સિપલ સેક્રેટરીએ માંધીલને નીચે સમાજે જાણ્યું હતું.

“હયાત કાયદાઓના અમલના સંબંધમાં પ્રધાન અને કહેવાને ફરમાવે છે કે તેનો અમલ ન્યાયમણે અને સ્થાપિત હકોની શોધ સંબાળ રાખીને થાય એ જોવાની સરકારની હમેશાં ઇચ્છા રહેલી છે અને રહેશે.

તેના જવાબમાં માંધીલએ મુદ્દીપ્રધાનના સેક્રેટરીને તેજ તારીખે નીચે ક્રમાંલું લખ્યું હતું.

“પ્રધાન નહીં છે કે મારા કેટલાક દેશીભાઈઓએ મને આગળ વધવાનું કહ્યું છે. જુદા જુદા પ્રતિમાં વેપાર પરવાનગી લગતા કાયદાઓ ટ્રાંસવાલનો સોનેરી કાયદો ટ્રાંસવાલના ટાઉનશીપ્સ એક્ટથી, ટ્રાંસવાલનો ૧૮૮૫નો કાયદો તેઓને રહેઠાણ, વેપાર અને જમીનની માલિકી ધરાવવાના સંપુર્ણ હક મળે તેવી રીતે સુધારવામાં નથી આવ્યા તેથી તેઓને અસંતોષ રહી છે. . . . ઉપલી સમજી બાબતોને સલામતની લડતમાં સામેલ કરવાની તેઓએ માંગણી કરેલી છે. હું તેઓની ઈચ્છાને માન્ય રાખી શક્યો નથી. આથી એ કે, એ વસ્તુઓ કાયદાઓના કાર્યક્રમમાં દાખલ નહિ થયેલી હોવા છતાં, એક દિવસે સરકાર તેને સ્વિસોલ્યો ધ્યાન દેવાનું સૂચવે.”

આ જુનો ઇતિહાસ થઇ ગયો. તેનું ધ્યાન અહિં ખેંચવા

માં અમારો હેતુ માત્ર એટલું જ બતાવવાનો છે કે આ ચાલુ અન્યાયો એક દિવસ દુર થવાની હાંદીઓ આજા રાખતા હતા, અને વહિ છે તેમાં વધારો થવાની. હાંદીઓની ત્યાર બાદ અનેક પ્રતિવિધિ થઈએ આવી ચુક્યા અને આખા હાંદી સમાજને તપાસ કરી ચુક્યા પરંતુ અમારા ઉડા અસંતોષ વચ્ચે એ બાબતોને તેઓએ જેમની તેમજ રહેવા દીધેલી છે.

પરંતુ શું હાંદી કોમ સીધી રહી છે? આ પ્રશ્નનો જવાબ નકારમાં આવતાં જમને જાતિ ખેડ થાય છે. ટ્રાંસવાલના હાંદીઓએ આ અન્યાયો કાયદાઓ સામે ચોખ્ખી રીતે લડવાને બદલે અતુર જમીનોની દારવણી મુજબ ચાલવાનું વધારે પસંદ કર્યું. વળી એ વધારે કંઈ ઉદાર રીતેથી પ્રેરણા નહિ હતા પરંતુ પોતાના અજવાબકીયા ઇચ્છતા હતા. હાંદીઓએ તેમાં મદદ કરી. વહીઓએ કાયદાના હેતુને ઉઘાડવાની કુશિલ રચી અને વ્યક્તિ તરીકે ટ્રોપીકો મેળવી સહાયી મહોલી તે લાંબાટા કંપનીઓ કરી મેળવી. એવીજ રીતે વળી માલેકોએ નોકશાનો ખોલો વેચી વેપારના કાયદાને પણ ઉડાવ્યો. આ રીતે હાંદીઓ પોતાના કામો વધારતા ગયા એ કે કાયદાઓને કાયદા પોલીમાં રાખવાનો એકમાત્ર હેતુ તે કારોને પ્રતિબંધિત કરવાનો હતો તેમ છતાં પરિણામે ૧૯૧૪ની સાલમાં સ્વાભાવિક રીતે આ સ્થિતિ અટકાવવાના પગલાં લેવામાં અને એશીયાટીકના જર્મીન અને વેપારને લગતા કાયદાને સુધારનારી કાયદો માર્મે “એશીયાટીકસ (લેન્ડ અને ટ્રેડિંગ) એગ્રે-એન્ટ એક્ટ” અમલમાં મુકાયો કે જેની રૂએ હાંદીઓની બનેલી કંપનીઓને જમીન મેળવવાની બંધી રૂઠ્ઠી અને તા. ૧ મે ૧૯૨૬ના દિને જે હાંદીઓ કાયદેસર વેપારના પરવાના ધરાવતા હતા સોનેરી કાયદો લાગુ પડતારી જમીન માં વેપાર કરવા હતા તેના અને એવા કાયદા પણ હાંદીના કાયદેસર વારસના એ વેપાર ચલાવવાના હકનું, જ્યાં સુધી તે હાંદી અથવા વાસ તા. ૧ મે ૧૯૧૬ના દિને જે જર્મીન કે મકાનમાં અથવા જે ટાઉનશીપમાં વેપાર ચલાવતા હતા તેના અલાભવા કરે જ્યાં સુધી, રક્ષણ કરનારા હતા.

ત્યાર બાદ હજુ પણ કાયદાને ઉઘાડવાનું ચાલુ રાખીને પોતાના કામો વધાર્યા ક્યાં છે કે શું એ જામે જાણતા નથી. જે તેમ કહેલું હોય તે અને જે આમરનદીનો ચુકાદો અને ત્યાર બાદ જેહાનસરમાંની કાઉન્સિલની જનરલ મેમ્બરશીપ કમીટીએ પરવાનાની અરજીઓ રોકી ચુકવાનું લીધેલું જમણું એ તેનું પરિણામ હોય તે મહી વાંક આપણે પોતાને જાણ કરવાનો રહેલો. આ બાબતમાં જામે વધારે વિગતોની રાહ જોઈએ છીએ. દરમિયાનમાં લામતા વળવતા સત્તાધીશોને આ સવાલ કે જેમાં હજાર ઉપર મહુબ્યાતમાં જોનું જાવિ સંકોચાયેલું છે તેને ડિસોલોપુરેંક ધ્યાન દેવાને જામે વિનવિ કરીએ છીએ.

આ બાબતમાં અમારી વધુ ટીકાઓ ત્યારે પરિણામો બહાર આવે ત્યાં સુધી મોકુફ રાખીએ છીએ.