

# Indian Opinion

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## OUR DISTINGUISHED VISITORS

### ENTHUSIASTIC RECEPTIONS

**A** NUMBER of Motor Cars had travelled from Durban to Maritzburg to greet the Government of India Delegation. The special train that brought the Delegation down was to have arrived at Maritzburg Station at 7 a.m. but owing to some circumstances, the train did not steam up until it was well over 9-20 a.m.—a delay of some 2 hours and 20 minutes. Despite the fact that it was a Saturday morning there was quite a large crowd on the platform. Cheers from the crowd greeted the arrival of the train. The journey on the train had evidently done a great deal of good to the members of the delegation, for, they were found to be fresh and happy. At the Station they were met by the Administrator, the Mayor of Maritzburg and representatives of the Headquarters and Maritzburg Branch of the Natal Indian Congress.

#### Maritzburg Reception

The members of the delegation were then motored to the City Hall, where they were accorded an enthusiastic reception by the Natal Indian Congress (Maritzburg Branch).

On arrival at the City Hall, the delegates made their way to the Mayor's Parlour for a brief respite before receiving the great welcome the Maritzburg Indian community had prepared for them.

The great crowd rose to its feet, clapping and cheering as the delegation appeared on the platform, and seven young Indian girls garlanded each member with flowers and also the Administrator and the Mayor.

The Mayor (Mr. Hardy), in welcoming the delegation, said he was sure the assembly would quite understand his blushes, as he had never before attempted to make a speech in a garlanded frame.

"On behalf of my fellow-Councillors and the citizens, I welcome very heartily and warmly this distinguished delegation from India. The Empire of India is one of the brilliant stars in the constellation of what some people call the Commonwealth of Free Nations, but which I prefer to call the British Empire. (Cheers.) I am sure every fair-minded citizen will hope that the visit of the delegation may be fruitful and help to solve one of the greatest difficulties we are faced with here. (Applause.) I am pretty sure that will be the case. Let us hope, in the not distant future, the outcome of the visit will meet with your satisfaction, and—shall I say?—the satisfaction of Europeans and Indians. Fair play is a jewel which we should all take care of. I trust in this case there will be a certain amount of fair play to satisfy Europeans and Indians. I do not intend to say anything further, as the stay of the delegation must be short on account of the train being some hours overdue."

The Administrator (Sir George Plowman), who was warmly greeted, was the next speaker, and he intimated that he wished to say very few words owing to the limited time at the disposal of the delegation.

"In extending a very hearty welcome to the visitors I am sure Natal, as a whole, feels honoured by the presence in its midst of such distinguished representatives of India. (Cheers.)

"I had the pleasure of meeting Sir George Paddison at Capetown about this time last year, and I would like to take this opportunity of congratulating him on this deserved honour bestowed upon him.

"This gathering reminds me of a great meeting held in this hall some years ago, when Mr. Gokhale delivered a most interesting speech. We have his colleague Mr. Sastri present, and we know his world-wide reputation.

"I concur with the Mayor in the hope that the Conference at Capetown will bear good fruit. The Indian problem has been a very difficult one in South Africa, and Natal particularly. Without entering into the details involved I hope the negotiations will be brought to a satisfactory conclusion."

The Administrator expressed gratitude to the delegation for their visit.

He said: "There is a close relationship between South Africa and India, and I think it is our duty to foster that relationship in every possible way. I heartily welcome the delegation on behalf of the people of Natal." (Cheers.)

Mr. R. B. Maharaj (President of the Natal Indian Congress) Maritzburg Branch, in addressing the delegation said:—

"We are conscious, that your distinguished career, your devotion to public duty and your deep sense of patriotism have all combined to rank you to-day as one of the most trusted and responsible Ministers of the Government of India. They have also in no lesser degree endeared your name not only in the estimation of the people in India but also here.

"To us it seems your great qualities of head and heart have assisted to bring about the inclusion in your delegation of that magnetic personality the Right Honourable Mr. Sastri, and the other distinguished members of the delegation.

"Mr. Sastri we realise is a true and most devoted disciple of the great patriot, the much lamented late Mr. Gokhale, and has walked in the footsteps of his great master in ever carrying the noble and lofty mission of education and enlightenment. His self-sacrifices as the head of the Servants of India Society need no praise.

"We would be lacking in our duty, Sir, if we fail to recognise the valuable services, which Sir George Paddison and his colleagues, assisted by Mr. Bajpai, whose only motto was all work and no play, rendered at the initial stages of the negotiations.

"We recall the services rendered by Mr. Corbett in 1919, during the sitting of the Asiatic Enquiry Commission. To Sir D'Arcy and to Sir Pheroze, our thanks cannot be measured by words. Their services to the community, and their love and attachment for our people will ever be remembered.

"When we express our deep sense of appreciation for you and your colleagues' efforts on our behalf, anxious thoughts and labours spent in our interest, we are echoing the sentiments of our people throughout the country.

"Whilst thanking you and your distinguished colleagues, for honouring us with your presence this morning, we cannot help regretting that your stay

has been of necessity, of a very short duration. But, we hope, it will be a forerunner of many a happy return to South Africa.

"Since you will be leaving Natal in the next 48 hours, we wish to take this opportunity of bidding you all a safe and happy return to India."

#### SIR MOHAMMED'S REPLY

Sir Mohammed Habibullah, leader of the delegation, on rising to speak was greeted by loud acclamation, and the assembly stood. When silence had been restored and the audience seated, Sir Mohammed in pleasant accents drew the attention of his hearers to the fact that "he had deliberately transformed himself from the frame of the pretty garland that had been placed round his neck and was standing in his ordinary frame. Garlanded he felt he was under an obligation to speak. The peremptory command of the Chairman (Mr. Maharaj) this morning makes him feel that he must return gratitude for gratitude.

"All I can do at the present moment is to return thanks for the very warm and heartfelt greeting. We came from India after having grasped firmly the hand of fellowship which has been extended to us by your representatives who visited India last year. I know that memorable event was made possible on account of the yeomen service which the Paddison deputation had done. (Hear, hear.) When we go back to India we will carry with us the most pleasing recollections of our experience in this country, and of many good friends we have been fortunate in making."

The leader having alluded to industrial progress, said he was convinced that tremendous opportunities for development lay ahead for the people of the Union. It had been a source of great pleasure to have been received by the Mayor of the City and the Administrator of the Province.

"I began life, if I may say so, in the same arena as the Mayor is working, and it was my good fortune to fill the exalted office of Mayor for several years."

"It was gratifying to have realised that the Administrator met and greeted me to this Province, for I recognise this as a very clear gesture of the kindness, goodwill and better relations which have been established between the Union of South Africa and India.

"I may say in the same breath that my impressions about your country have already filled me with optimism."

He was impressed, he said, with the charming scenery of Natal, which had earned the reputation of being the Garden Province.

During the few hours of travelling in the train he looked through the window of his own compartment, and what he saw of the country on all sides created the feeling in his mind that he was passing through the delightful land of his own country, the Nilgiri, which contains within its ambit a hill station which had rightly earned the name of the queen of hill stations in India. Sir Mohammed made amusing reference to Natal and the Karroo, the temperature of the Karroo being something between 110 degrees and 140. With regard to Natal, he would not say that the limit had been reached in development, and he believed the land cried out for exploitation and for the necessary industry and intelligence. The visitor thanked both the Mayor and the Administrator for their welcome and kindly reference, and he added that the reception had been a source of very great pleasure to the delegation.

#### MR. SASTRI

The announcement by the Chairman that Mr. Sastri had kindly consented to say a few words was greeted with prolonged applause. Mr. Sastri remarked in clear even tones that the somewhat pointed and feeling reference that had been made to his illustrious master, Mr. Gokhale, and to himself

made it necessary that he should say a few words of acknowledgement.

"I am more than gratified," he said. "to find that Mr. Gokhale's visit among you is still remembered and remembered with gratitude. You have alluded to my having succeeded him. I am deeply grateful, but I do not think many of us realise what a disability it is in life to succeed a truly great man. No doubt you get many opportunities of service and of distinction, but in practice these opportunities are only too apt to remind you how much better and sincere you should be to occupy the place you do.

"It has been a very great pleasure and joy which I cannot adequately describe to hear as now pronounced by your leaders with such evidence of preparation."

In conclusion, Mr. Sastri said he wished to add his own word of gratitude and high appreciation for the warm welcome accorded the delegation. The reception had been warm-hearted and magnificent.

"It has been most gratifying and as it has been under the auspices of the Mayor and the Administrator, may we wish that it will also promise much to future relation of Indians and Europeans in India and South Africa."

A vote of thanks to the Mayor and Administrator and the delegation, moved by Mr. S. R. Naidoo and seconded by the Rev. A. Choonoo, was carried with acclamation.

#### Departure for Durban

At 10-30 a.m. Mr. Sorabjee Rustomjee lined up the six decorated Durban cars to take the delegation by road. Mr. Corbett and the ladies accompanying the delegation had left by the Special Train to Durban.

The members made a brief halt at Drummond to have a glimpse of the valley of the Thousand Hills.

#### Durban En Fete

It was past 12 noon when the cars arrived at Toll Gate from whence the delegation was motored slowly along Berea Road, West Street, Grey Street, Alice Street and thence to their Special Train which was shunted off Leopold Street Siding. Along Grey Street hundreds of Indians had gathered and the arrival of the delegation was marked by thunderous cheers from the crowd.

#### MAYORAL LUNCHEON

At 1-15 p.m. the members of the delegation lunched with the Mayor and Councillors at the Marine Hotel.

#### Mr. Sorabjee Rustomjee's "At Home"

At 3-30 p.m. Mr. Sorabjee Rustomjee gave an "At Home" to the members of the delegation at the Durban Town Hall. The catering was in the hands of Mr. Joseph Butterworth, who, be it mentioned, left no stone unturned in the arrangements, and personally attended to the minutest detail. The palm trees arranged in the Hall lent colour to the function, and generally the decorations were artistically carried out. The Municipal Orchestra, under the able guidance of Mr. Lyell Tayler was in attendance throughout the function. A gathering of over 700, comprising both Europeans and Indians, and representative in every respect, sat at the tables. A splendid repast which included Indian delicacies was placed on the Tables.

At 4 p.m. the delegation headed by Sir Mohammed arrived. They were introduced to the representatives of the European and Indian communities.

The Rt. Hon. Srinivasa Sastri, who was slightly indisposed, arrived half an hour later. His arrival was greeted by tumultuous cheering by the huge gathering. After full justice had been done to the excellent repast placed before the guests, Mr. Sorabjee Rustomjee, in real oriental fashion garlanded

the members of the delegation and handed bouquets to the Mayor and Mayoress, and in the course of a speech of welcome said :—

"Mr. Mayor, ladies and gentlemen, it gives me the greatest pleasure this afternoon to act as your host. I specially take pride in my position, because I am one who was born in Durban, and it is certainly gratifying for a Colonial-born as I am, to have the honour to act as host to the Government of India delegation, represented as it is by the very best intellects of India. I know with what great sacrifice you have made the trip to South Africa with a view to arriving at a lasting settlement of the differences which exist between India and South Africa.

"Ladies and gentlemen, a gentleman like the Hon. Mr. Sastri who is certainly not enjoying the best of health has certainly placed a strain upon himself at an age when we must recognise very few would dare attempt. I fervently pray, Mr. Sastri, for your health and I trust all those who are here will offer the same prayer. This function to me, Mr. Sastri, would have lost some of its lustre had your health been such as to keep you away. God is good to me and I will certainly take pride in this function as long as I live. I do not want to add more. Your visit to this town is so short that we are practically welcoming and bidding you farewell at the same time. And yet I must say that you have been able to give us a little time after your strenuous work in Capetown, and this action of yours is gratifying to us. I wish you all long life and may you still carry on the noble work for Mother India." (Applause).

Sir Mohammed who on rising to reply was greeted with cheers said :—

"Mr. Rustomjee, ladies and gentlemen, had I the faintest idea when I accepted the leadership of this delegation that I would be expected to make a number of speeches on the same day I would have perhaps told the good Viceroy that I could not stand it. This, as most of you may remember, is my third performance to-day and I am forced to express more or less the same sentiments at every function. It seemed to me when speaking at the Mayoral luncheon to-day that I had exhausted what little knowledge of the English vocabulary that I had picked up as a school boy. And I cannot do better than echo the sentiments which our kind host has expressed in regard to the result of our labours on behalf of India. Nor do I wish to take credit at this stage for more than this, that we have got to know the country, we have met the principal functionaries and inspected the administrative machinery of those who hold your destinies in their hands. We feel that a better link of understanding, goodwill and fellowship has been established between the two countries. (Applause.)

"I am saying nothing new for I think I have expressed this idea more than once. It only remains now for me to thank our good host, not only for all the kind words that he has said about us in general but for his special reference to my esteemed friend the Rt. Hon. Mr. Sastri. I am not oblivious to the fact that his health is far from satisfactory, but knowing Mr. Sastri as I am, it will possibly be a piece of information for you to know that Mr. Sastri and I were born on the same day, in the same month and in the same year. To be sure, we were not twins (laughter). Mr. Sastri is of the South, of the twice-born Brahmins and myself a Mahomedan of the war-like North.

"Knowing Mr. Sastri as I am I felt convinced that if the call came to him to come in the interests of his country, no other consideration would prevail and that he would surrender himself to do his bit in the common cause of humanity at large. I felt that I had incurred a serious responsibility in view of

the delicate state of health he is in, in bringing him to South Africa. When at the Mayoral luncheon in response to insistent demands that he should speak he rose but pleaded ill-health. That is something new for him for he is known as the best orator not merely in India but in the British Empire and even outside. (Applause). What a compromising position for an orator like that to get up and say 'I cannot speak.' I gave him peremptory injunctions not to leave his bed this afternoon. The only time of his 58 years of his life and mine that he disputes my commands. If unable to speak then I hope that his presence will act as a balsam.

"You have given us this opportunity of meeting a large circle of friends belonging to all creeds and colours. That, to me and to my colleagues, is a matter of the greatest gratification. We came to Durban with an opinion which rather militated against this spectacle which we see. This personal contact gives us an idea of the state of affairs. It shows all sections of the community mixing with each other like fellow citizens, acting like members of one and the same family. I therefore will leave Durban with the happy thought that the things which were represented to us had no foundation. Let me offer to you our personal thanks for the very nice refreshments that you have provided for us, for the magnificent entertainment and last but not the least the very good band which has been playing from time to time, infusing absolutely new life into us. I must not at the same time forget the possible catastrophe which the process of taking the photograph might have led to had not Mr. Sastri been helped on both sides so as not to run away from the place. (Laughter.) He was not the only one to feel timid, I shall not mention the others. (Laughter). It has been a very successful function and we have enjoyed it immensely and we will carry with us very pleasant recollections of this gathering. (Applause).

During the course of the proceeding, two flash light photos were taken of the representative gathering.

The function terminated at 5-30 p.m. with cheers for the members of the delegation and the Mayor and Mayoress. Quite an enjoyable afternoon at an "At Home."

The function terminated with the singing of the National Anthem.

### A Visit to the M. K. Gandhi Library

Mr. Rustomjee's "At Home" terminated, Sir Mohammed Habibullah, the Rt. Hon. V. S. Srinivasa Sastri, Sir Pheroze Sethna, and Sir D'Arcy Lindsay visited the M. K. Gandhi Library and Parsee Rustomjee Hall—a monument standing to the memory of the late Parsee Rustomjee. Mr. Sastri, owing to ill-health, unfortunate as it was, remained in the car as he was not able to climb the stairs leading to the Library. In the hall, which was very tastefully decorated, the delegation was received by the four Trustees Messrs. Wm. Doull, Sorabjee Rustomjee, H. Kallenbach and A. H. West, and the Secretary Mr. B. M. Patel and the Committee of the Library. On behalf of the Trust and the Library Committee, Mr. Doull welcomed the distinguished visitors and garlanded them. A feature of the visit was that within a few minutes notice some 200 people had gathered in the Library Hall. The delegation was impressed with the Library and the Hall and appended their signatures to the visitors' book.

### Natal Indian Congress

#### RECEPTION TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA DELEGATION

The Durban Town Hall was the scene of animation on the evening of Saturday last. The reception by the Natal Indian Congress was timed for 8-15

p.m. and at 6-30 p.m. the huge hall was practically filled and long before the commencement of the meeting it was taxed to its utmost capacity. The arrangements inside the hall were in the capable hands of Mr. A. I. Kajee, who with the assistance of a few of the members and officials of the Congress, greatly assisted the Secretaries of the Congress. The Hall presented one sea of humanity, and the crowd of over 4000 was keenly interested in the proceedings and every speech was listened to with the utmost silence.

Precisely at 8.15 the members of the delegation arrived, accompanied by the Mayor and Mayoress.

The Mayor, Councillor H. L. Buzzard, in extending a cordial welcome to the members of the delegation, said :—

Ladies and Gentlemen,—I saw on the programme, which each of you have in your hands, an announcement that there was to be an organ recital, and immediately after, my name was mentioned. When I saw it I was filled with a great deal of fear, thinking perhaps that those who organised this wonderful meeting to-night expected me to start the proceedings by giving you an organ recital. (Laughter.)

"I can only tell you this, that if I had attempted to give you an organ recital it would have been the easiest way of emptying this hall. But I was quickly corrected by being told that immediately after the organ recital was given you, I should be expected to introduce to you the famous gentlemen who we have the pleasure of having with us to-night. (Hear, hear.)

"Now, you are going to have an opportunity which does not very often come in your or our lives of hearing some of the most eminent men of the great Empire of India—(hear, hear)—address you this evening and I am quite sure that you do not want me to detain you with many remarks because you can hear me pretty well every day if you want to—(laughter)—and by the time I have finished with you, all of you may be jolly glad that I have finished.

"However, I think it is a distinct compliment to our very distinguished visitors that such a very large attendance, especially of the Indian population of Durban, —and, I take it, also a great many of the Indian population of our suburban districts—have come here on this very happy night to take the opportunity of listening to these gentlemen who are with us for a such very short time.

"Unfortunately, as I say, a very short time, because I am quite sure of this, that if we had had the opportunity of having such distinguished gentlemen as Sir Mahommed Habibullah, and the Hon. Rt. Mr. Sastri here for a week, they would have been able to stir up a tremendous amount of enthusiasm amongst the Indians of this town and neighbourhood, and that enthusiasm would be in the right direction. (Applause.)

"It is my great pleasure, therefore, and your pleasure too as far I am concerned, to sit down but before sitting down may I ask you to give the speakers here to-night a very patient hearing and although it is very hot indeed it would be I think a nice thing if you possibly could refrain from fanning yourselves as much as possible because in my limited experience it is rather disconcerting to the speaker who sometimes thinks—'well, it is hot, and we do not want to listen.'

"You have, however come to listen to some great men from India, who have come to speak to you to-night, and I am sure they will receive at your hands a strict and very close attention.

"I have the pleasure therefore to introduce to you the members of the delegation from India to South Africa, who have now deliberated and agreed upon the policy with regard to the future relations between us in South Africa and the results of those deliberations will be made known to us in due course." (Applause.)

The President of the Natal Indian Congress Mr. Amod Bayat on behalf of the Indian community of Natal

formally welcomed the delegation and in the course of a speech extolling their services on behalf of the Indian community, said :—

"On behalf of the Indian community of Natal, it is my proud privilege and honour to extend a most hearty, warm and cordial welcome to Sir Muhammed Habibullah, the leader of the Government of India Delegation and the other illustrious members who have so ably supported him.

"Their presence here to-night is very significant in that we look to them as beacons of light which will shed a lustre so pure, strong and illuminating that it will dispell the mistrust and the misunderstandings which had hitherto existed. Their past careers in our Mother-country speak eloquently of their unmatched self-sacrifices toward the upliftment of their countrymen in India and abroad. We know that their one guiding principle in life is to seek not their own aggrandisement but the good of others, especially those of their countrymen who may be suffering. It was in accordance with this principle that they left India at a time when their leaving was, as we know, most inconvenient to themselves. The circumstances therefore under which they left India for our sake, make us doubly indebted to them. We know that they have assiduously applied themselves from the moment of their arrival here to an earnest discussion of our problem in order to find a satisfactory solution to the difficulties which exist. We cherish the fervent hope that the expectations of an acceptable settlement as foreshadowed by Dr. Malan has been reached and that when same is publicly announced we may be able to acquiesce in all that may have been done.

"We are grateful for the interest taken and sacrifices which every member of the delegation has made for us, and I wish to assure them that we in this country shall ever gratefully recall the memory of their presence here this evening.

"I regret that the stay of our honoured guests is to be so brief, but within the little time they have with us we hope that they will thoroughly enjoy themselves and will return to our motherland enjoying the very best of health and carrying away with them, most happy recollections of this our sunny land of Natal.

Mr. Amod Bayat then presented an address to each member of the delegation and Mr. Bajpai, the Secretary, the addresses being beautifully inscribed on silver salvers.

### A Purse to Servants of India Society

On behalf of the Natal Indian Congress as representing the Indian community of Natal, Mr. Amod Bayat presented the Rt. Hon. V. S. S. Sastri a purse of £501 in sovereigns with a request to accept the sum on behalf of the Servants of India Society Fire Relief Fund.

SIR MAHOMMED HABIBULLAH ✓

Sir Muhammed Habibullah the leader of the delegation then rose to speak. He said :—

Ladies and gentlemen, you will presently find that the rousing cheers with which you greeted the announcement of the Mayor that I was going to speak, were rather premature.

"I stand before you now not for the purpose of inflicting another speech on you. I have had my share of that this afternoon and I take it that you have had yours also. I feel certain too that you would not have carried very pleasant recollections of it at all.

"In my previous speech I told that you that I belonged to the Madras Province—(hear, hear) While I came very closely into contact with the twice-born brothers of which Mr. Sastri is a leading light, it was my duty to regard public speeches as part of my life, but since 1919 I have transformed myself from a non-official into an official. My work now does not consist of making speeches but plodding along at my desk with numerous files which sometimes bury me, deep in meditation on the solution of difficult and complex problems which are placed before me. And I regard the fountain pen as my inevitable companion. I was therefore rather nervous of appearing before this large

audience and give them anything like an intellectual repast. I have begged of two of my friends on the delegation to relieve me of this great anxiety which has been worrying me ever since I gained admission to this hall and witnessed for myself this great sea of humanity and the extreme enthusiasm that prevailed, and may I add, witnessed also that feeling of good-will that is pulsating in every mind. I take it that some of you have travelled long distances in this very unfavourable weather, of which we have had rather unpleasant reminiscences during the last few days, to take part in this magnificent reception which has been organised to do us honour.

"This fact has filled my mind to the extent that I now feel it rather impossible to translate my feelings into words. I cannot attempt more than telling you how grateful we are to you for this spontaneity and zeal with which you have organised this function. If I am not exaggerating this meeting—I am speaking subject to correction—in probably the first in the City of Durban to honour men who have come from the Continent which you still wish to recognise as your own (applause) and which you do not hesitate to call your other Country, and therefore, to you we from India are nothing in the position of brethren. (Applause).

"This afternoon when I had the pleasure of addressing such smaller audience than this which I now see before me there was I know a great feeling of regret in mind that that one personality of silvery voice whose presence could not speak. I refer to my esteemed friend the Rt. Hon. Mr. Sastri (applause) but I could not tell you that as one who took the responsibility of carrying him along with me as a member of the delegation as I did at the time that he was not in the best degree of health which would have stayed any longer, he faced the long sea-voyages, and travel by ups and downs of work. I had at the same time the anxiety in regard to his health that I should take

India in the enjoyment of the best health. Keep now however feels himself much stronger and will respond to the call from you that he should speak (loud applause) I am sure that he will delight you with his African, and unsurpassed oratory which I feel every one glad to hear. I have also brought a

my friend, Sir D'Arcy Lindsay. He is never for himself as a bad speaker and should you request to him he was prepared to say "No!" Then I had to remind him of the delegation (laughter) and that I am glad indeed to tell you to-night, the opportunity which I am sure you will therefore be bad taste on my part if

longer and stand between you and the pleasure which you have promised yourselves by hearing these two speakers to-night. All the same, as leader of the delegation it behoves me to tender to you my warmest thanks for the great honour you have done to me and my delegation. You spoke in your address of certain self-sacrifices which we have undergone for the purpose of coming over to South Africa to help you in the cause which we regard as right. Dismiss that consideration from your mind. If, as a matter of fact we have undergone self-sacrifice, take it from me that no amount of self-sacrifice will stand in our way when the problems that faces us is that of the betterment of humanity at large. (Hear, hear).

"You hope that the solution of this problem, which you will probably hear about when the time is ripe, for doing so will be of everlasting good to the feelings between the two great communities and between two great places. Nothing will please us the members of the delegation more than an appreciation on your part of the situation which we

have put forth and if the result is as you anticipate, namely, the establishment of a better state of relationship between the two countries, we shall regard ourselves as having been fully rewarded for our labours in that direction. I have only one word of complaint to record. Let not this statement startle you. I am indeed very much pleased to have this rare opportunity of carrying with me a very handsome souvenir of my connection with South Africa; but I may at the same time point out to you that you might probably have refrained for the time being from this excessive exuberance of your kindness towards us by presenting to us a formal address in a formal manner. We would have regarded a few words which might have been uttered by any of your leaders as sufficient evidence of your feeling. But, however, as you have done it already, I must thank you for the act of generosity and for that act of kindness as well. I am afraid I have detained you somewhat longer than I intended and as the Mayor has previously reminded us that the use of fans in the hall is a reminder that the speaker is not heard and if that is the criterion in Durban, then I think I had better retire. (Laughter and loud applause.)

Mr. Sastri's Speech

AN INTELLECTUAL TREAT

The Rt. Hon. V. S. Srinivasa Sastri was greeted with the four thousand standing up and cheering. He was very much moved with the cheering he had received. The speech, which was a masterly piece of oration, was marked with eloquence of a very high order. The speech was as follows:—

"Your Worship, ladies and gentlemen, I have not the words in which to make suitable acknowledgment of the generous purse with which, on behalf of the Servants of India Society Fire Relief Fund I have been presented by my countrymen here. (Applause.)

"I accept it as a proof of welcome to my colleagues in the Society and as an indication of your appreciation of the work being carried on by the Society. The Society was founded by a man of the greatest eminence and patriotism and on us has fallen the almost insupportable burden of carrying on his work and doing so to the best of their ability. My colleagues will be greatly pleased and will be very grateful indeed when they learn that their work—modest as it is—is appreciated by their countrymen so far away.

"My leader, Sir Mohammed, has alluded to the circumstance that he is an official of the Government of India; perhaps he meant to imply that as I do not happen to share that honour, I might speak to you with greater freedom, and at fuller length (hear, hear.) Sir Mohammed, it is true, is no official but is an official (laughter)—but he has not forgotten the art which he has learned in his pre-official status of speaking to large audiences; at any rate he has to-day proved that he can say many words and convey nothing at all. (Laughter.) We in the non-official world cannot pretend to have mastered that art. When we say anything, we mean it, and when we mean anything we say it. (Laughter.)

"You will not expect me to make any announcement of the result of the work on which we have been engaged on your behalf. If nothing else, the great size of the meeting and its distinguished character forbid making any such attempt.

"My fellow-countrymen, I am sometimes astonished at the way in which, amid discouragement of every kind, you preserve still a passionate love of the Mother Country. (Applause.)

"Wherever I have gone—and I have gone to every place where our countrymen are to be seen in the Empire—this phenomenon has puzzled me. That having gone out of India and lived for years on other soil you still should refer to your Motherland with most unlimited affection and gratitude to the Motherland from which in every case you are not to be parted. (Laughter.)

affection on the part of her children? I dare not answer that question. I take the fact as it is and rejoice that we all, like those that still live in India and those that live abroad are unable to lay aside our memories of the great land to which we owe our birth, and which has, indeed, so many irrefutable claims to our admiration and love, and whose glory in the past we love always to cherish, we may, howsoever, have fallen from the high state that once marked our country. It is impossible for me to express my gratitude that that should be the case, and especially in South Africa, where, in spite of your long sojourn here, a certain section of your fellow-citizens consider you as aliens still, and as undesirable aliens, sometimes.

"It is pathetic to a person like me, who knows how Indians live abroad—to observe how sincere, how devoted, and how noble, her appeal always is to her children.

"May she deserve a part at least of this great and unbounded love. Some of us would desire that India should be able to support her children as other countries support their children. Believe me, you have not suffered at all by any one at will on the part either of the Government or of the people of India (applause) official and unofficial, European and Indian, we all feel alike on this subject, of your position here.

"Nothing divides us on this subject, and I believe that it is of some consequence for the world to know how united we are when we contemplate the unfortunate conditions in which millions of our countrymen pass their lives outside India.

"Ladies and gentlemen, you are not children, you do not expect from a deputation—even far more eminent and distinguished than ours is—you will not, I say, expect that within a few weeks the disputes of over two generations could be settled satisfactorily. But may I say, Sir, that our work here has been performed under conditions wholly propitious. We have been received with every mark of consideration; we have been treated with hospitality and courtesy of which we have rarely seen the match, and our representations in respect of the mission on which we have come, have been received with such friendliness and such sympathy, that our expectations have been, in that respect, not only entirely met but greatly exceeded. (Applause).

"I take this public opportunity of tendering to the Government of the Union of South Africa, and the people of every creed and quality of this country, whom it has been our good fortune to meet, our sincere gratitude. We cannot possibly put it in words, but, believe me, my countrymen, although you have sometimes been depressed by thoughts in another direction, a new era is dawning (applause) on the relation that exist between South Africa and India. Although, as I have said before, you may easily expect too much, it is the bare truth to say that our negotiations will bear some fruit of which we need not be ashamed and for which you may indeed be grateful. (Applause).

"Now, ladies and gentlemen, let me conclude with the word of appeal. You are here under circumstances, very familiar to you no doubt, but upon which it is impossible for a new-comer like me to shed some much-faded light. Your duty, if I may put it that way, if in it will forgive me for saying so, is to fit yourselves to speak all the efforts you can make, to be good South Africans. (Applause).

"Yet nothing put that thought out of your minds. Let it constantly be the main object of your endeavours I am sure will find that the people of this country who have very close power will learn so to use it that the large body

"I have settled amongst them, being good South Africans and deserve to be treated like South Africans of who have their nationality. (Applause).

with regards indeed an ideal which I would beseech you Africa and to moment to forget. And what most of all known to us do to achieve this ideal? There are many

The President if I had the time and strength, I would Amod Bayat o

But there is one thought that oppresses me, which I will take the liberty of mentioning in the hope that your indulgence will continue to be extended to me when I make this all important matter clear.

"To be good South Africans you need more and better education. (Applause). That is a most common-place remark, but will you, rich and poor, cultured and illiterate, Mahomedan and Hindu, will you not translate that aspiration into effect? Much of the disadvantage you labour under, much of the disapprobation that you sometimes excite amongst your fellow citizens, believe me, proceeds from the insufficient advance that education has made in your community. Now it is quite easy for some of the politicians amongst you to rise up and say, 'but what can we do? the Government of the land does not spend its money enough on our education.' That may or may not be the case. I will not attempt to solve that problem, but I know this, that in the history of the world there is no civilised government which will remain unresponsive when the community is determined to help itself. Let the rich and the fortunate amongst you come forward with endowments which will relieve the illiteracy of our people. (Applause). Let them come forward with endowments for schools of the higher grades as well as elementary grades. Establish schools, invite good teachers to officer them, build good schools and then complain if the Government stands unmoved and unconcerned.

"I will dare to say on behalf of this Government that they will not do so. You can move them, I am perfectly certain, by manifestations of your desire to be well educated. Rear your children with the advantage of education. I can never get so many of you together again, or may I hope to address you under conditions when you will be so well-inclined to listen. I think, therefore, that I am not abusing this occasion so rare as it is. I think I am using it well—to good purpose—if I conclude with an appeal to you that education will be your salvation, that money spent upon the education of your children both boys and girls, will come back to you with a hundredfold interest. You will find yourselves in the end rewarded beyond all calculation if you put the education of your children in the forefront of your future programme. (Prolonged applause).

### Sir D'Arcy Lindsay

Sir D'Arcy Lindsay was the last speaker and said:—

My honourable leader has told you how very reluctant I was to stand up and speak to this great audience to-night. If I was reluctant then, I am very much more reluctant now, for how can you expect me to give you any sort of speech following on the footsteps of both my honourable leader—who I might remind you was not going to make a speech at all but was only going to introduce the Rt. Hon. Mr. Sasri and myself—and then there was a heart-stirring speech you have just listened to from the Rt. Hon. Mr. Sasri.

"However I will do my little bit and I hope you will listen with patience. I may say at once you may fan yourselves, because I feel like doing it also. Now, Ladies and Gentlemen, I would like to tell you that I am a member of this delegation as representing the non-official of India; and I may also tell you that they have sent me here to do anything I can to assist you to obtain a position in South Africa as good South African citizens. Their sympathy was with your cause which brought about the Conference that we have just concluded. If we have attained anything like satisfactory results they will, I can assure you be as equally pleased as myself.

"My hon. leader, as usual, has been very reticent and I am going to follow in his footsteps. But I would like to say to you, do not be buoyed up with too high hopes because the fall may be all the more severe.

"We have done the best we can for you and I hope, and sincerely hope that you will all be satisfied. If you are not satisfied, all I ask you is not to turn "mentrith," as has been the case at one of two previous occasions. How? In

mind that we have endeavoured to lay the fields that we hope, will bear good fruit. You have heard all Mr. Sastri has had to say on the subject of education as likely to bring about a better position for yourselves in South Africa. I would like to add to that and assure you that to attain the position you wish to hold in South Africa it is also necessary to do all you can to live up to the Western standard. I was only talking to-day with your Mayor, who has at heart the better housing of many of the people, and he assures me that this is one of the great problems that Durban has to face, and he does not know how to get over it. I have suggested to him that there are those amongst you who could form yourselves into a small committee and assist your Mayor in solving this most difficult problem. I put forward that, as a suggestion, which in my opinion is well worthy of consideration. I am quite certain that there are members of the Indian community of Durban who can render the Mayor good assistance in that direction.

"Now ladies and gentlemen, I would like to say, how very delighted we all are with what we have seen of your colony. I have travelled recently throughout Australia, which boasts of many beauty spots and is a most fertile country, but I will say this that in the Province of Natal, I think you have the beating of most I have seen in Australia. (Applause).

"It is a great pleasure to me to know that much of this fertility that we have seen is due to the industry of the Indian community. We know in days gone by the Province of Natal came calling to India for help. That help was given in the way of labour and the result is these beautiful and fertile lands. And that, I would like all people of this Province to remember. We have had a most pleasant sojourn in Capetown, and we would very much like to have spent at least a fortnight with you, in your Colony. To have been able to see all that there is to see. But our time, as you have been told, is necessarily very short because we have had to spend so much of it on Conference work. Our duties recall us to India, and in addition, to that we have to report to H.E. the Viceroy, the result of the findings of the Conference, and I am sure that there is none of you present who would wish us to delay that important duty.

"Several speakers have referred to the sacrifices we are supposed to have made in coming here. My Hon. Leader has replied on that point and I would also assure you that there has been no sacrifice. It has been an honour and a duty.

"I feel I can refer to my hon. friend Mr. Sastri, as a servant of India and my hon. leader as a servant of the Government of India. I stand as a friend to India. I have lived over forty years of my life in India and I have made hosts of friends there. India has been very kind to me and if I can give anything back to her in the way of work as her friend, I do so with my whole heart.

"I thank you for listening to these few words and in saying farewell I wish you all the greatest prosperity."

The Mayor before concluding the meeting said:—

"Before the meeting disperses I am quite sure you would like me to express to these gentlemen who have addressed you to-night and to the other members of the delegation—not forgetting the ladies—our sincere wish that their journey back to India will be a happy one, and that they will land safely at their various destinations.

The meeting which was interspersed with organ recitals terminated with cheers for the Delegation and the Mayor and Mayoress.

### The Rt. Hon. Sastri and Sir Pheroze Sethna Stay with Mr. Rustomjee

The Town Hall reception concluded the members of the delegation with the exception of the Rt. Hon. Srinivasa Sastri and Sir Pheroze Sethna, left for their special train. The two latter gentlemen were motored to 19 First Avenue where Mr. Rustomjee

Rustomjee had made elaborate arrangements to receive them. Mr. Rustomjee enjoyed the unique distinction of being the only Indian at whose residence the two distinguished members stayed for the night. On Sunday morning the Rt. Hon. Sastri and Sir Pheroze were entertained to breakfast by Mr. Rustomjee. At the table were a few representative members of the Indian community.

### Sunday's Activities

On Sunday morning at 8 a.m. the Rt. Hon. V. S. Srinivasa Sastri after a brief visit to the residences of Mr. V. S. C. Pather, the Joint Secretary of the N.I.C. and Joint Treasurer of the S.A.I.C., Mr. P. R. Pather, Joint Treasurer of the N.I.C. and Mr. T. C. Moodley Vice-President of the N.I.C., attended the Hindu Tamil Institute and the M. K. Gandhi Sentamil School, and at both these schools the children and their teachers had gathered to do honour to India's noble and illustrious son. Mr. Sastri at each of these schools spoke a few words in Tamil.

### A RECEPTION AT SURAT HINDOO ASSOCIATION

At 8-30 a.m. a function was arranged in Victoria Street by the Surat Hindu Association in front of their magnificent building, at which the Rt. Hon. Sastri was garlanded and presented with a purse of £201 in sovereign for the Servants of India Society Fire Relief Fund. The function was presided over by Mr. M. B. Naik and was attended by over a thousand people. The Hon. Mr. Sastri in acknowledging the purse, said that it was indeed gratifying to him that the Indians so far away from India should recognise the work of the Servants of India Society. He deeply appreciated the gift and he would carry with him the best of recollections.

### The Delegation Moves Up North Coast

At about 9 a.m. the Rt. Hon. V. S. Srinivasa Sastri, Sir Pheroze Sethna, Mr. Corbett, Sir D'Arcy Lindsey, and Mr. G. Rao, left for North Coast accompanied by the officials of the Natal Indian Congress and quite a number of Durban cars.

The Natal Indian Congress, through its District Committees, had arranged meetings at Mount Edgecombe, Verulam and Tongaat.

At Mount Edgecombe a large number of Indians working on the Natal Estates had assembled. The Rt. Hon. Mr. Sastri spoke a few words in Tamil.

The Verulam Market Square was the venue of an enthusiastic meeting at which Babu Talwantsingh presided. The Assistant Magistrate of Verulam was also present. The Babu having garlanded the visitors, welcomed them with a few well chosen words. The Rt. Hon. V. S. Srinivasa Sastri and Sir Pheroze Sethna made brief speeches in Tamil and Hindustani respectively.

The Gokhale Memorial Hall at Tongaat was the scene of great jubilation for the Indian community. The Gokhale Hall was filled to suffocation and there were hundreds who were not able to gain admittance. The meeting was presided over by Moulvi Sahib, the guests were garlanded by young Indian girls. The Chairman's speech was preceded by a beautiful song sung by the children of the Hindi School. At this function also the Rt. Hon. Sastri and Sir Pheroze spoke in Tamil and Hindi respectively. Messrs. A. A. Gandhi and E. J. Choonoo are to be congratulated on the splendid arrangements made at Tongaat.

### Lunch at Mr. R. K. Naidoo's

At 1-15 p.m. the delegation was entertained to lunch by Mr. R. K. Naidoo at his spacious residence at Umgeni. Mr. Naidoo's residence, he it remembered, lies on the heights of the Umgeni overlooking the River and affords a glorious view of the town, Bluff and the Beach. An awning was temporarily

erected to accommodate the guests. Over 125 besides the members of the delegation, representing every section of the community sat on the table and partook of the sumptuous repast laid before them. At 3 p.m. the delegation drove to the Indian Recreation Grounds with a view to affording an opportunity to the thousands that had congregated there to see them. A photo was taken of the members of the delegation and the N. I. Congress Committee which acted as the Reception Committee.

### An "At Home" at Mr. E. M. Paruk's Residence

At 3-30 p.m. Mr. E. M. Paruk gave an "At Home" at his commodious residence in Currie Road, in honour of the distinguished visitors. The tables were very tastefully arranged and a representative gathering sat on the table. The guests were treated to a splendid repast, Mr. Paruk garlanded the members of the delegation and handed to each of the European visitors a bouquet. Mr. Rooknoodeen on behalf of Mr. E. M. Paruk extended a welcome to the delegation and tendered his sincerest thanks for their having accepted his invitation. Sir Mohammed Habibullah on rising to speak said that Sunday being a *dies non* he was not going to make a speech but that he would inflict on those present a speech of only too words and they were "Thank you." Mr. M. Thajmoon and his assistants are to be congratulated for the splendid arrangements made at Mr. Paruk's residence. The function was indeed a success.

### The Delegation Departs

The Special Train to convey the delegation to Johannesburg was due to leave Durban Station at 6 p.m. Long before the appointed hour a large gathering was present at the Central Station. The members were garlanded by Mr. Amod Bayat on behalf of the Natal Indian Congress and amidst tumultuous cheering the train steamed off.

The stay of the delegation at Durban though brief, gave a golden opportunity to the Indian community of Natal to meet the members. Natal rose to the occasion in giving them a rousing reception. Indeed their stay has been a treat to the Indian community of Natal.

### Mr. Mahomed Ebrahim's Dinner

On Saturday evening the members of the delegation, the Mayor (Mr. H. L. Buzzard) and leading figures in the social life of Durban, and about a dozen Indians, were present at the dinner given by Mr Mahomed Ebrahim at King's Hall.

Mr. Rooknoodeen on behalf of Mr. Mahomed Ebrahim, thanked the visitors and the ladies, whom he described as adding lustre to the occasion. In the course of his remarks he referred to the host as being no politician, a statement which was evidently received with approbation, a fact which afterwards formed the subject of Mr. Sastri's speech.

Sir Mohammed Habibullah said that he was not going to make a speech, but was going to follow the noble example set by their host, and ask Mr. Sastri to speak on their behalf.

### Mr. Sastri on Politics

Mr. Sastri on rising received a great ovation, and on behalf of his chief thanked them for the cordiality and the manner in which they were received in Durban.

He desired to refer to the observation made on politics. Politics, he admitted, were difficult—they divide where they should unite. Still, if politics be an evil which of them would say it was unnecessary evil? But to them it was an inevitable evil. He said that he believed in the necessity of a united front.

that it was good and honourable. He pointed out that there are men in all countries who think that public business might be left as an occupation to those who have nothing else in life.

They who live under Parliamentary constitutions—and India has come into line—know and approve of the great traditions of the British constitution. They should turn their backs on anything that was unenobling.

Mr. Sastri reminded his audience that, like other things, there were both good and bad in politics. It sometimes led to parties allowing over-mastery and party considerations being placed before the general good. "I am sometimes overcome with grief to see how often good men and true men think of the success of their party."

How often is talent pursued to a just end instead of degenerating to its prostitution in politics which cannot have any abiding significance?

Is there not a nobler way of dealing in politics? In the best countries, where politics are followed, there is the subordination of the great to the small, and that politics pursued rightly was enobling.

It is the task of the true politician to hold up politics to show also that in its organisation, though politics incline to divide, but in the higher reaches it also tends to unite for the good of the community. To think in the larger spheres, with a breadth of vision, embracing humanity within its grasp, the pursuit of the true politician. (Loud cheers.)

In conclusion, Mr. Sastri expressed, on behalf of the delegation, their pleasure and thanks.

### ENDOWMENTS

THE Rt. Hon. V. S. Srinivasa Sastri, in an inspiring speech delivered at the Durban Town Hall on Saturday night, touched upon the necessity of our magnates coming forward with endowments for the furtherance of education. The speech was a stupendous effort on the part of Mr. Sastri, for, it will be remembered that earlier in the afternoon he had asked himself to be excused from speaking at the "At Home." Mr. Sastri's speech was telling, and as the opportunity was golden, he seized it with a view to reminding us as to what our foremost duty was. If we are to be recognised as a component part of the population of the Union, then it is imperative that we should interest ourselves in the education of our children.

"But I know this, that in the history of the world, there is no civilised government which will remain unresponsive when the community is determined to help itself." These are Mr. Sastri's words. And they are weighty words. Will our community help itself. Time alone will tell.

We need to be good South Africans if we are to enjoy equal opportunities, and to be good South Africans we need education.



Sankar on Politics

owe a duty to the younger generation. And that duty is to educate them.

We have hundreds of promising youths, who, through unfortunate circumstances, are not able to prosecute their studies, and this class of youths needs looking after. The curriculum in the elementary Schools is poor, and unless the Indian community establishes its own schools, the system of education as now imparted to the Indian children will never be improved.

The education in almost every School is shockingly neglected. Our girls do not receive that education as would make them good mothers. Our youths receive no technical education. Many of our youths have a leaning towards farming, and to them agricultural training would be of great assistance in after life. Educationally our position beggars description.

If there is to be an improvement in our life educationally, we need endowments, to use Mr. Sastri's word. The whole system of education must be changed. We have amidst us many rich Indians whose purses have always been open to the Indian community. We hope Mr. Sastri's speech will be taken to heart and that an attempt will ere long be made for the improvement of our educational system.

**ચાલુ મેલમાં આવેલાં પુસ્તકો**

	શી.	રૂ.
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" " " ભાગ ૬-૭	૪	૬
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જીવન સુધારવાના માર્ગ	૪	૬
ગોહીલ વિર હમીરજી (રજપુતોની શુરતાનો દાખલો)	૬	૬
નગીર (મજહૂર શાયર યાને કવી જેની એકેએક અક્ષોમાં આ દુનીયાનું ખરું સ્વરૂપ બતાવે છે)	૪	૦

આ પુસ્તકોની કિંમતો આ પ્રમાણે છે.