

Indian Opinion

No. 27—Vol. XXV.

Friday, July 8th, 1927.

Registered at the G.P.O. as a Newspaper.
PRICE FOURPENCE.

BOMBAY'S FAREWELL

TO THE RIGHT HONOURABLE SRINIVASA SASTRI

UNDER the auspices of the Indian Citizenship Association and several other public bodies a monster public meeting was held at the Sir Cowasjee Jehangir Hall, Bombay, to congratulate the Right Hon. V. S. S. Sastri on his appointment as Agent of the Government of India in South Africa and to express the confidence felt by all political parties and communities in India in his ability and willingness to shoulder the onerous burden which devolved on him by virtue of his new appointment. It was a unique function in the annals of the city, both in point of attendance as well as warm enthusiasm that prevailed among the audience.

Mrs. Sarojini Naidu's Speech

Mrs Naidu who was voted to the chair eulogised Mr. Sastri's services to India and said that no more eloquent testimony of this fact could be sought than the complete unanimity with which his appointment had been hailed from the Himalayas to Cape Comorin. Mr. Sastri was going to South Africa not only as the Government's representative but as the ambassador of the princes and people of India. They were sending out an ambassador who embodied these traditions, those ideals and those achievements of the Indian race which made India to-day a living nation among the living nations of the world. All India honoured Mr. Sastri who was going out on a responsible mission on behalf of the country to vindicate the honour and rights of her nationals in South Africa. In these days when India was torn by communal and other dissensions, when the fissiparous tendency in India raised controversies among trivial subjects there was one outstanding question on which all parties, communities and classes were united, namely, the Indian question in South Africa, as well as on the appointment of Mr. Sastri as its first ambassador to discharge the onerous task of vindicating the honour and self-respect of the Indian people. The paradox of destiny has brought the School Master from the school room to a new sphere to help his people, to enfold a new ideal of civilization.

Continuing, the speaker said she wished to dispel from their minds the common notions about the South African people, by saying that they are a very simple people, hospitable people, and people who were responsive to kindness. The negotiations which their ambassador was going to carry on with them were of the most delicate kind and, therefore, they were sending out India's best man to perform that task. On the other hand, she would like the people of South Africa to realise that the prosperity of South Africa was built up by the Indian settlers there who were commonly called "coolies" and, therefore, they owed it to themselves and to

the Indians there to bring about complete amity and good-will for the common good of that country. Concluding the speaker said, "Let us trust that Mr. Sastri with his great culture, with his wisdom and with his knowledge will reconcile all differences and quarrels and that through his effort they will bring peace and good-will to South Africa and India." May our Ambassador fulfil the task with dignity, courage and honour."

Sir Purshottamdas

Sir Purshottamdas Thakurdas said, that the Right Hon. Srinivasa Sastri went from India not only as the Agent General to the Government of India in South Africa but also as an accredited representative of both the princes and the people of India. (Cheers). He did not think there was any other appointment made by the Government of India which had met with such unanimous approval as the post which had just been conferred upon the Right Hon. Srinivasa Sastri. If he (the speaker) might give out a secret, he understood that it took the Government of India several efforts to persuade Mr. Sastri to accept the appointment. "All the greater honour to Mr. Sastri, and all the greater honour to the people of India whose representative he is going to be in South Africa. The task before Mr. Sastri is not easy. No better person can go from India to South Africa than the accredited Agent to the Government of India to bring about harmony among the warring communities. The uphill work in South Africa, the speaker said, begins from the moment the Right Hon. Srinivasa Sastri leaves India and it is our function, this afternoon, to wish him God-speed and assure him that the whole nation will be behind him and we will all watch his task.

Sir Phiroze Sethna

The Hon. Sir Phiroze Sethna said:

The occasion which has brought us together to-day is certainly a unique one in the sense that this is the first time that the Government of India is sending out an Agent, and he an Indian, to another component part of the Empire to give effect to the decisions that were arrived at early in the year at the Round Table Conference held at Cape Town between the Delegates of the Union Government of South Africa and of the Government of India.

Before we left South Africa, friends there, both Indians and Europeans and particularly Mr. Andrews did desire that Mr. Sastri might come out as the first Agent. None of us treated this proposal seriously, and least of all Mr. Sastri himself. To us it seemed a forlorn hope. Immediately after we landed in Bombay, Mr. Gandhi whilst giving his blessings to the work done strongly urged in his paper *Young India* that Mr. Sastri

should be sent out as the first Agent. The idea caught on with the general public and from all sides pressure was brought to bear upon Mr. Sastri to accept the office. In a spirit of true self-sacrifice—for it certainly meant a heavy sacrifice on Mr. Sastri's part—he has answered his country's call in the manner he has done, and we have again reason to be grateful to Lord Irwin for yielding to the popular verdict and appointing Mr. Sastri the first Agent.

And why does the Indian public attach so much importance to the appointment of Mr. Sastri? It does so because it judges him from his past record and feels confident he is bound to do remarkably well. Think of his services as a member of the Madras Legislative Council, as a member of the pre-Reform Imperial Council, as a member of the Council of States, as editor of that sober and thoughtful organ the "Servant of India," as a member of the Southborough Committee, as the leader of the Liberal Reform Deputation that went to England in 1919 in connection with the Government of India Bill, as the head of India's delegation to the Dominions in 1921 as India's representative to the Imperial Conference, to the League of Nations, to the Disarmament Conference in Washington also in 1921, as a member of the Delegation to South Africa and last but not least as President of the servant of India Society, with such a brilliant and enviable record behind him and record of good work well done we cannot but feel there are yet greater triumphs in store for him in the work on which he sets out with the best wishes of all India.

One of the Greatest Indians

South Africa will recognise that we are sending to them one of the greatest Indians of our day. Mr. Sastri's appointment reminds one of the appointment of Lord Bryce as Ambassador to Washington. The best history of the American constitution has been written not by an American but by an Englishman no other than Lord Bryce himself. Incidentally, I may remark that the best history of the English Navy has not been written by an Englishman but by an American Admiral. Mr. Sastri has so far not written any history of South Africa, but he may yet do so. Lord Bryce's appointment was the outcome of the belief entertained by the British Cabinet and fully justified by results that he was the one man in all England who could win the confidence of the American people and bring about good understanding and friendly relations between Great Britain and the United States. In the same way, not only we here but the authorities in South Africa all feel sure that Mr. Sastri is best qualified to inspire the European residents in South Africa—Boer and British, with respect for the culture and the civilisation of this country, to promote in them a desire to do justice to our countrymen in South Africa so that by degrees they may be raised to a footing of equality and thereby the bonds of good understanding and friendship which are now being forged between South Africa and India may be better cemented.

Mr. Sastri will however, look forward to receiving the greatest help from Indians themselves, rich or poor alike, whether South African born or who have gone over from this country, whether residents of Cape Province or of the Transvaal or of Natal, whether engaged in commercial pursuits or in other activities. They must forget their petty differences, if any, and trust to Mr. Sastri's superior judgment in all matters. And let me also

hope continued the speaker, that our wealthy Indian friends in South Africa of whom there are many each possessed of a few lacs of rupees and a good few who each of whom own fortunes which run into six figures of sterling money will never fail Mr. Sastri should he have to approach them for help to their poorer compatriots in regard to educational and other matters so necessary to raise the status of Indian in South Africa generally. "We wish Mr. Sastri bon voyage and every success in his great mission"

Sir Leslie Hudson

Sir Leslie Hudson on behalf of the the European community of Bombay joined in the chorus of God-speed showered on Mr. Sastri and said the Government of India had chosen an ideal ambassador in the person of Mr. Sastri who had already won the confidence of the Government of the Union of South Africa. He said that he was correctly voicing the sentiments of the Europeans of Bombay when he said that men of the type of Mr. Sastri would undoubtedly, in their efforts towards the uplift and betterment of their people, command the utmost support of the majority of the Europeans.

Mr. M. R. Jayakar

Mr. M. R. Jayakar said, Mr Sastri was going to South Africa to assert the self-respect and honour of his countrymen. But the agreement which he had to put to effect had many bitter and difficult spots. He would, therefore, want all the goodwill and sympathy and moral backing that his countrymen could give him. When he heard of his appointment his sympathy went out to him that he should have undertaken a duty which a much stronger and younger man would have quailed under. He hoped that Mr. Sastri would keep up his health and that his countrymen would accord him their best goodwill and sympathy.

Mr. Mahomed Yakub

Mr. Mahomed Yakub, Deputy president of the Legislative Assembly said, no action of the Government of India had ever been received with such approval and acclamation as the appointment of Mr. Sastri to represent India's cause. Indeed no better selection could have been made. They knew it all very well that Mr. Sastri's job was very thorny and difficult, they were confident that the rights and claims of Indians in South Africa would find a very beautiful and sincere advocate in the Right Hon. Sastri.

Mr. Gladstone Solomon

Mr. Gladstone Solomon, a South African born, extended on behalf of his countrymen there, the right hand of fellowship to Mr. Sastri. He said he approached his friends in South Africa and the messages he received from them showed the high esteem in which they held Mr. Sastri's appointment would prove to be one of the strongest links in the chain of concord that was being forged between the East and West.

He finally hoped that Mr. Sastri would enjoy a full share of hospitality from the South African people as the speaker was privileged to receive from the people of India.

Mr. Ismail Moosa

Mr. Ismail Moosa, a well-known South African Indian also associated himself in wishing the Rt. Hon. Srinivasa Sastri 'bon voyage.' He assured Mr. Sastri that the Indians in South Africa would make his task as easy as possible.

Mr. Sastri's Reply

DIFFICULTIES OF SOUTH AFRICAN INDIAN PROBLEM

The Rt. Hon. V. Srinivasa Sastri, P.C., on rising to speak received a big ovation. He said that he was proud to receive such an unprecedented welcome on the eve of his departure. While he was proud at same time, he was utterly confounded and nearly deprived of speech. He found it impossible to tell them how much he thanked them for the most extraordinary and unparalleled demonstration that he had ever seen. It was not merely that they strengthened him in his work; it was not merely that they told him of the interest which the country evinced in him and the good wishes and the high hope of the people of his land: it was, in addition he thought, an indication on their part of the task that they had expected him to perform. It was when he contemplated that aspect of the matter that he nearly quailed. Among the numerous difficulties with which he would have to contend there was one which had not yet received specific mention, but which seemed to him must be borne in mind when they judged of the achievement that might fall to his lot. He had hoped indeed that when the time came at the end of 12 months for them to judge of his work, they would extend to him something of the generosity which somewhat prematurely they had showered on him; for he believed that that one difficulty was going to dog his footsteps for a long time.

The Province of Natal

They were aware that the greatest part of Indians in South Africa lived in the Province of Natal. That Province, even more than the Provinces of India, enjoyed autonomy under the Government of the Union, and under that autonomy which embraced subjects of education, trading, sanitation and other elements of social welfare with regard to which our peoples' situation was most to be deplored. Our peoples' destiny lay mostly in the hands of the Natal Government and the Natal Legislature. Unfortunately, the agreement reached between the representatives of the Government of India and the representatives of the Union which had been received in India with such approbation met with a sad fate in the Natal Legislature which repudiated it by a large majority.

The most valuable part of the agreement dealt with the improvements that the Union Government desired to effect in regard to housing accommodation of our people, to the educational facilities they enjoyed and to the trading facilities which at present they enjoyed in a very limited measure. Extensions of those advantages which were so indispensable to the very elements of social welfare had been placed in jeopardy by the rooted hostility of the people of Natal. To overcome that hostility, to conciliate those people so that they smiled instead of frowned at the proposals made for the uplift of the Indians, to change their heart from what was now unmitigated ill-will to goodwill and fellow feeling, binding people together in one common citizenship—such was the task that lay before the person whom they had in the exuberance of language, which some of them seemed to have got from the poet President of the evening (laughter) described as their ambassador. To that ambassador he wished every success and good fortune.

Present-day Conflicts

"But pray," added Mr. Sastri with animation, "how difficult that task is going to be. In that task, nothing but the most complete and individual union of our people, nothing but their combined effort to win the hearts of hostile population, nothing but their settled determination that they will stick together forgetting all differences, nothing less than that standing behind me and backing me will be of any avail." And yet, the speaker complained, that

part of South Africa which was peopled by our countrymen was only an India writ small. In India they were encompassed politically and socially by difficulties unparalleled in the history of the world. But what did they see in the country? He would not say a word in condemnation of the sincere patriots at whose feet he had learned and under whom he had worked, but which among them would not shed bitter tears at the disunion and disagreements that at present kept people from people, Province from Province, community from community, political school of little moment from political school of little moment: which among them would not feel anguish and agony at the situation?

South African Indian Congress

Proceeding Mr. Sastri said that in South Africa some of their own countrymen—their own flesh and blood—were in unhappy conditions. Far be it from them to blame their countrymen. They did the best as they (in India) did the best before them. The Indian National Congress was a body affiliated to a body called the South African Indian Congress. He pointed out, in that respect, one anomaly. The Government of India might discountenance the proceedings of the Indian National Congress, but they viewed with the completest approbation—in fact they were willing to be guided—by the proceedings of the South African Indian National Congress. (Cheers.)

The Habibullah Deputation

Referring to the Habibullah Deputation, Mr. Sastri said: "Let me tell you, ladies and gentlemen, that we, here, regard that the South African Congress is the authentic voice of our people. (hear, hear.) During the whole of our proceedings, we were in constant touch with the representatives of that Congress. And I can tell you this that our contribution to the work was greatly facilitated and made possible by the knowledge and self-sacrifice of the leaders of the Congress. The maintenance then of that Congress in its position and prestige and in its policy to command not merely the sympathy but active co-operation of the Government and people, should be the foremost duty of every one of our countrymen there." (Cheers.)

An unfortunate fact, Mr. Sastri said, had been recently reported that some of our countrymen in South Africa had seceded from the South African Congress and proceeded to establish a separate body on a different footing. He was glad that his friend Charlie (Mr. C. F. Andrews) was devoting his time and attention to bringing about unity and harmony among the Indians in South Africa. And by the time he (the speaker) reached South Africa, his friend Charlie would, he hoped, be able to tell the speaker that the South African Congress was once again undivided. (Cheers.) But if the part of that task remained for him to settle he could assure them that he would do his best to devote a good fraction of his work patching up these disastrous differences. (Cheers.)

"Ladies and Gentlemen, have I no reason," Mr. Sastri further said, "to thank Providence that I have had several advantages. I just mentioned two things that upheld me and my spirit. The Union Government, composed as it is largely of Boer Ministers, have resolved to stand by the agreement in letter as well as in spirit. In fact, they have already cabled to me their anxious desire to co-operate with me in seeing that this agreement is honourably fulfilled." (Cheers.)

Mr. Gandhi's Advice

Concluding Mr. Sastri said that he had been armed with all the knowledge and the advice that could be obtained from Mr. Gandhi with whom he had been in the closest touch ever since the issue was brought before the Round Table Con-

ference. He was proud to say that never since that time that intimate touch between himself and Mr. Gandhi had been weakened. At every stage, Mr. Gandhi had been good enough not only to lay at his disposal the intimate and unrivalled knowledge which he possessed, but he had in spite of his numerous pre-occupations and rather failing health sent to South Africa counsel of the most valuable kind which the Indians there should remember when they greeted the speaker and put him forward as their spokesman, if not exactly as their champion. He knew his countrymen in South Africa will now know in what spirit to receive him how much and how little they should expect from him, how they should co-operate with him, how they should drop the differences they had allowed to grow in their midst, how they should drop the rights and ceremonials of a superstitious nature which had alienated them from the people of South Africa among whom they had to live as respectable and good citizens. While he was not unaware of the difficulties of his enterprise, he knew also how much hope there was in the horizon. It would be his good fortune to be able to realise his hope for the betterment of the people of South Africa and the people here. (Applause.)

Some Farewell Messages

Following are some of the messages sent to the above meeting:—

Governor of Bombay

"I shall be glad if you will express to the public meeting to be held on June 7th on behalf of myself and the Government of Bombay the satisfaction which I feel that India's first Agent-General in South Africa will be one so well tried and skilled as the Right Hon. V. S. Srinivasa Sastri an assurance of all my support whenever necessary and my confidence that his efforts will redound to the advancement of India and the Empire as a whole. Please offer him my sincerest good wishes in his important work."

Governor of Madras

"On the eve of your departure for South Africa I send you my most cordial good wishes. All India will wish you God-speed in the responsible work which you have undertaken."

The Maharaja of Alwar

"Please convey my message to the Right Hon. Srinivasa Sastri: 'My interest in our countrymen in South Africa is alive since my participation in the Imperial Conference of 1923. Since the Imperial Conference in 1926 circumstances have rapidly changed in our favour; thanks to the indefatigable energies of our country's stalwarts and the goodwill of South Africa. In such a Self-governing Dominion our cause will be won by goodwill and growth of mutual esteem and confidence. I know of no fellow countryman, if I can speak in sincerity not in exaggeration, who seems better suited to the task than the one who embarks on this great mission. To him the whole country wishes Godspeed in which sentiments I and my State whole-heartedly join. The banner of our country's fair name and fame is placed in the hands of Sastriji. Providence will guide him to unfurl it for the glory of India and South Africa.'

The Maharaja of Bikaner

"Mr. Sastri carries away with him the best wishes of every patriotic son of the Motherland for the success of his mission and I whole-heartedly join in their fervent prayer that he will be completely successful in securing the just claims of our fellow-countrymen in South Africa thereby

placing on a permanently satisfactory basis the improved relation between India and the Dominion of South Africa and further cement the ties which bind us to the greatest British Empire."

Sir Mahomed Habibullah

"On the eve of your departure I wish you 'bon voyage' and even success in your mission. You enjoy in rich measure confidence of Government and people of India. Your appointment has also been received with gratification by Government and people of South Africa. Fortified with this knowledge you can devote your great qualities to promote and place on permanent foundation friendship between India and South Africa. India will watch your endeavour with unfailing interest and confidence of success."

Sir George Paddison

"I wish I could be present at your farewell party to my friend Mr. Srinivasa Sastri. He has a difficult task ahead but the chorus of approval of his appointment both in India and South Africa shows how well he is fitted to cement the friendship between the two countries."

Mahatma Gandhi

"I wish your meeting every success. The Rt. Hon. Srinivasa Sastri embarks upon his arduous mission under the best of auspices. He takes with him goodwill of all India, and both the Europeans and our countrymen in South Africa are looking forward to his advent. I know that if any man can possibly produce harmony between the Europeans and the Indian settlers, it is certainly Mr. Srinivasa Sastri. May God give him all the wisdom and all the strength he will need in South Africa."

Hon. Dr. Subbarayan

"All Madras is proud that it has fallen to the lot of a Madrassi to be the first Agent in South Africa. Most of the South Africa born Indians happen to be Madrassis and it must be a great joy to them to have as the Indian Agent a man of their own province who could, in many ways, enter into their life. A bright era of union between India and South Africa is opening with the appointment of Mr. Sastri and I am sure the great confidence that has been placed in Mr. Sastri by the Government and the people of India with the result in the cementing of the friendship between these two great countries by Mr. Sastri's labours in South Africa."

Sir Tej Bahadur Sapru

"The Indian problem in South Africa is an extremely difficult and delicate one and I do not think that as an Ambassador India could have had a better representative than Mr. Sastri. I wish Mr. Sastri every success in the task that lies before him and express the hope that his mission to South Africa may have the way for an unqualified recognition in the not distant future of the equal status of our countrymen in South Africa."

Dr. S. K. Datta

"Please convey to our friend Mr. Sastri my very warmest wishes for his success in South Africa. May his mission be the means of uniting for mutual service the peoples of South Africa and India in brotherly partnership. He has behind him the prayers and support of many Christians in India and elsewhere."

Mr. M. A. Jinnah

"India could not have sent a better representative at this juncture than the Rt. Hon. Srinivasa Sastri and I am confident that India's interests are safe in his hands. I wish him God-speed and every success in his great mission."

Sir Muhamad Shafi

"Mr. Sastri's great and wide experience of public

affairs, unique accomplishments, remarkable tact and impressive personality will, I am sure, enable him to discharge his responsible duties to the mutual advantage of India and South Africa. Possessing as he does the complete confidence of all his countrymen, he leaves India's shores with their best wishes for success in the patriotic task which he has undertaken."

Notes and News

IN the course of an interview with a representative of the *Natal Witness* Mr. W. J. O'Brien, M. L. A., complained that Natal was not properly represented at the recent Round Table Conference. In so far as the scheme of assisted emigration was concerned he did have much to say but in regard to the object of the agreement of uplifting the Indian Community he described that as a decided leap in the dark. He expressed surprise that no provision had been made to break down the barriers existing between the Provinces. There was no doubt that this should have been done at Union. If this had been done, said Mr. O'Brien, Natal at the present time would not be in the position it is at present. Questioned about his opinion of the appointment of Mr. Sastri as representative of the Indian Government in South Africa, Mr. O'Brien said that he considered Mr. Sastri an extraordinarily able man.

It appears from the report of the Select Committee on Public Accounts that £5 is paid for information of any Asiatic who had been smuggled into the Union. Asked by the Chairman of the Select Committee (Mr. Tom Naude) whether the fact was published Mr. Schmidt, Secretary for the Interior, replied that he did not think it was published broadcast, and he was not prepared to answer the question as to whether it was not advisable to do so "because it was rather a delicate question to handle."

The second annual conference of the Natal Indian Teachers' Association, was opened by his Worship the Mayor of Durban (Mr. H. L. Buzzard, J.P.) at the M. K. Gandhi Library, Durban on Thursday the 7th instant.

The Natal Indian Congress Committee is busy making preparations to accord a hearty welcome to the Rt. Hon. V. S. Srinivasa Sastri who is due to arrive in Durban on the 14th instant.

The following message was sent to the Rt. Hon. Srinivasa Sastri, by Mr. Cassim Meer as Chairman of the Northern Natal Indian Chamber of Commerce and as Chairman of the Natal Indian Congress (Dundee and District Branch):—

"We extend you a most cordial welcome to our shores, May you be successful in the arduous work connected with your exalted position as Agent General and may your presence be the means of uplifting the Indian Community. We place implicit confidence in your honour and hope that our interests will be fully guarded."

We have received from the Secretary, S. A. I. C., copies of further correspondence between the Congress and the Minister of the Interior dealing with the Immigration and Northern Districts Bills which we hope to publish next week.

The Union Parliament has been prorogued until August 31.

The Servants of India Society has unanimously elected Mr. Gopal Krishna Devadhar M.A., C.I.E. as President in succession to the Right. Hon. Srinivasa Sastri who has come to South Africa as the Agent of

the Government of India, and Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru M.L.A. is elected as Vice President.

The Hon. Sir Muhammed Habibullah, member of the Governor-General's Executive Council, has been awarded the K.C.S.I. in recognition of his services as the leader of the Government of India delegation that recently visited this country and Mr. G. L. Corbett, Secretary to the Government of India, Commerce Division deputy leader of the above delegation has been made the recipient of the K.B.E. (Civil Division).

A few days ago the Matritzburg Magistrate (Mr. W. P. Maxted) gave some good advice to Europeans as to how they should house their Native servants. He has now given some good advice as to how they should treat them.

"Europeans have no right to shelter behind their colour when abusing Natives," was the declaration of Mr. W. P. Maxted at the Police Court when giving judgment in a case in which a Native was charged with assaulting his European employer. Evidence showed that E. P. Walker a cleaner on the Railway asked the Native what his nationality was, and on being told that it had nothing to do with him, had abused the Native. It is understood that the Native thereupon mounted the engine on which Walker was working and struck him in the face. Mr. Maxted warned the Native that it was a very serious thing to strike a white man, and that he would be liable to very heavy punishment if he did it again. At the same time he was of the opinion that the Native had received sufficient provocation, and he commented strongly on the necessity of white people setting a good example in the matter of language and behavior. The Native was found not guilty and was discharged.

APPEAL TO SOUTH AFRICAN INDIANS

THE following appeal has been addressed to the Indians in South Africa by Mahatma Gandhi through his *Young India*:—

The Rt. Hon. Srinivasa Sastri has yielded to the pressure of friends in accepting the office of the first Ambassador for India in South Africa, at the sacrifice of his cherished wishes, solely with the object of serving you. It rests with you to make the best use of his service and his presence amongst you. You cannot do so unless you fulfil the following conditions:—

1. You will not expect too much.
2. You will not try to seek relief in purely individual cases through him.
3. You will not swerve from truth in your dealings with him. To be false to him would be to be false to yourselves.
4. You will remain completely united.
5. You will put your own house in order and purify yourselves.

You will not assume that all your grievances will disappear with the coming of the Rt. Hon. Sastri as first Agent. He will have done enough if he succeeds in seeing that no new restrictive legislation is passed

against you, that the operation of the old restrictive enactments is not made unnecessarily harsh and that the spirit of the new Agreement is carried out by the Union Government.

The Rt. Hon. Sastri is going there as the representative, not of individuals, but of India as a whole. He is going there to uphold the prestige of India. Therefore you will not run to him for relief in every individual case. If you do, you will make the mistake of expending a pound for the matter of a penny.

Our strength depends solely on truth. No matter how you behave in your business dealings, you will never in the interests of the community think of swerving from the path of truth in your dealings with the Rt. Hon. Sastri. In attempting to deceive him you will be working your own ruin.

We here constantly receive reports of dissensions amongst you. If you go on creating different and conflicting interests, *e. g.* the rights of the rich as distinguished from those of the poor, the rights of the North Indians as distinguished from those of the South Indians, of the Colonial-borns as distinguished from those of the merchants, of the latter from those of the indentured, of the Transvaal Indians as distinguished from those of the Cape Indians and Natal Indians, you will lose the little that you have gained. If you want to better the position of the whole community, you will always stand united.

We are ultimately to win by our own endeavour which does not mean sharp practice, but self-purification, which again means reform from within and purging ourselves of evil customs and superstitions, educating our children, and contributing money for education as well as other measures of social reform. In this work of self-purification, the Rt. Hon. Sastri's profound experience as an educationist and reformer should be very helpful.

You will never get such another opportunity in the near future of ameliorating your condition. In my opinion it was impossible to find a worthier, abler and more impartial representative than the Rt. Hon. Sastri. Let us believe that the Hand of God has brought about this happy consummation. It rests with you entirely to benefit or not by the chance which God has in his mercy given you. May He show you the right path.

Colour Bar Act Denounced

Rev. George Avre Speaks Out

A remarkable speech was delivered by the Rev. George Avre at the Primitive Methodist Conference recently held in Leicester in moving a resolution deprecating the South African Colour Bar Act.

"There has been placed on the South African Statute book," he said, "an ordinance which is a disgrace to any British Statute-book. We strongly hold that in all our Colonies and mandated territories the Native should have full facilities for education and full liberty of opportunity to see and develop any gift of hand or brain which he may possess.

"Legislation directed to keep coloured people in perpetual subjection we consider utterly unchristian and one of the greatest menaces threatening the peace of the world."

Mr. Avre contended that the South African Act had its roots in racial prejudice and fear of the ultimate domination of the Native races. "Only those who have lived in the Colonies," he added, "know how subtle the evil is. Those of us who have lived near the Native people know that the only essential difference between a white man and a Native is that the white man has had a chance and the black man has not.

Now that we have taken the message of Christianity to those people, such legislation is unjust. What right have we to say that any man, because of the colour of his skin, shall not use the gifts which God has given him? It is the old attitude we once had in this country, when aristocrats opposed the education of the children of the poor. We said then the child of the poor man should have an opportunity of being something better, and that is the reply we make now regarding Natives.

Every Native has the right to education, Christianity and liberty of opportunity. They are now being educated; many have matriculated, and some are schoolmasters, doctors or lawyers.

"Right through those races there is rising to-day a sense of their own rights and their own importance. If you treat these people little better than brute slaves, the time will come when you will realise that you have been sitting on the safety valve. There will be a terrific revulsion of feeling. The real remedy is that these people should have full freedom of education, and should use all their powers to develop their nature to its full extent, side by side with the whites. We believe then that the Natives will shortly be able to give their own contribution to the upbuilding of the kingdom of God."

Johannesburg Indians Honour Mr. Sastri

Johannesburg, July 6.—A banquet given to Mr. Sastri, the Indian Agent to the Union, at the Wanderers' to-night by the Transvaal British Indian Association, was attended by 650 persons, 300 of whom were Europeans, representative of all sections of the community.

The Bishop of Johannesburg proposed Mr. Sastri's health.

Mr. Sastri, in reply, expressed the hope that Europeans and Indians might be actuated by a feeling of concord. No clan or community, he said, could afford to speak lightly of another clan. His difficulties in the Union, Mr. Sastri added, had been made light by the change of mind and heart among a great section of the European community towards Indians.

Mr. Leslie Blackwell, M. L. A., advised the Indians not to use the compromise which had been arrived at too far, and not to build on that compromise hopes which could not be realised during their generation.

—Reuter.

Beira Indians Welcome Mr. Sastri

On his way to South Africa the Rt. Hon. V. S. Sastri was welcomed by Indians at Beira.

Mr. Sastri made a most impressive speech at a gathering to welcome him organised by local British Indians, says the Beira correspondent of *The Star*, which was attended by the Acting Governor, as well as representatives of the Lisbon Government, and British Vice-Consul and many prominent members of the white community.

In reply to the address of welcome, Mr. Sastri said Indians in Portuguese territory were permitted to develop and live according to their own national character. Consequently there was no need, even if it had been possible, for him to address them on local affairs. He was pleased to see that they had not invited him to do so.

Referring to the address of Mr. Ghokale, Mr. Sastri paid a great tribute to the earlier missionary in the case of Indians in Africa. He said that when he went to South Africa the first discovery he made was that the difficulties were just where they were when Ghokale visited the country. Their reference to him in the address as taking over from Ghokale the work was therefore more than a mere conventional one. The only difference in the situation was that with the effluxion of time the difficulty had, if anything, become rather more acute. As a result of the conference it would disappear in no long a time. It was impossible to say how long, but it was possible to say that it would disappear.

"Everyone connected with India and the British Empire will realise what a great thing that is to say, but I say it deliberately. What South Africa does to-day the rest of the British Empire will be obliged to do to-morrow or the day after."

Status For The Union

He found a general mistake as to his status or rank in the Union. He was not an Ambassador, who was a person who occupied the highest diplomatic rank. He was nothing like it. His duties were not fixed and he would have to define the limits of his own office in the course of time. It was clear that they would not have much to do with trade, which problems were excluded from the scope of his work. In a town like Beira, which owed all its importance to trade, the importance of his office would shrink, but he assured them that their were greater things than trade in the world. His business would be political but he hoped that the politics he would deal with would not be controversial nor add to the troubles of the State. The subjects of the Capetown agreement would more or less occupy his time and energy. Its provisions had yet to be carried out and his work was to see that they were carried out.

"Nothing stands out so much as the fact that the members of the Union Government are actuated by wholehearted desire to see the Capetown agreement translated into action. This is a great asset indeed, and I hope our people will meet it with an anxious solicitude that nothing will be wanting on their part to carry out the agreement. I see no reason to look on the future with anything but hope, and though you live here under better auspices, and as you say in your address under no grievances, I hope your hearts will be with your fellows in the South."

At Lourenco Marques

At Lourenco Marques the boat on which Mr. Sastri arrived was met on arrival by Mr. H. Venn, the head of the new Asiatic Division of the Union Department of the Interior, and by Mr. Long, the local Union agent, while a deputation of the local British Indian community attended to give a welcome and to invite Mr. Sastri to a luncheon, which invitation he accepted.

Asked by a *Star* correspondent at Lourenco Marques to say something about the policy he was to pursue and the lines which he proposed to work, Mr. Sastri said he

was absolutely unable to make a statement, not because he was unwilling to do so, but simply because there was nothing to say. He came with the liveliest hopes, and was encouraged to believe that he would do good work by the fact that there was now a much better understanding everywhere on what was known as the Indian question.

Asked if he had yet made any decision regarding his headquarters, he replied in the negative, adding that he was going first to Pretoria and then to Durban. But everything was an interesting speculation until he had conferred with the Union Government.

Mr. Sastri said he thought it unlikely that his wife and family, whom he had left behind, would come out to join him.

Mr. Sastri mentioned that he had been given large welcomes by fellow Indians at each port at which the boat had stopped, but he did not think that his jurisdiction would at any time extend beyond the borders of the Union.

The Story of My Experiments With Truth

[BY M. K. GANDHI]

Part III.

Chapter I.

RUMBLINGS OF THE STORM

This was my first voyage with my wife and children. I have often observed in the course of this narrative that on account of child marriages amongst middle class Hindus, whilst the husband is literate the wife remains almost illiterate and a wide gulf separates the life of the wife from that of the husband who has to become his wife's teacher. So I had to think out the details of the dress my wife and children were to adopt, the food they were to eat, and the manners suited to their new surroundings. Some of the recollections of those days cause much amusement. A Hindu wife regards implicit obedience to her husband as the highest religion. A Hindu husband regards himself as the lord of his wife who must always dance attendance on him.

I believed at the time I am writing of that in order to look civilised our dress and manners had to approximate to the European standard as far as possible. For, I thought only thus could we have some influence and without influence it was not possible to serve the community.

So I determined the style of dress of my wife and children. How could I like them to be known as Kathiawar Baniyas? The Parsis used then to be regarded as the most civilised amongst Indians, and so, where the complete European style seemed to be unsuited, we adopted the Parsi style. Accordingly my wife wore the Parsi *Sari* and boys the Parsi coat and trousers. Of course no one should be without stockings and shoes. It was long before my wife and children got used to them. The shoes cramped their feet and the stockings stank with perspiration. The toes often got sore. I had always my answers ready for all these objections. But I have an impression that it was not the answers but the force of authority that carried conviction. They agreed to the changes in dress because there was no other alternative. In the same spirit and with more reluctance they adopted the use of knives and forks. When my infatuation for these signs of civilisation wore away, they gave up the knives and forks. The return to the original mode was perhaps no less irksome than those changes after having been long accustomed to them. But I can see today that we feel all the freer and lighter for having cast off the tinsel of 'civilisation.'

On board the same boat with us were some relatives and acquaintances. These and other deck passengers I frequently met because I was free to move about anywhere and everywhere on the boat as it belonged to my chief friends.

As the boat was making ready for Natal, with me

calling at intermediate ports, our voyage was of only eighteen days. But as though to warn us of the coming real storm on land a strong gale overtook us whilst we were only four days from Natal. December is a month of summer and monsoon in the Southern Hemisphere, and so gales, great and small, were quite common in the Southern Seas. The gale in which we were caught was so sharp and prolonged that the passengers were alarmed. It was a solemn scene. All became one in face of the common calamity. They forgot their differences and began to think of the one and only God—Muslimans, Hindus, Christians and all. The captain also joined the passengers in their prayers. He assured them all that though the storm was not without danger he had experience of many more dangerous ones, and explained to them that a well-built ship could stand almost any weather. But they were inconsolable. Every moment were heard sounds and crashes which foreboded breaches and leaks. The ship rocked and rolled so much that it seemed as though she would capsize any moment. It was out of question for any one to remain at this hour on deck. 'His will be done' was the only cry on every lip. So far as I can recollect we must have been in this plight for about twenty-four hours. At last the sky cleared the sun made his appearance, and the Captain said that the storm had blown over. People's faces again beamed with gladness and with the disappearance of danger disappeared also the name of God from their lips. Eating and drinking, singing and merry-making again became the order of the day. The fear of death was gone, and the momentary mood of earnest prayer gave place to *maya*. There were of course the usual *namaz* and the prayers, but they had none of the solemnity of that dread hour.

But the storm had made me one with the passengers. It may be said that I had little or very little fear of the storm, for I had experience of similar ones. I am a good sailor and do not get sea-sick. So I could fearlessly move amongst the passengers bringing them comfort and good cheer, and conveying to them the hourly reports of the Captain. The friendship I thus formed stood me, as we shall see, in very good stead. The ship cast anchor in the port of Durban on the 18th or 19th December. The *Naderi* also reached the same day.

But the real storm was still to come.

Nationalists On The Asiatic Question

Referring to the welcome given to Mr. Sastri, Advocate O. Pirow writes in *Ons Vaderland*: "We have now given the coolie in the Transvaal a highly civilised and intelligent leader, who will have to be received by every white man on an equal footing. The Asiatic question was difficult enough up to the present. How impossible it may become in the future only time can tell. One thing is certain and I hope that all Nationalists will realise it early. Our next congress will have to take full responsibility for a decision for or against the new condition of affairs."

The opinion has been expressed by a high official in the Nationalist Party that the statements made by Advocate O. Pirow in *Ons Vaderland*, in which he decried the welcome given to Mr. Sastri, are not likely to be supported by the party in opposition to the Government.

Interviewed by *Reuter* Mr. O. J. van Wyk, secretary of the Nationalist Party in the Transvaal, said the views expressed by Advocate Pirow must be treated as his individual opinion. "I am certain the Nationalists as a whole will never go against the attitude of the Government in the matter by passing any resolutions which would embarrass the Government."

At the same time Mr. van Wyk said that European storekeepers in the country naturally felt that

something should be done to limit the competition of Indian traders. The Government's position was a difficult one by reason of the fact that Indians were British subject. Were it not for this fact their course would be easy, but the Government did not wish in their handling of the Indian question to embarrass the imperial Government in any way.

General Dealer's Control Ordinance

Powers Misused—Municipality Checked

In the Supreme Court, Pretoria, in the matter of A. E. Varachia v. Potgietersrust Municipality, which was argued before the Judge-President, in Chambers, the applicant, an Indian, applied to the local licensing board for a certificate under the Transvaal General Dealers Control Ordinance of 1926, which was refused him.

Mr. Ourlewis, for applicant, asked that the refusal should be set aside and that there should be a re-hearing of the board, on the ground (1) that no notice was given to applicant that any objection would be lodged; (2) he was given no opportunity of meeting any such objection; and (3) no grounds were stated on which the certificate was refused.

Mr. Murray appeared for respondents.

After hearings argument the Court ordered respondents to notify applicant of any objections, state the ground on which the certificate was refused and re-hear the application and order respondent to pay the costs of the application.—*The Star* (Johannesburg).

BOOKS FOR SALE

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