For Favour of Review

INDIA
AND
OTTAWA.

"No Ottawas For Us"

—V. J. PATEL, ex-Speaker, Indian Legislative Assembly.

BY

Prof. Ruchi Ram Sahni.

With a Foreword by

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PREFACE.

I am greatly flattered by the numerous requests from friends to make the ten articles I have lately contributed to the columns of the local "Tribune" available in a collected form. I am glad to find that the forthcoming Ottawa Conference is beginning to attract a good deal of public attention in this country. The whole of my thesis may best be summed up in the four simple words in which Mr. V. J. Patel expressed his views about the Conference the other day: "No Ottawas for us." If there are five Indians outside the prison-walls to-day who are entitled to speak on a question like this in the name of their country, the distinguished ex-Speaker of the Indian Legislative Assembly certainly is one of them.

Prof. Brij Narain, who is a recognised authority on Indian Economics, has laid me under obligation by writing a foreword for this pamphlet. My thanks are also due to Pt. Pearay Mohan Dattatraya, Senior Assistant Editor of the "Tribune," for reading the proofs and seeing these pages through the press.

RUCHI RAM SAHNI.

22, *Rattigan Road,*
Lahore.
5 June, 1932.

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FOREWORD.

Prof. Ruchi Ram Sahni deserves the thanks of the public in general and of the readers of the "Tribune" in particular for educating public opinion on the important questions which will soon form the subject of discussion at Ottawa.

He had set himself a twofold task—that of tracing the evolution of the British Commonwealth in recent years, and of explaining the growth of economic Imperialism. His discussion of preferential trade, based on authoritative sources, will be read with interest and profit by all students of economics; his account of the transformation of the British Empire into the British Commonwealth of Nations will do credit to a professional historian.

The Statute of Westminster turned the Dominions in November, 1931, into sovereign States. As the author remarks, the Commonwealth is an alliance of equals in every respect. This implies the right of secession; the right to make laws; the right to enter into treaties with foreign powers without the intervention of Britain.

India has no place in this Commonwealth. "What has become of England's promises about the liberty of weak nations?", asks the author. Well, these promises served their purpose. They were not meant to be taken seriously.

Since the passing of the Statute of Westminster "we have been receiving even harder kicks than before." We deserve them. These kicks exemplify the "Dominion