

**Shafa'at
Ahmad
Khan**

THE

INDIAN

IN

SOUTH

AFRICA

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KITABISTAN

THE INDIAN IN SOUTH AFRICA



Hon'ble Sir Shafa'at Ahmad Khan, member of the Provisional Government of India, at a party in South Africa

The Indian in South Africa

By

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KITABISTAN

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PREFACE

The book contains speeches delivered in 1941-1945 to cultural and political organisations in South Africa. It does not deal with the history of the Indian community during this period, as this would have involved reference to many confidential documents which must, for obvious reasons, remain confidential for the present. I have made no change in the text of the addresses and they are published in the form in which they were delivered at the time. Only a few words have been added here and there to make them intelligible. The address on the Indian community was delivered in 1942. It has been recast and brought up-to-date. In this address, I have discharged the function of a *rapporteur* and summarised the viewpoints of different schools of thought on the issue. Hence this section expresses the views of all sections of Indian opinion. The Government of India are not responsible for the views expressed in this book. No confidential documents have been used for the purpose, and the address on the Indian community in South Africa, which has been re-written, is based wholly on published material.

I have added a supplementary section, section VII, to bring the story of the Indian race in South Africa up-to-date. It deals with the controversy over the Land Tenure Bill.

Photographs of some important events have also been added.

I am grateful to my old pupil, Dr. Bisheshwar Prasad, Lecturer in History, Allahabad University, for the trouble he has taken in seeing the book through the press. His help has been indispensable. If the book serves to improve relations between India and South Africa, and Europeans and Indians in the Union of South Africa, I shall be amply rewarded.

NEW DELHI

April, 1946

THE AUTHOR

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This is a book by a well-known Scholar—statesman of India. After a brilliant academic career, Sir Shafa'at Ahmad Khan served his apprenticeship in the Legislature of his province for seven years in 1924-30. He was delegate to the first three Round Table Conferences, 1930-32, and the Joint Select Committee, London for 1933. After serving many important Committees and holding a high officiating appointment in the Government of India, in 1940, Sir Shafa'at was appointed High Commissioner for India in the Union of South Africa in November, 1941, and occupied this office till January, 1945. Sir Shafa'at dealt with some of the most complex problems with which the Indian race in South Africa was faced, "Hon'ble Sir Shafa'at Ahmad was a member of the first Provisional Government of India.