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THE EDITOR

THE INDIAN TEXTILE JOURNAL

"SURYA MAHAL"
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TELEPHONE: 252943

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Vol 5 No. 23
July 3 1964

THE BULLETIN OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF BOMBAY

Bombay Rotarians Fete Rajaji

TARGET OF
THE WEEK

By
LAXMAN

Record Attendance Marks Final Meeting

OUR programme of weekly meetings for 1963-64 ended in tremendous style on June 30 when an all-time record attendance of over 500 Rotarians, Rotaryannes and their guests packed the Ball Room of the Taj Mahal Hotel to hear Sri C. Rajagopalachari speak on "India and her Neighbours". It was a fitting climax to a star-studded year of eminent speakers. The following is the text of Rajaji's talk, slightly abridged:

"Rapid communication and transport it is said have made all nations neighbours. Our neighbours are Pakistan and the people along the Himalayan border who have been traditionally attached to India, particularly British India. What should our relationship with them be? It is clear we should not make them our enemies. The present day world is more difficult for India than it was when Britain ruled India. Therefore these neighbours should not only be not enemies, but should be made into friends. Some of them depend on us, but we should make them feel we depend on them. Our approach should not be an imperialistic approach, but the approach of friends seeking friendship and co-operation.

We fear without any difficulty. We can fight, whether we win or lose, without any difficulty. Friendship is more difficult than fearing or fighting. But it is worth while. To make friendship is a task involving much care and sacrifice and upright



perseverance. Anything worth while is generally difficult. Integration of the 500 and odd States that were in British India was difficult. Sardar Patel did it. Then about integration of taxes. It was a very difficult thing and an extremely delicate task to accomplish. But T. T. Krishnamachari did it smoothly and well. The Government of India owes much to him.

The question is (i) is friendship with all our neighbours necessary? and the next question is (ii) is it No. 1 priority?

I answer 'Yes' to both the questions. If that is accepted every difficulty must be tackled and overcome. If we have a fixation that Pakistan and India can never be friends, there is no way but to settle down to fight China and Pakistan together. The very statement of the resulting problem is enough to dissuade us from that false position. But, alas, a large number of very good and patriotic

people believe and are intent on making others believe that friendship with Pakistan is impossible. There is no impossibility in friendship between Pakistan and India. It may be difficult, but not impossible.

Our Budget for defence in the fourth Plan is Rs. 5,500 crores. The question of foreign alliance becomes urgent and clear if we realise the problem of defence in a responsible way without falling into the psychology of Micawber. Foreign alliance will not be easy if we are not friends with Pakistan and our other neighbours. If we go to real and reliable friends abroad, deserted by our neighbours, without carrying their friendship with us but as isolated people in need of assistance against our neighbours we shall not be respected. If we still wish to pay homage to Gandhi, if we still believe he was a wise man, if we don't settle down to chronic hypocrisy, we must make friends with Pakistan. He wanted this. Can anyone deny that Gandhi wanted this and swore by this? We shamelessly offer homage to Gandhi, knowing all the time that he wanted us never to accept war between Muslims and Hindus, or believe in eternal hostility between Pakistan and India. He died at the hands of a Hindu and made his attitude on this question his im-



Rtn. N. A. Krishnan is a new member of our Club, having joined in September of last year. Nevertheless, being Managing Director of the State Bank of India he is very well known, and his friendly personality has won him many friends. He is an active member of the Fellowship Committee.

ambivalent approach towards the Western Powers now.

I believe a time will come when 'this earth will be one Kingdom joy and union without end', as the poet sang. But in the meanwhile let us realise priorities and sincerely work for friendship with Pakistan and redouble our efforts with each failure."

NEXT MEETING

Tuesday, July 7, 1964

Crystal Room, Taj Mahal Hotel

1-15 p.m.

Installation of President and Office-Bearers



Our guest speaker, Sri C. Rajagopalachari, with Rotaryanne Kuma Fielden, Rtn. President Peter Fielden and Rtn. Hon. Sec. John Antony at the memorable meeting of our Club on June 30.



Lucid Exposition of Affairs in S-E Asia

Seldom has our Club listened to a speaker so well-informed and so fluent as Dr. Frank N. Trager, who spoke at our meeting on June 16 on "India and South-East Asia". Dr. Trager is a professor of International Affairs at New York University, specialising on the countries of South-East Asia, and Burma in particular, which he is now re-visiting.

South-East Asia, said Dr. Trager, is a tremendous force of nearly 250 million people, seeking stability and not quite finding it. The Afro-Asian Conference held in New Delhi in 1947 by Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru attracted all nations anxious to emulate India's struggle to freedom. It was the death-knell of the old-type imperialism and engendered tremendous optimism. Since then many nations have attained their independence, but the optimism has not, alas, been sustained. Dr. Trager traced events in each of the countries, leading up to the present turmoil, the outcome of which will have far-reaching effects on the whole of Asia, including India.

Dr. Trager pointed out that South-East Asia has always been a target for China whenever that country has been strong enough to turn her attention outside her borders.

"This Rotary Month"—that's the page the Rotarian who would be Rotarily well-informed reads first every month in THE ROTARIAN. Do you?

District Governor Malchi at our Club

ON June 16 we had the pleasure of entertaining District Governor Judge Eliezer Malchi at our Club lunch. Rtn. Malchi is, of course, Governor of District 199, Israel, which is the matching district to our own District 315.

In a brief message to the Club Rtn. Malchi recalled how, as a child he had been fascinated by stories about India, little thinking that one day he would see our country for himself. He and Rotaryman Rachael were delighted to be in India and wished only that their stay could be longer.

Rtn. Malchi said that the Jewish people had much in common with us in India, in that both of us are striving to build a new and economically self-sufficient nation. He thought that our two districts had succeeded admirably in coming closer together, cemented by the personal visit of District Governor Manibhai to his country, and now his visit to ours.

In presenting us with a flag of the Rotary Club of Tel Aviv, Judge Malchi pointed out the similarity between their symbol of a Lighthouse and our symbol of a Gateway. The



name "Tel Aviv" means "The Returners", and the Lighthouse is a beacon to all who have lost faith in the world and are turning to find a new life in Israel.

In conclusion, Rtn. Malchi promised a hearty welcome to any Rotarians from District 315 who are able to visit Israel.



Ancient land tenures in Bombay

Speaking at our meeting on June 23, Rtn. N. K. Petigara gave a most interesting and informative account of land tenures in Bombay, which differ considerably from tenures in other parts of the State of Maharashtra. Rumour has it, said Rtn. Petigara, that a Bill to abolish Inami and certain other ancient tenures is likely to be reintroduced during July or August, the purpose being to enable re-assessment for purposes of tax, and so increase revenue for Government from land in Bombay. Rtn. Petigara forecast that the result would be a sharp fall in land values which, in particular, would seriously affect many charitable and religious trusts whose investments are in property of the tenures to be abolished, and would cause great complications where moneys have been borrowed on the security of property.

For many reasons which he cited, Rtn. Petigara felt that such a confiscatory enactment merely for revenue on urban land in a commercial city would so affect the structure of taxation and the cost of living as to be an ultimate loss both to the State and to the people.

In the course of his talk, Rtn. Petigara traced the origins of these tenures, which in the main result from grants made by Governments anywhere between 200 and 500 years ago. Dealings and transactions involving huge investments have always been on these tenures and the assessments chargeable.

Chembur Club gets Charter

June 13 was a red-letter day in the life of the Rotary Club of Chembur when, with the granting of its Charter, it ceased to be a provisional club and entered into the great family of Rotary clubs around the world. The club was sponsored by the Rotary Club of Bombay East, and becomes the fifth Rotary club to be established in Bombay.

District Governor Manilal Doshi presented the Charter to Rotary President M. P. Menon, and inducted the founder members.

A happy circumstance was the presence of District Governor Judge Eliezer Malchi of Israel, with Rotaryman Rachael. To mark the occasion the club commenced its first Community Service activity, which is a free anti-polio vaccination service for children. Rotaryman Malchi started this off by administering the first dose of oral vaccine.

Many clubs were represented and Rtn. President Fielden presented the flag of our club, receiving that of Chembur in return. The ceremony was followed by a buffet dinner given by the Chamber Club.

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