

WELCOME ADDRESS

TO

Desagaurava Sri Subhas Chandra Bose

(Presented by Sri Kowtha Suryanarayan Row on the occasion of his visit to South India on 3rd Sept., 1939).

SIR,

On behalf of your friends and admirers in Madras, allow me to tell you how gratified we are on the occasion of your present visit to South India. You are not a stranger amongst us, and all Nationalists irrespective of party label will always recall with pride the services you have rendered in the organization of public life and the cause of independence in the country. Even those who differ from you appreciate the courage and perseverance with which you have been standing up for your convictions, and we feel sure that you have before you many more opportunities in your career for serving the Motherland, despite the vicissitudes you have to face in your mission of rousing the country from the present danger of compromise and lethargy which you are out to combat. The repercussions of your differences with the Congress High Command have so far touched the South only on the surface, but your present visit should enable you to give us your message direct, with the forcefulness of your own personality.

THE apprehension that the Ministerial party within the Congress would exaggerate the functions of office-acceptance and swamp the contributions of nonofficial public life, has been growing amidst us. The dramatic resignation of Mr. S. Srinivasa Iyengar from the Congress in order to free himself from caucus influence within the Congress where power has been concentrated in a few hands, has, as you are aware, caused a sensation in the country and his decision to fight for the Congress cause without the shackles of the ministerialist party marks the rise of a new temper among Congressmen who are alarmed at the sacrifice of democratic rights at a stage when Congress Ministries are, according to Mahatma Gandhi, still working as allies of British Imperialism. You will no doubt welcome his re-emergence into active public life in South India where his leadership will be of immense value in propagating the gospel of liberty and civil-rights which you also have cherished: throughout your fighting career *from* the days of your discipleship

under Deshabandhu Das.

IN Madras, political elements outside the Congress lie scattered in groups. Not in hostility against the Congress but roused by an enlightened sense of responsibility natural in recent times, many of these are looking for leadership. There is need for the integration of forces now divided, but which will upon the right approach, respond to the call for common action, provided they are founded and organized on the bedrock principles of true Nationalism, Independence, real Democracy, Justice and Complete Secularism. With the conception of Indians as children of the soil and the members of one race will, many believe, be the background for the achievement of Swaraj in our land of Bharatavarsha. Not only Swarajya which connotes political freedom but true Swaarajya which betokens absolute and unexcelled spiritual freedom and unity in diversity should form our goal, and people are longing for leadership that enlivens and unifies.

THE present atmosphere of exclusiveness, intrigue and recrimination for the sake of concentrating power in the hands of a few at the expense of free speech and civil liberties has resulted in the stultification of our campaign for Swarajya and Swaarajya, both national objectives which the true observance of Congress ideals, is bound to promote and safeguard.

WE want you, Sir, to carry with you happy impressions of Madras, confident of the support of many parties within and without the Congress in your fight to go forward towards our common object of freedom, full freedom for all.

We beg to remain,

Sir,

Your friends and well-wishers

