

Why I am not leaving South Africa

I, too, am a Citizen

I AM a South African born of Indian parents.

My forefathers arrived in this country nearly a hundred years ago. They came at the request of the then legal Natal Government.

Both my forefathers and their offspring were promised equal rights with the people living in the country. *That promise has now been broken.*

It is largely through their sweat and toil that South Africa has her sugar industry today. As a result, the Union has the cheapest sugar in the world except Peru and Mexico.

Their thrift enabled them to make contributions in other fields in the country's economy.

We, their descendants, are faced with a new challenge to build on from where they left. We see our *achievements in danger of being destroyed.*

The Afrikaners tell us they have no other country to go to. They would be strangers in Holland. They say they are the only true patriots in South Africa.

Do they think we Indian South Africans, after three generations in South Africa, would be anything other than strangers in India, or any country

for that matter? More than 90 per cent. of the Indians were born in South Africa.

Many of us have abandoned the languages we brought from India. We speak one or the other of the Union's official languages. What more must a man do to show that he is a good South African?

I love this country. I love it dearly. I would deem it an honour to die for it.

I do not like to see my country attacked and despised in the outside world. I like to see her good name respected. I would like to see our sportsmen of all races winning glory for South Africa, because *all the races have built up South Africa.*

It hurts me to be told that I must not give of my best to my country, because I am not white. I feel insulted when I am told that I am an alien.

This fact, together with my love of this country, makes me determined to stay here and work by the side of those who want to make South Africa a country where free men would live.

The Whites very often do not know how hurting *it is to the spirit to bring up our children.* Everywhere they go, because of their colour, they are denied things that make for a child's happiness.

It is my duty to stay here and fight so that when my children grow up they will not know the frustration I knew.

All this might sound a bit sentimental, but that is how I feel. I am in no doubt about my feelings for the land that has fed me, clothed me and made me *what I am today.*

Continued on page 11



—By—
**RAMJEE
HARRY**

No Representation for Indians

A NATIONALIST member of Parliament, Mr. J. F. Nel (Port Elizabeth North) said bluntly in the Assembly that so long as the Nationalist Government was in power *Indians would not get representation in either the Assembly or the Senate.*

He was speaking in the resumed debate on the Senate Bill. He replied to an interjection by Dr. Frans Cronje

(U.P., Jeppe), who asked whether the Government intended excluding South Africa's 441,000 Indians permanently from political representation.

When Dr. Jan Steytler, leader of the Progressive Party, spoke in the debate he remarked that Indians were as much a part of the population as Afrikaners. Government members exclaimed "Disgraceful!"

NEWS FROM REGIONS AND BRANCHES

NATAL COASTAL

Cato Manor

PROPOSALS for Group Areas as they affect the Indian community are usually unjust. The proclamation of Cato Manor as a White Group Area is particularly foolish and heartless since Cato Manor has never been a White residential area, nor is it likely to become so in the near future. It is partly occupied by Africans living in temporary shacks, who are being steadily moved to other areas, and the rest is owned and occupied almost exclusively by Indians, many of whom have built substantial homes, and invested in temples, mosques, schools and burial grounds.

Public indignation against these proposals last year led to a mass meeting of Durban's White citizens, who were strongly supported by the Churches. As a result the Durban City Council was persuaded to reconsider its former acquiescence in the scheme, and make representations to have the Indian area of Cato Manor de-proclaimed. When the Group Areas Board turned down this request, Sash members rallied to the call and staged a demonstration outside the Post Office, our traditional place for demonstrations. Posters in English and Afrikaans stated "We Con-

Continued overleaf

I, TOO, AM A CITIZEN — Continued from page 10

But what about the present situation? I must admit it is gloomy. I am not allowed to do, learn, profess or believe what I want to.

I am not allowed to go, work or stay where I want to. In certain cases I am not allowed to think how and what I want to. In the very land of my birth, I am an outcast.

I am totally against the ideology of the Nationalist. It is based on hatred, fear and suspicion. It sets one South African against another and spreads conflict and insecurity.

I loathe those laws which are repressive and which are meant to keep the man of colour down. But I do not hate the men who make them. They are South Africans like I am.

Finally, I am in agreement with the millions of Blacks and many Whites who would like to see a change in Government. I have suffered so much from race prejudice, I wish to have nothing to do with it. I am for a non-racial government. My duty is to stay here and fight for it.

[This is a condensation of an article that appeared in the Port Elizabeth "Evening Post". Mr. Harry is an East London businessman.]



— Natal Mercury.

Some of the members of the Natal Coastal Region standing in protest against the Group Areas Board's "folly and injustice".