



THE INDIAN

LION



AUGUST 31, 1964

THE TRAIL OF TORONTO

By 'OBSERVER'

THAT sunny morning of July 11, in the year of our Lord 1964, the Maple Leaf Gardens Convention Hall in Canada's booming Queen city Toronto was packed to capacity, and as thousands upon thousands of delegates from all over the Lions world filed past the voting wicket, Past International President Clarence Sturm, Chairman of the Elections Committee, became more and more restive, for waiting to cast their ballot was the largest delegation ever known in the entire history of Lionism. The Indian delegation waited patiently and probably a little more restlessly than Lion Sturm as the closing time was extended thrice to accommodate the mass of Lions keen on exercising their right to elect their International Leaders. Our delegation was restive because we had offered to the world of Lionism for election to the office of International Director, Lion Noshir N. Pundole—the builder of Lionism in India. Amidst tumultuous applause of the entire assemblage and wild jubilation in the Indian delegation booth, Noshir's name was announced amongst the successful contestants and at that moment as two of our delegates embraced each other in unparalleled exuberance and uncontrolled emotional excitement, the opening paragraph of a New Chapter was scrolled across the history book of Lionism in India. With sincere gratitude to the world of Lionism, with pride and satisfaction, not unmixed with humility and modesty, we have begun this New Chapter.

The Tribute

It is a New Chapter indeed and in more ways than one, for in this International approval of our nominee, besides the apparent recognition of the calibre and talents and Lionis-

tic achievements of Noshir, is the tribute paid to Indian Lionism by the Lions of the world.

In his nominating address International Counsellor Lion Popawala had said at our Indore Convention last May that in the act of offering a candidate for International Director, for the first time in our history, he discerned the signs of maturity of Indian Lionism, and to our delight the world of Lionism endorsed this thinking. And so, to you Lions of India thus honoured I doff my hat.

The New Chapter

The New Chapter has now begun and while it is difficult to foretell what it will contain before it closes, we can certainly endeavour to construct it as we wish and we can do no better than to continue to work and build as our beloved leader planned it. And what has been the dominant trend of Noshir's preachings these past eight years that he struggled, day in and day out, to promote the cause? To my mind it is the inspirational aspect of Lionism. To think of our less fortunate fellowmen with sympathy and understanding...to give of our time, energy and sometimes even our resources for amelioration of hardships of the poor.....to seek the good and overlook the bad in others....to look upon Lionism as an opportunity, not for self-advancement but for selfless service...to treat leadership as a serious responsibility only to be accepted when pressed to do so and not to seek it as a prized apple.... these have been the bain of Noshir's speeches and writings which have inspired our fold and led them on to maturity and heights of greatness, and it should be our endeavour to follow these guidelines with sincerity and zeal,

leaving aside petty considerations of jealousy, personality differences and self advancement.

The Inspiration

Too long have we worked on building an efficient Secretariat.... too long have many of us paid just a little more than lip service to our ethics, objectives and ideals.... too long have we left it to only a few to sweat for activities, to conduct which we have banded together. Lionism, my friends, is a cooperative enterprise and every member is a working partner in the business, which will succeed and prosper to the extent each one contributes. Therefore, let every one of us become a zealous worker, fired with inspiration, and let us write this newly begun Chapter of our history book in letters of gold.

Introspection, re-examination of self, re-appraisal and re-dedication in this hour of triumph are a sign of health and a practical necessity. Let us, therefore, not fail to turn the search-lights inwards nor forget to learn appropriate lessons from the closed chapters of our history book, as we congratulate our beloved leader upon his success, and our five District Governors prepare to lead their fold with new vigour in the year just begun. In maturity and in wisdom, in unity and in harmony, with malice towards none and generosity towards every Lion member and every fellow citizen, with firm faith in the inspiration of Lionism and with eager expectancy, let us now begin yet another year full of services humanitarian, noble and sound in every community in which a Lions Club exists in our country. And may Our Lord be with us in this our noble endeavour.