

We went to Agra and saw the Taj Mahal. Well, that is something which is a marvel to behold, and just makes one wonder how it was done. Perhaps it may have been a part of welfare state legislation. There are records showing that it was seventeen years in the building, and that 20,000 people were employed in constructing it. It is quite evident that neither time nor money were factors, and it is obvious that the aim was perfection, and I think that perfection was achieved.

At Fatehpur Sikri we saw another of these red forts that Shah Jahan had erected, within which was a little temple enclosing the shrine of the saint who had promised him a male heir - and more than carried out the promise when, within the normal period of time, there were two male heirs born to the same favoured queen. This prompted Shah Jahan to erect a fort there - in which he did not reside very long because I am told, the climatic conditions and the conditions of the water were not conducive to long life.

From there we returned to Delhi. I had been honoured at Peshawar with an honorary degree, and again received a similar honorary degree at Delhi. I found there was a generosity in the East in respect of this function that I had not experienced in the West. I brought back with me two gorgeous red robes that were presented to me as the accompaniment of the degree of Doctor of Laws that was awarded to me by these ancient seats of learning.

At Bombay we stayed with Governor Sir Girja Bajpai who is well known to many of us who have attended meetings of the international assemblies, and was also greeted by the chief ministers and charged by them, as I had been on other occasions, with the best wishes and greetings to our Houses of Parliament. I was privileged to attend a meeting of the Assembly of the People in the Parliament at New Delhi and to hear Mr. Nehru make a speech, of the tour d'horizon type, on external affairs. And it was quite impressive to me to find here in the East exactly the same atmosphere we have here in our House of Commons accompanying their introduction of the democratic processes which have been found so advantageous in the conduct of public affairs of free men and women.

Ceylon

From India we went to Ceylon, and were the guests of the Governor General Lord Soulbury at Temple Trees in Colombo and at the King's Pavilion in Kandy. We were also entertained by Sir John Kotalawala, Prime Minister and Sir Oliver Goonetilleke the Minister of Finance, who, as happens in many countries has, apparently, the right of veto on any proposals that come from any of his other colleagues and who, I am told, is keeping the finances of his country on the kind of footing that had been agreed in London a year ago, and that was confirmed at the recent meeting in Sydney.

I will not mention the monuments that have come down from ancient history connected with Ceylon. But we were taken to the Temple of the Tooth at Kandy. We did not see the tooth but we saw all kinds of treasures that have been placed there by kings and grandees as their tribute to this shrine, which is of such importance to those of the Buddhist faith in the whole of the East.