

to me with emotion because of the interest I had taken in what they were trying to do to remove this blot on civilization. I shall think of a saintly Hindu scientist who is devoting his talents to practical agricultural research because of the saying of Vivekananda, "You can't teach religion to people with empty stomachs." I shall think of an old farmer in the Punjab who showed me proudly the twenty acres which he and his sons had cleared and brought under cultivation.

These are some of the pictures which crowd my mind. I ask myself what sort of pattern they make. What shall I say when I go home and try to explain to the people of my country what India is like?

I think I shall start by saying that in one way it is like Canada in its size and its diversity. India, I shall say, is not a land like Western Europe where, if you travel for more than a day's journey by train you find yourself in another country. India, like Canada, is a spacious land in which you travel by train for three whole days in order to reach Trivandrum from Amritsar.

Here in India I shall say there is not only space, but kaleidoscopic diversity - diversity of landscapes and of peoples. The massive Himalayas, the fertile plain of the Ganges, the deserts, the table land of Maharashtra, the semi-tropical Travancore. The hillman, who looks first cousin to our Canadian Eskimo. The peoples of Rajasthan and of Assam, of the Punjab and of the Malabar Coast. Here is no dull uniformity. Here in one country is a large part of the family of mankind.

I shall say that India is not a nation state in the sense in which that term is used in the sub-continent of Western Europe. It is a nation which itself covers a whole sub-continent. It is in many ways more comparable to a group of states which share a common culture such as those of Western Europe, than it is to a relatively small, relatively homogeneous nation state such as France, Germany or Italy.

I had read before I came here of the revolution - largely peaceful - by which India secured its independence and integrated into itself the five hundred or so princely states. After I had been here a while, I realized that the important thing about India is not so much that you have had a revolution as that you are having a revolution. You have had your political revolution. You are at the beginning of your social and economic revolution against feudalism, social inequality, casteism, communalism, and those other evils Dr. Radhakrishnan recently listed, "the evils of poverty, hunger, illiteracy, ignorance, superstition and obscurantism!"

My experience is that the longer a westerner stays in India, the more conscious he becomes of the almost overpowering weight of the burden which India has undertaken to shoulder in