

Sun. 23. 1. '27.

Baba came out quite unexpectedly ~~of~~ this morning from the zhopdi and remained outside the whole day. He also took food today. The meeting proposed yesterday, came off today and lasted for nearly two and a half hours! (till 12.30 in the noon). Rustonji was selected as the chairman of this meeting. At the outset the mandali considered

the question whether ~~it~~ to open a school and free-hospital at all or to let the matters go on as they were. The majority was found in favour of reopening a regular school on a permanent footing and so the discussions were begun over the details of the scheme. The first question that came up was naturally about the funds. Here Shri declared he will provide a lac of rupees for the initial expences and 1500/- hundred every month for the maintainance but that no outside donations or grants be accepted. The mandali was quite one with Shri in this as it would leave them free of foreign interference; a building worth twenty thousand was decided to be erected as the school-premises on the site of the previous Sai-dorbar.

The site for the Hostel and dispensary was also selected; the former to be over the old Kharmashala, and the latter on the spot where the late Arjun had his residence during the "Meherabad Stay". After this the question of staff and management was taken into consideration. This proved a stumbling block for most of them as Shri insisted upon having a voluntary teaching staff. As all the maintainance of the institution was to be managed out of 1500/- a month the pay of the teaching staff was considered to be impractical to be covered with it. Baba 'said' besides food and clothing the teachers should expect no more. ~~not even~~ Even the food and clothing for their families to be provided by themselves! Whether new volunteers would be found out or not for the teaching staff, for the present, Baba asked the mandali to agree to an agreement of ten years of free service according to their best capabilities!

Those who agreed to this were made <sup>also to promise</sup> to sign an agreement ~~to this~~ on the <sup>question</sup> ~~spot~~! Whatever might be

When the necessity of water supply fell -  
just as in the case of money!  
to guarantee an abundance of water supply  
Shri again under took to guarantee an abundance of water supply  
under very circumstances & developments  
- for all the needs of all the residents of Meherabad

the real under-lying reason of all this "tall talk" about opening out such huge institutions, the most likely explanation about it seems to be Baba's intention in creating amongst the maulabi an impression that if need be they <sup>must be prepared</sup> ~~may~~ prolong their stay with Baba for a long time and also think less about money. And if this view-point is correct the chief aim of all these apparently 'wild goose' discussions was quickly served, as barring a few exceptions almost all agreed to it. So continue, <sup>desiring</sup> the further progress of the meeting, the former, (those who did not agree for ten years) were at this stage asked to keep aloof of the discussions and only the rest of them thereafter continued talking out some more details of the proposed scheme.

Rustūmji was decided to be in charge of the whole concern while Sri reserved to himself the sole supervision.

Curriculum was the next point on which a very long discussion took place. Some favoured it to be exactly on the lines of recognised Govt. schools and some liked that Baba should run it on the lines of his own ideals.

The former party's chief weapon of argument was, that if not, from the worldly point of view, boys after leaving the school will not find their education to be very useful for their immediate needs. While the latter party contended that following the recognised-school curriculum their hands would be tied down, and no chance left for ~~and~~ their own option in selecting books and fixing up a best possible course suitable under the peculiar circumstances at Pachherabad. This also gave rise to the question whether to get the school recognised or let it remain a private concern. Pros and cons were thoroughly gone into by the opposing view-holders amongst themselves. The chief contention against "recognition" was that in that case 'free'

teachers would be difficult to get while most of the mandali will not do on account of certain rules and regulations. However without finally deciding these points the meeting ~~was~~ was adjourned (probably sine-die) with a final resolution to the effect that steps be taken by the authorities concerned to get a copy of Govt Recognition rules and plans for the proposed building.

Baba distributed some sugar-cane pieces and other eatables amongst the mandali later in the day. The rest of the day passed away usually.

Mon. 24.1.27.

The proposed school was again the topic of the day. Baba continued discussing the same with the mandali and also with the regular visitors throughout the day. Anstons brought in the welcome news that he had succeeded in enlisting the services of the Government Boring Machine ~~and~~ to bore in the new well and that it would come within a couple of days. Preparations to keep the necessary bullocks, oils, petrol etc ready for the same were set on foot immediately on the receipt of the news. Thus the water-supply scheme was greatly expediated. At night Pandob's brother turned up with rough plans of the proposed buildings in connection with the much discussed Boarding School. The plans were inspected and examined by all. Many alterations additions and suggestions were made and approved by Baba. The draughtsman returned with a promise to bring back the regular final plan in one week. He also undertook to see that no hitches came in the work through Government and municipal rules for a school building. ~~Buton~~ After the Sri Shri and

all the mandali except - Vikram went - for a walk toward  
Anjan side for a mile or so. The party came back  
at nine thirty or clock and then went - to bed.