

Tues. 8. 2. 27.

New Agreement.

A new agreement was prepared and signed by the mandali today undertaking to stay with Baba and serve in the ~~proposed~~ proposed Institution atleast for three years. Some discussions also took place between Shri and Mr Satha about the publicity matter entrusted to him. There was cricket in the evening. At night again there were discussions between Baba and the mandali on the new estimates and various - other subjects.

Wed. 9. 2. 27.

There were further discussions on the 'three years agreement' draft which is to be taken in writing from all those who will stay with Baba to serve in the Institution with or without pay. There was a party of Indian Christians on a visit to Baba today. Their mission seemed to ^{be to} enlist Baba's sympathy and also monetary help in their own plan of opening a Mission New Missionary College at Ahmednagar. One of the party was a late Head-Master in a local College and who had just recently returned from America with authority from his principals there to open a 'new College at' Nagar. After a general talk Baba abruptly questioned them if they were Christians. Of course with all the emphasis that they could command, the visitors asserted that they were true Christians.

"What was the mandate of Jesus to all? Continued Baba "Was it not to 'despise away all and follow me'" So the visitors replied in the affirmative and perhaps thought Baba was going to sing their praise, but they ~~was~~ no doubt badly startled to hear the next question of Baba which was "Have you done that, given up all and everything as your Lord did, particularly lust and greed" Here they hesitated greatly and let out a feeble no! "Then" ^{Baba} "said" "you are no Christians at all, as you are unable to follow Christ's mandate. I am a real Christian for I have given up everything....." The visitors were greatly impressed and left dumbfounded with awe and reverence after some more such pithy remarks from Baba, so much so that they persistently pressed a cordial invitation upon Baba to oblige them by paying a visit to their own Institution in the city.

With the usual Cricket-play in the evening and the Asti at night the day came to a peaceful end.

Thur. 10. 2. 27.

AVATAR MEHER BABA TRUST
King's Road, P. O. AHMEDNAGAR
(MAHARASHTRA) INDIA

Owing to Thursday there were many visitors today. Shoochab's usual musical Bhajan alas took place, though late in the evening. Again a general meeting was held today when Baba asked the mandali to discuss freely whether still to proceed with the new scheme of the proposed Institution or drop it down completely. None came forward with a definite conclusion but the general tone of the mandali was in favour of a "climb down". Many doubts were expressed for the success of the Institution particularly because of Baba's changing moods, the proposed monotonous food (the same kind ~~twice~~ both the times in the day) and the general strict rules which were thought by the mandali to be rather too hard for worldly people for short of being welcome to young folk. There was also, in view of the proposed strict discipline, the possibility of a constant change of hands in the teaching staff which was thought will cause a serious hampering in the progress of the School affair.

At this pessimist attitude and disappointing tone of the mandali Baba declared He was going to drop the idea of starting the proposed Institution! Because He 'said' there were no really enthusiastic and willing workers amongst the mandali to come forward bravely and ~~to~~ shoulder the responsibility.

Baba also 'said' He felt much to drop that nice idea for the lack of spirit amongst the mandali.

Then the question of continuing the existing primary school with free food and clothing and the opening of a free dispensary for the poor in the surrounding villages was taken into consideration. But here Baba suddenly seemed to lose his temper possibly

for the lack of spirit shown by the mandali in the previous discussions, and the meeting came to an abrupt end, leaving the latter questions pending. After the evening Bhajan and Arti however Shri once again became cheerful and gramophone was played till nine fifteen o'clock. After this all were advised to take to beds soon as they had to get up at 4 o'clock the following morning to enable them to attend Chhagan's ~~brother~~^{in-law} marriage ceremony at Akolner which is about six miles from Meherabad. Baba had also instructed Behramji early in the day to arrange to get 150 deceased and disabled, particularly strain-deceased persons from the city and the surrounding villages on the 17th instant; ~~the~~ day prior to his birthday, as Baba said he wanted ^{personally} to give them a nice warm bath, clothes and treat them to a feast on that day. It was seriously doubted whether the exact required number of 150 ^{of} such persons would be available on that particular day. And when Baba was informed about the possibility of not getting quite the exact number, Shri insisted upon the figure of hundred and fifty but allowed Behramji to also include poor boys in the group which is to be gathered on that day.