

ISSUE OF MARCH 31st, 1914.

Har Dayal on his arrest.

On the evening of Wednesday the 25th March a big meeting was held by the Yugantar Ashram for the benefit of the American public, whose President was Mr. Slikerman, a very prominent lawyer. The audience numbered about two hundred and fifty. Messrs Berry and Nito and Mrs. Ben and other friends promised to speak. The audience arrived before the meeting commenced. By 8.15 the entire hall was full. I arrived in company with a friend. At the foot of the hall and outside were the Ashram staff awaiting my arrival. As I started to go up I saw standing by the steps two or three men in plain clothes. One of them asked me if my name was Hardy. I answered: "Yes". Taking me on one side they informed me that a warrant had been issued in my name by the Immigration authorities for the purpose of deporting me from America on the ground that I was an anarchist, and that on account of this I should present myself the next day at the Immigration office and defend my case. Seeing that you have a lecture on hand we will not now arrest you. You must promise to present yourself next morning. I read the warrant and laughed because I had already heard that I was about to get such a warrant and I was ready. Besides this there were several mistakes in the warrant. I considered that I was in no danger and replied, "Very well, I shall positively come to-morrow morning and I thank you very much for your courtesy."

At this juncture the Ashram staff did not show any excitement. I said to them, "Bande Mataram. Welcome! This is the

(Issue of March 31st, 1914.

enemy's first stroke, but I shall triumph." After this the meeting commenced. One of the patriots opened the meeting with a lengthy lecture on the tyranny of the British, which impressed the minds of the audience very much and extracted from them curses. Mrs. Ben, an American lady, gave a warm lecture expressing her sympathy with India, saying that she was ready in every way to serve the Ghadr party. After this I spoke for a few minutes and said that an effort was being made on the part of the British Consul to get me out of America, but I tell them openly that they will have to suffer a defeat. I do not wish to leave any country at the sacrifice of my conscience. I am not afraid of any Government. If I am turned out of this country I can make preparations for the Ghadr in any other country. The foundation of our Ashram and the Ghadr party is so strong that the work will not stop by my leaving the country. Otherwise I too shall have to go to Germany to make preparation for the future revolution, and therefore I do not mind.