

# Indian Opinion

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## — EDITORIAL —

### The Rice Industry

We are compelled to correct the wrong impression which was created by the broadcast address by the Secretary and Manager, Mr. H. F. Gadd of the Rice Marketing Board over Station ZFY, on Sunday 17th inst. Mr. Gadd stated that there are 73,000 acres under rice cultivation and that production reached 50,000 tons with exports totalling 25,000 tons. Mr. Gadd was connected with the rice industry since 1932, and he is now the chief executive officer, yet it is passing strange that he should give such incorrect figures. What is the reason for this officer to deliberately mislead his hearers? Is Mr. Gadd still in the pay of someone other than the Rice producers?

Let us examine the figures. According to the report of the Director of Agriculture, the export of rice last year was 17,180 tons and for the four war years, that is from 1940 to 1943, the average export was 15,058 tons per year. The average export of rice for the previous five years—1935—1939 was also 15,061 tons and for the five years 1930—34, 694 tons. It will be seen, therefore, that since Mr. Gadd took control of the Rice Industry with the able assistance of the Colonial Treasurer, the production has declined from 23,694 tons to 15,060 tons, yet Mr. Gadd has the temerity to say that exports are about 24,000 tons.

## India In Foreign Relations Picture

### U.S.A. And Great Britain In Indian Drama

A first-class international rumpus was in the making last week. The drama had an all-star cast: Franklin Roosevelt, Kentucky's Senator A. B. ("Happy") Chandler, Columnist Drew Pearson, Ambassador William Phillips, and a whole galaxy of silk-hat names cast in minor roles. And the drama had excellent suspense—no one could guess what would happen next.

The story began in May, 1943. Ambassador Phillips, just back in Washington from a 4-month mission to India as Franklin Roosevelt's personal representative, sent a letter to the President. He wrote:

"Indians feel that they have no voice in the Government and therefore no responsibility in the conduct of the

war. They feel that they have nothing to fight for...and wonder whether the Atlantic Charter is only for the benefit of the white race....

"The present Indian Army is purely mercenary...The attitude of the general public toward the war is ever worse. Lassitude and indifference and bitterness have increased...Even though the British should fail again, it is high time they should make an effort to improve conditions...It is time to act....

"I feel strongly, Mr. President, that in view of our military position in India, we should have a voice in these matters. It is not right for the British to say this is none of your business whom we alone presumably will have the major part to play in the struggle with Japan....

There were probably the strongest words ever penned by Ambassador Phillips in his 39 years as an impeccably correct, fashionable, circumspect career diplomat. The President kept the confidential report confidential. Ambassador Phillips next turned up in London, as chief political adviser to General Eisenhower.

### THE LION ROARS

Six weeks ago Columnist Pearson, who likes to rattle closeted skeletons, somehow got into this particular closet. He rattled loudly in his column, printing excerpts from the Phillips letter. Soon hints came from London that Ambassador Phillips would resign for "personal reasons." Delightedly, Columnist Pearson printed a report that the Phillips letter had caused roars of anger and up and down Downing Street. Said Pearson: the British had declared Ambassador Phillips *persona non grata*.

In Washington British Ambassador Lord Halifax issued a cold denial. Nevertheless, Ambassador Phillips resigned, effective Sept. 1, and was replaced last week by two old State

### Mohatma Gandhi Sees Mission to Moscow.

A special show was arranged in Bombay only for Mahatma Karamchand Gandhi and his near friends.

The picture selected was a story with an international political background. It was "Mission to Moscow."

It is believed that this the first talking picture Mahatma Gandhi has seen.

From our personal knowledge, the acreages given by the Director of Agriculture are worthless as the following figures will show. In 1941, the area under rice was reported by Professor Dash as 103,517 acres and in 1942, 98,418. The figures for 1943 are not yet available, but Mr. Gadd has now given the area under cultivation as 73,000 acres. Are the Director of Agriculture, The Colonial Treasurer, and the Rice Marketing Board reducing the area under rice? We call upon the Executive Government to investigate this matter without delay. We propose to deal with markets and other matters in our next and subsequent issues.

(To be continued)

Continued on Page 3

## Presidential Address at Annual Conference

BY JENARINE SINGH, PRESIDENT B. G. E. I. A.

"This organization has for over twenty-five years, established its unchallengable right to speak for all East Indians in British Guiana."

Cooperation between and amongst almost all Indian or predominantly Indian organizations and this Association has been a marked feature of this year."

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Since I became president, this is the first time that we have met in Georgetown. I am indeed happy to welcome you to this Conference. It is good for us to meet and I am happy to see such a great number of comrades, friends and veteran leaders of our people, assembled here with the fixed purpose of discussing the problems which face our people in this Colony. As I stand here today I want first to pay tribute to our predecessors some of whom are present here today and who strengthened and hearten us in this great struggle; a few are absent because of failing strength and energy and a few of them have already left us for the great beyond where they find peace after their labours. Equal tribute is also to be paid to those honourable men who have assisted, supported and guided these men in our task.

We have jointly inherited very many difficult problems of our people which tend to grow bigger and bigger as we grow older.

I am young, vigorous and strong and willingly I have taken the helm of the ship. I am prepared, with your support and cooperation to pilot the ship through any storm and weather.

Many distressing things have happened to us since our arrival on these shores and the more I contemplate them the more I am distressed and anguished, and it has become clear that from all these difficulties and hardships we have to forge our future. A future based on reality, and confidence.

Now we are all engrossed in British Guiana at the present time in (1) the Franchise, (11) relationship with respect to this colony and America, and (111) the world war.

With respect to the Franchise, Jamaica and Trinidad have been granted Universal Adult Suffrage and though strong forces are operating against us in British Guiana, we still have some hope, as there is a wider view today by which the Secretary of State for the Colonies is being guided; if we are not granted this essential part of our true rights then comrades and friends, I predict a very very ugly reception, for whatever else that may be pushed down our throats.

With regard to this colony and its relationship with America we welcome any closer ties that may tend to bring us nearer to that great democratic country, the U.S.A. The contact of our people with Americans has indeed led to a better understanding of their ideals and has clarified many misconceptions. We look forward to the time when there shall be a much closer relationship than at present.

Turning to the present world conflict, vast changes have come over the war situation both in Europe and the Pacific. The allies are masters of the situation everywhere, an early end is well within sight. This war which has been the greatest of all wars, has been fought to preserve democracy and to eradicate aggressor nations.

The effect of the present war on the Colonial peoples of whom we are an integral part, has been, an awakening of the desire of self determination wider responsibility, a feeling of co-operation among men, the necessity of economic independence and the abhorrence of certain type of capitalistic exploitation.

Undoubtedly wars will never cease, until there is a free world based on democratic principles and political, social and economic freedom. It is hoped that this aspect of the world would be kept continuously before the eyes of those who will sit at the peace Conference.

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The future of the people of the world, will depend on whether the present statesmen prefer wars where millions die and suffer every now and again, or whether they prefer to abolish poverty, misery and unemployment, by co-ordinating and pooling their resources together, for the progress and betterment of humanity the world over. Theirs is the responsibility. God and the future are our only hope.

Throughout the life of this Association it has endeavoured to help our people in every walk of life; helplessly it has watched its people labouring under the most miserable and intolerable conditions, only to resolve and steel itself to uproot these wretched conditions which borders very often on utter destitution.

The policy of the Association in regard to the disadvantages which the East Indians suffer is clear out and well defined. Most of them are embodied in the resolutions which will be discussed here today hitherto of solving them, were mainly directed towards pointing them out to Government, both here and in England, and to make pressure and influence bear. Whether this method of approach to our problems, warrants our continuing the same line of action is a matter of grave concern to us here today. The one important factor, which will enable us, to accomplish and press home our claims, lies in the power of the masses that back us; with a strong public opinion on our favour, a right and just cause on our side, and Gods will there should be no obstacle too great for us to surmount.

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weighty problems which confront the East Indian people in British Guiana; This organization has for over twenty-five years established its unchallengeable right to speak for all East Indian in British Guiana; it has faced grave problems and found means of solving them. This Association started with a band of men interested in the welfare of our people, and shortly after established itself as the Premier Indian Body, capable of exercising strong social, economic and political force. It grew bigger and stronger as the years progressed, it time and again faced inner conflicts among its members, retarded to some extent the rapid stride of advancement; but the desire and urge to push ahead was so great despite these setbacks, steady and determined progress followed to this day. There are certain definite changes desirable with regard to our own working constitution and system, which would enable us to make joint effective and disciplined action, on a country-wide scale on any matter; we shall have to find some means to get in closer contacts with the masses. The success of this organization will depend upon mass action and mass response to its calls. It is clear, that though the mass basis is there, it is not fully reflected in the organizational side, and shows a certain amount of weakness in our activities. This organization is definitely committed to the upliftment of the masses; and therefore, its entire strength and power depends on this Mass basis movement. We have to forge out plans, to make effective this primary objective of ours and give greater initiative, control and opportunities to the masses for their continuous activities in this organization. One step forward, I feel is to shape the constitution of this organization, in such a way, as to create room for affiliating other Indian Organizations to it, and thus make it, the most powerful and widest possible joint front; capable of moving the entire Indian Masses in any one issue. Inevitably

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this organization must be the foundation and pivot of united action.

Cooperation between and amongst almost all Indian or predominantly Indian organizations and this Association has been a marked feature of this year and all efforts are being made to welcome and encourage it.

The most urgent and vital need of Indians in British Guiana today is to coordinate all the Indian forces and present a united front. Within the Association itself most of these organizations are represented, and in spite of outlook, they are cooperating and working together for the common good.

This is certainly one of the most healthy signs both in the strength of our body and the unity that binds us together. The basis of it being the upliftment of our people socially, economically and politically.

These are the objectives before us, but we cannot ignore the present day realities and the day to day problems of our people. These ever present realities are the wretched and miserable conditions under which the majority of our people live and struggle. The Sugar Estates present the most outstanding contrast of life side by side, on the one hand you have a wasteful extravagance enjoyed by the management and but a little distance away starvation and utter destitution facing our people, from whose earning the extravagance is indulged in. Under the circumstances can our souls be in peace? Can we live and die in contentment with such horrible acts of exploitation taking place before our eyes to our own people?

How great are the sacrifices that our people give by their sweat and blood to provide superfluous living extravagances for the local Management and the absentee proprietors in England is only known to God.

No—my dear friends and Comrades, it's impossible for us to allow these conditions to continue; we shall carry on the struggle and shall march on and on having faith in God and the liberation of misery as our companions. We shall have to continue our journey with redoubled efforts until God wills success our way.

## Annual Conference

As was announced, the Annual Conference of the British Guiana East Indian Association took place at the B.G.E.I.C.C. pavilion. The president Mr. Jenarine Singh presided.

Representative Indians from all over the colony were present and leading members from all Indian organisations attended.

Ten resolutions were passed at the meeting, namely:—Loyalty to the Throne, Universal Adult Suffrage, Self Government for British Guiana, Youth Movement, Education, Indians in the Civil Service, Repatriation, Land Settlement, Elimination of Rumshops in Sugar Estates.

The conference started at 1.00 p.m. had a luncheon interval at 3.30 and then continued to 6.30 p.m. Details of Resolutions passed would be published later in this paper.

## India In Foreign Relations Picture

Continued from Page 1

Department hands, Robert Murphy and Samuel Reber (see below). The State Department denied that the moves had any relation to the Pearson charges.

Drew Pearson's charges were echoed and supported in the Senate last week by Kentucky's 'Happy' Chandler, whose foreign-policy thinking runs in remarkably parallel lines to the *Chicago Tribune*. 'Happy' Chandler is no Anglophile: 'To newsmen he handed what he said was a copy of a British Foreign Office cable, sent from the Department of External Affairs in India to London. It read: "The views [Phillips] has stated make it impossible for us to do other than regard him as *persona non grata*, and we could not again receive him. His views are not what we are entitled to expect from a professedly friendly envoy. The Viceroy has seen this telegram."

The telegram was undated; it had obviously been sent originally in cipher code. 'Happy' Chandler did not say how he had got it; he merely said it was his answer to Ambassador Lord Halifax.

TIME MAGAZINE

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## Capital Blunders Again

The Sugar Capitalists throw Their Weight  
Against Drainage and Irrigation Schemes.

BY THE WATCH DOG

The odds that Guianese have to fight for the development of their country agriculturally on the coastlands are enormous and almost unsurmountable under the present system of Government, where sugar wields such great influence and power both locally and in England.

The Sugar Capitalists have been carrying out a systematic undermining of the various schemes that have been put up for the draining and irrigating of the coastland. This has been done because they are definitely afraid of the fact that if proper drained and irrigated lands are available the present labourers would quit the sugar estates to toil for themselves.

It is understood in some quarters that there is a slight change of heart of our rulers in England towards the Colonials. In the case of British Guiana unfortunately there are strong influence and pressure which is being brought to bear in England to keep this Colony in such a state as to allow the Sugar Interests to continue exploiting our people.

Every Guianese is satisfied, that Sugar is the main bug bear of development in British Guiana, and all are satisfied that New Industries will only develop when Sugar's power is gone, but unfortunately the end seems to be far away. There is one factor nevertheless to which the writer wishes to lay emphasis, no East Indian Immigrant would ever come again to this colony as long as the

writer lives and that from now on all East Indians are being asked to prepare to leave British Guiana and return to their home land India. British Guiana has an unwelcome hand for East Indians as is being demonstrated at every turn.

### Classical and Colossal Misstatement of the Sunday Graphic

- (1) That the resident sugar worker gets five dollars weekly wage and free house,
- (2) That Sugar Plantations have been able to provide their working population with comfortable quarters.
- (3) That the sugar worker residing on the estate finds himself in a better position than his contemporary in the city.
- (4) That the labourers quarters on sugar estates eclipse many a peasant homestead.
- (5) That Public opinion has begun to raise its voice in condemnation of Government's Policy of Colonial development.

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## "One Flesh—One Brotherhood"

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- 1) When men first came upon the earth their shade was just the same,  
But with the ages rolling on many a difference came  
And so, when mankind went abroad into the distant lands  
The hair and skin their changes took from head to feet and hands.
- (2) There is no reason to believe there is a lower grade,  
For each has what the others have, for so they have been made,  
The common actions of all men, are always just the same  
Therefore no one can truly say, from somewhere else I came.
- (3) But men of every race on earth their differences do make,  
And he who is the mightier, considers himself great,  
And as with individuals nations do just the same,  
For their status on earth depends on power, wealth and fame.
- (4) Varieties reveal to man the Father wise and good,  
Who made all men of every shade, yet, one in brotherhood,  
When men shall realise this truth fully unto the end,  
Everyone who dwells upon the earth, will be his brother's friend.

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