

Indian Opinion

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— EDITORIAL —

Repatriation Of Indians

In our issue of June 24 we reproduced an article from "Time" Magazine, wherein it was pointed out that the Indian Government proposed to spend \$30,000,000,000 within fifteen years on a plan of industrialization. The man behind this scheme is Sir Ardeshir Dalal, one of the Directors of the Firm of Tata Sons, the great Industrialists of India, assisted by six others.

The scheme has as its goal:— double India's capital income; triple her national income, quintuple her industrial output; double her farm produce, and improve housing, education transportation, communication, health and sanitation.

We are heartened to think that Indian Industrialists and Leaders have at last thought of the backwardness of India and steps are being taken to raise the status of our Motherland in the same way the status of Russia has been raised within twenty years.

As regards the money that will be required to develop and industrialise India it was pointed out that Indians' savings are at least \$12,000,000,000 while there is at credit in London no less than \$4,000,000,000 which could be drawn on at once by the Government of India.

The pace Russia has set before the world should be a living example to India and China and we in this far off outpost can only hope and pray that

The People Of British Guiana

Living Under Wretched And Miserable Conditions

BY LIBERTY

Every Englishman would be horrified to learn of the conditions under which the people of British Guiana have to live and eke out an existence.

There is no denial to the fact that the Government has neglected the masses of British Guiana deliberately, so that they (the masses) could be thoroughly exploited by the British Capitalist (the sugar vested interests).

There can be no justice in a Christian Government when ninety-nine out of every hundred family live in dire want of food, clothing and housing.

There can be no fairplay by a Government to the people over which it rules when that Government has no plans to settle the people on the land and make available to their machines, tools and Capital with which they could usefully employ their energy.

The British Sugar Capitalist has a considerable influence on the local and Imperial Governments; and its rule over British. The Sugar Capitalist is interested in declaring large profits on their investments, this is only possible by fully exploiting cheap labour; this in turn depends on creating and maintaining enforced idleness. Consequent-

ly there exists a policy of maintaining conditions under which a large percentage of the people are landless and unemployed.

This is the age of potential abundance yet in British Guiana conditions of utter misery and poverty exists.

The conditions under which the people of British Guiana live definitely a shame on the British Government and the British Empire.

Certainly the Englishman would not be proud of these conditions under which the people live. Certainly the Englishman cannot be proud to learn that these miserable and starving conditions are to be thrown on his shoulders as the one ultimately responsible for its existence.

It is definitely wrong for the whole British nation to suffer any degree of culpability just because a mere handful of men skillfully exploit the sweat and blood of an entire people. This is the case with the few capitalists residing in Britain who exploit beyond human imagination the people of British Guiana.

I ask every Englishman whether he will permit these conditions to continue, and when exploitation is the source of the Wealth of Nations if this is the case, what is the result to the people?

our National Leaders will copy the Russian example. Have the Indians less brains than the Russians? Is India not fit to take a place among the great nations of the World? These questions are left for our Leaders in India to answer.

Our forefathers have been brought to British Guiana, Trinidad, Jamaica and Dutch Guiana with the approval of our Leaders in India under conditions approximating to slavery. The Colonial Governments have not held the conditions under which our fathers were brought to this and our sister Colonies. What national Leaders going to India can they not find a way in the New India for 300,000 Indian Repatriates?

(To be

continued)

admission
classification
of British

World

BY THE WAY

The preservation of the present peace is of unequalled importance. Several plans have been given full consideration and one of them definitely the world is still nations and cease to placate other's throats and...

The Struggle For Education

BY OBSERVER

There is no gainsaying to the fact that the present educational system of British Guiana is rotten to the core.

Several attempts have been made to change the present defective system and introduce Government owned schools but have all failed.

It seems that the Clergy, the Capitalists and the local government have decided to withhold as much as possible any proper form of constructive education from the masses in order to continue their exploitation of these Self Same people.

The exists compulsory education in British Guiana; but unfortunately the opportunities and access to educational institutions are very sparse meagre and wanting, especially in the usual areas; so that this talk of compulsory education is highly dangerous and misleading.

Absence of proper organized schools to the rural cultural chaos. This would sooner or later lead to destruction of the very things they are supposed to preserve.

World Peace

Continued from page 1

life out of each other. This state of affairs is certainly not conducive to anything like proper civilization and understanding among men.

There is the question of certain rules and principles under which war is waged for e.g. poison gas must not be used by one nation against another. Similarly red cross units are supposed to be free from attack by the belligerents. Now this seems to be so much nonsense why not outlaw war itself altogether.

The question of outlawing wars brings us to the point as to the reasons why wars are fought and whether they are at all necessary.

The reasons why there are wars between nations are chiefly due in recent times to want poverty and competition. It is necessary therefore that if wars are to be forgotten and outlawed then there must be a relative freedom from want poverty and subjection of the peoples of the world. There must be the pooling of the resources of the nations to stamp out hunger and poverty. Just as there must also be the freedom from subjection of all nations and peoples of the world so that there can be a true equality among men.

If want and subjection are illuminated then the nations can be reassured of a lasting peace. Almost among all the nations there is a continuous suspicion of each other based on greed and self preservation which leads eventually to disastrous consequences as that suspicion or greed actually takes shape and advances.

India's Need For Strong Air Force

Governor's Call To Youth

The need for young Indians to join the Indian Air Force which, though it had proved equally illustrious to the Indian Army in valour, was far below the strength needed was urged by His Excellency the Governor of Bombay in an address to a Passing-Out Parade at the Officers' Cadets' Training Wing, R.A.F. at Poona on June 23

After congratulating the cadets on having successfully concluded their preliminary training and on their steadiness and fine bearing on parade, Sir John Colville said that from what he had seen he had been able to judge

that the Indian Air Force was getting men worthy of the high standard it had set in the first decade of its existence.

"Now you are going out from this Training Wing to Flying Training Schools, to learn to fly," His Excellency continued, "when at last you pilot your own planes and are airborne on your first solo flight, masters of your own aircraft, you will get a tremendous thrill of confidence and satisfaction, a feeling of exhilaration, which, I can well believe, only a pilot can experience. You will then know that all your hard work has been rewarded."

"The Indian Air Force has made a very good start, and we have read quite a lot about the good work which the Indian Air Force has done on the Burma Front. Only a short while ago one of the Squadron Commanders—Squadron Leader Mehar Singh—was awarded the Distinguished Service Order, and you will find numerous other examples of such outstanding bravery. Again, a number of Indian Pilots have gone on to England, and are actually serving with British Squadrons in England."

India has been renowned for centuries for her fighting men, and the traditions of the Indian Army go back for many years. The use of air power is a new development in the art of war, but, if the present struggle has taught us anything, it is that the Air Arm has come to stay and that its intervention can be decisive. India, therefore must match her Army with an Air Force equally illustrious and strong in proportion to her need. Equally illustrious to the Army in valour the Indian Air Force has certainly proved itself to be, but in strength it is far below the minimum which India can safely permit herself. Not enough young men are coming forward for Commissions in the Indian Air Force.

"I speak today through you, therefore, to a wider audience, when I say that, unless the trial blazed by the Foundation Squadrons of the Indian Air Force is followed up, unless the example of patriotism and devotion which you men have shown in coming forward is emulated, the Air Arm of India must be weaker than India's magnificent Army deserves, and less than her safety can permit. As for the Royal Air Force, so for the Indian Air Force, only the best are good enough—young men of good education, sound physique, and steady nerve. It is to young men such as these that I appeal today to follow you."

(To be continued)

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India And The British Commonwealth

BY SIR GIRJA SHANKAR BAJPAI
Agent General for India In The United States

(Continued from last issue)

There is so much in common between Britons and Indians today, that it would be a misfortune for both if memories of the past alone were to determine their future relations. Honor on both sides should be satisfied, once equal partnership is attained, India's political ideology, Indian aims of social and economic reform, Indian civil and criminal law, the Indian judicial system, to mention only a few of the formative and stabilizing forces of an organized polity, have source in the traditions, the literature and the the practice of Great Britain. The speech of political leadership in India is English; English is also the medium of intercourse among persons belonging to different linguistic groups, the medium of scientific and much other scholarly expression, in brief, a unifying influence within and a cultural link with the outside world. If it be true that man fulfils himself through his ideals and language, there exists, already, an indissoluble bond between India and the English-speaking peoples. But in the association of peoples, self-interest plays an even more important part than community of language and ideals. Can the argument for India remaining in the British Commonwealth be sustained from the standpoint of India's interest? For her prosperity and progress, India needs two things: security and unity; indeed security and unity are interrelated. A fragmented India cannot be a strong India and congeries of individually weak Indian States, possibly distrustful of one another, will be a temptation to every aggressive power.

Two conclusions suggest themselves.

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If the present communal differences in the country are a bar to Indian unity, one, perhaps the only possible device of preserving unity through some sort of federation or even confederation is the retention of a common allegiance to the British Crown. In Canada and South Africa, the Crown has helped to unify different races. It is the Crown that cements and symbolizes the unity of Great Britain and the Dominions. May not the Crown help to bridge the gulf between Hindus and Moslems between the India now comprised in the Provinces and the India of the Princes?

The other conclusion is that what is true in respect of Indian unity as an instrument of defense is, a *fortiori*, truer of India's continued association with the British Commonwealth. In spite of her large population and economic wealth, much of it still undeveloped, India is a long way from military self-sufficiency. Her three-thousand mile coastline needs a powerful navy for its adequate protection. The development of aviation, and mechanized warfare generally, has increased rather than reduced her vulnerability. A completely independent India must augment the means and personnel of her defense many times in excess of her prewar forces, multiply, several fold its coast. Can she afford to dedicate to the production of guns, resource which are needed primarily for the production of butter to feed a sadly undernourished population? Once the question of political status is out of the way, the choice between guns and butter should hardly admit of any hesitation.

True, an independent India may have other alliances open to her. But historically, while it is true that new combinations and political groupings have often been tried, it is also true that whenever their *raison d'être* has been the establishment of a balance of power, the resulting peace has precarious and war its culmination. The present war will have been fought in vain if its only legacy is a truce between rival groups of mutually suspicious States. One must fervently strive and hope for a world in which the nations now united in defense of democracy remain united to preserve the fruits of their victory. Should that come to pass, India and the British Commonwealth would be part of a wider system, friendly partners in that system, but no less conscious of the greater strength the

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Mrs Sankar Ali Is Matron Of British Military Hospital In Trinidad

The chief Matron of the British Military Hospital in Trinidad is Mrs Sankar Ali.

Mrs Ali is the wife of Dr. Sankar Ali, Trinidad's Deputy Director of Sanitary Services.

Mrs Ali has attended to more than fifteen hundred soldier patients from all parts of the Caribbean since she is Matron at the Institution.

they can contribute to it through their own solidarity.

This article will have failed in its purpose if it leaves the reader with the impression that India's continued association with the British Commonwealth would only be to India's advantage. If India needs the Commonwealth, the Commonwealth needs India no less. Twice, within a quarter of a century, India's prompt aid has proved a timely bulwark against disaster. Major wars now tend to become global in surface and circumference. To any scheme of Commonwealth defense, India's strategic position and resources in material and men must be of vital importance. The Battle of Britain, to cite a concrete instance, might have failed to preserve the integrity of the Commonwealth if Indian Divisions and Indian supplies had not helped to break the assault of the Axis on the strategic arch of the Middle East. How much harder would final defeat of Japan be if the British Commonwealth and the United States could not use India as a springboard for the first offensive moves in Southeast Asia? Some facts of geography and history are timeless; they do not alter.

But morally the Commonwealth needs India even more than it needs her militarily. The concept of Commonwealth as an institution of pervasive freedom must remain incomplete so long as freedom can, with some show of reason, be represented as a prerogative of kinship. India provides, on a scale unprecedented in history, the test of freedom broader based than kinship. If the Commonwealth satisfies the test, may not the Commonwealth, India, indeed mankind see in this synthesis a new strong hope for lasting peace and good will on this earth?

Letters to the Editor

Pln. Albion
Barbice
11/10/44

B. G. E. I. Association,
Georgetown.

Sir,

I shall be much obliged if you should give publication of this little article in your Weekly Organ.

Y. M. I. A. MARCHES ON!

"Our Reading" by Ameen A. Samad (Albion)

Reading lets us into the inhaustible storehouse of literature. It serves as a guide to the acquisition of knowledge and also as an entertainment. It is necessary that we should have a general love for reading and if we have not the love we would lose the great treasures contained in great books. At School reading involves the laborious study of Text books which are beneficial for school purposes. But when we leave school we do reading of a more general character.

This wider reading is a means by which we may increase our knowledge and stimulate our imagination. We are able to acquire new experiences learn of more things—and learn more about them. This general reading contributes to a profitable employment of leisure; it broadens our sympathies and enlarges our minds and thus delivers us from our narrow views.

The variety of reading matters are wide. Every person has his own favourites e.g. some are interested in history, some in biography, some in fiction and some in poetry. By reading we build for ourselves a gold mine from which the mind can freely draw.

To satisfy our appetites for reading a library is an absolute necessity. Thanks to the members of the Young Men's Improvement Association in building a library which can supply not only a store house of informations but also readings for recreation.

Thanking you in anticipation

I beg to be Sir

Your Humble Servant.

G D NAUTH, President

P.S.—Information concerning "Indian Literatures" is highly appreciated, so I am looking out for same.

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The Editor:

Indian Opinion

Sir,

The present undesirable educational system of British Guiana provides the most haphazard manner of building the future education and outlook of the people of British Guiana.

Recommendations have been time and again made by impartial investigators, pointing out the failings and deficiency of the present system and the dire need to have government School; but nevertheless the Government have persisted in the same old system.

I cannot help but feel that there is something wrong with the advisers of Government, may be, some of these advisers are grinding their own axes and therefore do not care to implement a system of education which will benefit the masses.

I feel nevertheless that the people of British Guiana have had the local and Imperial Government pushing so much of everything down their throats that they have grown tired of asking for any improvement and view everything with apathy; May be in the next hundred years or so, we shall have Government Schools. The present educational system is a direct shame on the local and Imperial Governments and the sooner that the administration takes step to have a proper educational system, the better it would be for all concerned.

All this talk of social welfare is so much nonsense if we cannot have a government capable of educating the people in the country.

Kindly give this matter an early publication

Yours faithfully

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AGENTS

Dr Rambarran Visits The Colony

ALSO VISITS RICE EXPANSION SCHEME

Dr Rambarran of British Guiana was on a short visit to this colony, and was a guest at the Park Hotel.

He left the City after paying a visit to the Mahaicony Abary Rice Expansion Scheme.

It is also stated that he was accompanied on his visit to Mahaicony by Mr Harold Gadd, Manager of the British Guiana Rice Marketing Board.

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