

# Indian Opinion

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ONE PENNY

**INDIAN OPINION:** Items of news interest and Literary contributions must be addressed to P.O. BOX 43, Georgetown, B.G. Features and other items appearing in this journal do not necessarily represent the views of the Editorial Board. The editorial column reflects the policy of the British Guiana East Indian Association.

## — EDITORIAL —

### Will Fairplay And Justice Be Extended To The Masses ?

It must be admitted that the interest of the masses in this country have been, (speaking without any exaggeration) completely ignored. This is a very wide statement to make, but the facts are clear.

It is one thing to sit in the Legislative Council and talk about the problems of the masses—it is another thing to know these problems, not in the casual way they are often mentioned, but in the light they really affect the masses. It's one thing to be born in independent circumstances, —living in a modern cottage in healthy surroundings, and provided with all the luxuries and necessities of life.

It's another thing to see a family of six or eight (sometimes more) occupying a fifteen-foot-square window-less, and partly roof-less building just ten or twelve feet away from the constant obnoxious smell of a pig pen.

These and even worse health conditions do exist in the villages and plantations of this colony.

Representations relative to housing and other necessities relative to a healthy rural life have often been made to Government, to the proprietors of sugar plantations, and in many cases, to the owners of smaller estates and the Administrators of Villages.

Some of these parties have time and again "solemnly" pledged themselves to consider the representations. Others appointed commissions that did make practical recommendations only to have them shelved.

Others yet adopted camouflage tactics.

## Indian Community Attacked By Daily Argosy

### O. S. W. Objects To Indian Nationalism

The Daily Argosy of Sunday July 2 in its Editorial by O.S.W. has stupidly and without logic or cause gone out of its way to disturb the peace and harmony of the races inhabiting British Guiana and further O.S.W. has made unwarranted attacks on the Indian Community. Apparently O. S. W. dislikes and objects to Indian Nationalism very strongly both in India itself and British Guiana but for his information and guidance let it be made as clear as possible that Indians the world over realize that they are today a subject people, that today they are in serfdom and are being subjected to humiliation and shame because of this condition; but let this be also clear and precise to O.S.W. that it is impossible for the present condition of Indians to continue for much longer no matter who will have it or not. The Indian Nation has shown its determination and will to survive as a Nation and not millions like O.S.W. and his associates can prevent Indians from being

Nationalists. Poor fellow O.S.W. to think that he can stop nearly 400 million people from behaving and acting as they choose. The time has come when Indians are awakening from their sleep are claiming by all the forces at their command, independence of the soul, as represented by their country. As the matter stands now, nothing anyone can do, will stop India from becoming an Independent Nation. At the present time it is the determination of 400 million people and the Will of God. We are grateful nevertheless for reminders such as O.S.W.'s because it makes our determination stronger, our will to survive greater and places a greater premium on our goal. Indians of British Guiana will daily become more nationalistic, their blood boils with Indian Nationalism to which they are perfectly entitled and today they demand a proper place in the affairs of British Guiana where they are the majority and the country depends on them for its existence; whether it is to the liking of O.S.W. or not.

### O.S.W. And Indian Nationalism

The Editor Indian Opinion  
Dear Sir,

The Editorial by O.S.W. 'On Pulling Together' started with the M.P.C.A. and Mr. Churchill flew at a tangent, and landed like a parachute jumper on the Indian Community's neck of British Guiana and Indians the world

Never-the-less these problems remain the same.

Living conditions as we see them in our people reflect nothing but discredit and disgrace to the good name of our Empire.

It is time for Government to handle this situation.

The situation presents a challenge to our Churches.

Continued on page 3

over. I don't know this O.S.W.; I wonder to what race he belongs that I may tell him something also, or is it that he is one of those on which no tag could be fitted. Anyway Mr Editor I think he is very silly to think he can stop Indians from feeling nationalistic, after all it is our own blood that we claim and proclaim, but one thing he has let out the bag and that is when he said 'we don't want to have to exclude any section.' I wonder what he really means? Certainly he couldn't mean keeping Indians out of the affairs of British Guiana to a greater extent than at present. Mr. O.S.W. seems to have forgotten that Indians having built the economic fabric of the country today demand their proper place in B. G. they do not beg it.

INDIAN NATIONALIST

## Social and Personal

### MAHATMA GANDHI AND RABINDRANATH TAGORE

The INDIAN OPINION will present to its readers in next Saturday's issue an interesting life-story of the world-famed Indian poet Rabindranath Tagore. This great patriot it will be recalled died in, 1942. His loss was described by Mahatma Gandhi as a blow to civilisation.

\*

### MR. BADRI NAUTH THIRTY-FIVE YEARS OF GOVERNMENT SERVICE

The INDIAN OPINION congratulates Mr Badri Nauth on his recent promotion to a higher office in the British Guiana Civil Service. Mr. Nauth is deserving of the promotion since he has already given thirty-five years of service with Government.

He is also widely travelled in England and the United States of America.

\*

### SIXTY-THREE YEARS OLD PUNJABEE DIES AT ANANDALE

Mr. Ameer Khan of Plantation Anandale East Coast Demerara died at his residence on Monday night last.

He is a native of India who came to the colony forty years ago.

It is believed that Mr. Khan is a Punjabee. He is 63 years old.

Mr. Khan leaves to mourn a wife, a son and three daughters.

\*

### THE INDIAN SECTION AND A SOCIAL EVIL

The INDIAN-section of New Amsterdam welcome the formation of the British Guiana Temperance Society. It is felt in many responsible quarters that such an organisation is long overdue.

Something should be done to curb the drinking habit which is gaining ground. It is a social evil to the community.

\*

### MR. YASSIM PRESIDES AT CORENTYNE FUNCTION.

The Parent-Teachers' Association of Skeldon, Corentyne Berbice recently held a presentation function in honour of the headteacher Mr. George T. Trim of the Scotts School.

The President Mr. M. Yassim presided.

The address delivered by Dr. W. W. Besson G.M.O. of the district was interpreted into Hindi by Mr. Kaliaan.

A vote of thanks was moved by Mr. W. C. Armogon and seconded by Mr. J. Sadool.

## Wakenaam Residents Want Government School

OPEN LETTER TO HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR

[CONTINUED FROM LAST NUMBER]

An examination of the annual successes of the present school at the P.S.L.C. Examination and Primary Scholarship Examination and the Teachers' Certificate and appointment Examinations will reveal to Government the grounds of dissatisfaction existing at the moment. As we write we are authoritatively informed that, at last, the Methodist Body has decided to remove the present Head Teacher, but will this solve the present problem? Certainly not. Since the school means so much to the education of the Children of the Island—the future men and women of that district, are the people not justified in asking for a Government School? Can Government reasonably brush aside such an important matter and plead lack of Funds, when the people in the interest of the education of their children are prepared to do so much towards the erection of the said building?

The grievances of these unfortunate people who are doing so much to supply our demands for coconuts, and ground-provisions "cry aloud" for action and will Government continue to sit unconcerned keeping faith with the particular Governing Body or the Director of Education while the entire residents of the Island continue

to go into their pockets to pay to run their own School.

How can the Director of Education or the Methodist Body defend the policy of keeping a Head Teacher 21 years in such a District against the wishes of the people just because the Head Teacher is useful in other branches of local administration—Chairman of a Village Council, Member of a Loan Bank, Justice of the Peace etc.

It is a known fact that all Head Teachers would like to be near to Georgetown. Can the Methodist Body or the Director of Education explain why this Head Teacher would do anything to remain in Wakenaam all the time? The people want an interested Head Teacher who will pay attention to his school and not one who is all-day out of school, inspecting kokers and roads attending meetings and conferences and collecting rents and supervising coconut estates.

It is the hope of the residents of Wakenaam that His Excellency the Governor will soon visit the Island and satisfy himself on the spot of the justification of the necessity of a Government School at Wakenaam to provide the educational services which has been denied this Island for the past 25 years.

Yours Vox Populi

## How Subhas Chandr Bose Escaped From India To Berlin

Aided By Italian Government

FORMER CONGRESS PRESIDENT NOW IN BURMA.

This Indian Nationalist is the most popular politician Bengal has ever known. He is the only individual who it can be said virtually defeated Mahatma Gandhi over a domestic question in India. He is also a former President of the Indian National Congress.

### PANDIT GOVIND PERSAUD TIWARI IN TOWN

Pandit Govinda Persaud Tiwari of Plantation Lusignan, East Coast was in the City during the present week. The Pandit is very much interested in whatever work the British Guiana East Indian Association has been doing during the past twenty-six years. He is the Hindu Priest in Charge of the Temple at Richardstown.

How the Oxford-educated lawyer escaped from India to reach Berlin was first told in the American Press.

Subhas was under virtual internment in Bombay. His escape was aided by the Italian Government which at that time was not at war with Britain.

Bose pretended to have given up politics, and was declared to be insane. For some months his name was not even mentioned in India. One day he boarded an Italian plane at Karachi and travelled to Italy. He was next heard speaking over the Berlin Radio. Since the Japanese occupation of Singapore, Burma, and the British and American East Indies, he is said to have toured the entire area.

Presently Subhas Chandr Bose is reported to be on the Burma frontier.

## Ground Provision Prices

The Legislative Council Food Production Committee and the British Guiana East Indian Association met recently on two occasions to discuss the present maximum prices as fixed by the Government for ground provision etc. Very useful information was exchanged and the general prices reviewed.

The recommendation made will receive the attention of Government and further discussion has ceased for six months when the matter would be reopened for discussion and the whole situation reviewed.

## Indians and The Youth Council

### ADMINISTRATION REMAINS UNMOVED

### NO INDIAN STILL ON COMMITTEE

The Indian Community views with grave concern the Administration's adamant attitude with respect to not appointing a single Indian to the Youth Council. Repeated requests have failed, the entire Indian Community remains baffled and are beginning to protest at His Excellency's attitude with regard to this question. This is a matter in which 45% of the population of British Guiana has been cast aside and today request that this grave wrong be remedied.

## British Guiana And The Post War

As far as little British Guiana is concerned it is wondered whether she can really fit into the new world order that is so enthusiastically awaited after the present war. To the thinking men of British Guiana outside the capitalistic group the problem is unique and the horizon black as pitch. It seems that for a very long time to come the capitalistic exploitation of man will continue in this land. It seems British Guiana is doomed to be "unbelievably poor, unbelievably filthy, wretched and miserable." These are the sad omens which hang above the masses of British Guiana. Today the English Nation, to whom we are subjected, is fighting for its very existence we give our all freely to see that she survives victorious but even while she struggles on we look aghast at our own condition; we a miserable people half clad, half starved and homeless clinging to principles, saying we must not demand radical changes while the struggle is on, it is wondered whether the British Nation will remember our misery in her moment of triumph? We all hope

## Vice Roy Of India and Mr. Jinnah to meet Mahatma Gandhi

### CONFERENCE OVER POLITICAL SITUATION

### HOUSE OF PARLIAMENT DISCUSSION

It is believed that a Conference between the Vice-Roy of India, Mahatma Gandhi and the famous lawyer Mohamed Ali Jinnah will be held shortly.

There are also indications that the British Government and Indian Nationalists are negotiating with a view to reaching a settlement of the political situation.

Mr Gandhi has invited the Muslim leader Mr Jinnah to meet him to discuss agreement between the Muslims and Hindus. Mr Gandhi first wrote to Mr Jinnah suggesting the meeting a year ago but his letter was stopped because at that time he was under detention and was not allowed contact with the outside world. Mr Gandhi has now renewed his request for a meeting with Mr Jinnah and a Reuter message from Bombay says it is likely that they will meet there next month. In the House of Commons today a Labour member Mr Sainwell asked the Secretary for India if he had noticed the report that Mr Gandhi was willing to meet members of the Muslim party. In view of this Mr Sainwell wanted to know if we could not make a new approach to the Indian problem.

Mr Amery said if that were the situation he was sure that the Viceroy would take advantage of it.

## Civil Service

### NOT A SINGLE INDIAN ON SELECTION COMMITTEE

The fact that there is not a single Indian on the Selection Committee of the Civil Service has no doubt been responsible for the paucity of Indians on the Civil Service of British Guiana. The general manner in which Indians are treated by the Administration of British Guiana is beyond imagination. How can nearly half the people of a country be forgotten in such matters and remain unchanged to date seems a miracle. Would this at all help this country or would it retard its progress. We ask this of all the thinking men and women of British Guiana and we ask this of the administration?

she will, and finally believe she will not forget us but if she does as is sounded in some quarters that let us hope there will never be another War, for then the colonies like B.G. will forget her; and rats will abandon a rotten and sinking ship.

## Will Fairplay And Justice Be Extended To The Masses?

Continued from page 1

It is all right to have the Churches, the Temples and the Mosques painted and kept clean and neat.

A church or a temple or a mosque should be no different.

But if the leaders of religion sincerely believe that the Church of God is within a man's heart, then they should preach to Government that all necessary steps be taken to keep in a neat and clean condition the body that houses that heart.

The situation presents a multiple problem.

It calls for a solution which will provide every child born in poor circumstances with at least an elementary education and some vocational training. It calls for the provision of sanitary housing accommodation for those who live in human "pig-pens" as well as those who through no fault of their own sleep on pavements and shop bridges in the nights.

The situation calls for a solution which will afford every citizen to live a life free from malaria and free from war.

Government and all concerned must admit that the masses in this country have been rather charitable and Christianlike in their behaviour, to accept the hand of fate and live as they do, while they continue to be generous patriotic and kind. Will the fairplay and justice so often preached to them be ever in reality extended to their advantage?

## Freedom From Want And Freedom From Fear

Model condition exists of above in sugar estates B. G. the land where "man die faster than they are born" suffers untold misery because of human exploitation by capital. This is truly the land where the Four Freedoms of President Roosevelt is required urgently especially (1) Freedom from Want and (2) Freedom from Fear.

Want as expressed in malnutrition Want as expressed in half nakedness, Want as expressed by a 12x12 feet room as homes for a whole family and want as expressed by insanitary surroundings and lack of medical care.

Fear as expressed by constant victimization, and Fear as expressed by brutal slaughter of men and women whenever they rightfully demand more wages. Will and can the victorious allied nation remedy these conditions or are we fighting to preserve them?

## Is This British Justice ?

Bissoon a cattle-owner of Mahaica was reprimanded and ordered to pay analysts costs \$1.20 by Mr. G. M. Farum L.L.B. on Monday 26th inst at Mahaica Magistrate's Court on a charge instituted against him for selling a sample of milk to the police which was deficient in butter fat to the extent of 65.9 percent.

The police admitted that the cows were milked in their presence and Bissoon had no opportunity of extracting any fat out of it.

## Canje Rose Hall Hindi School

The Editor,  
"Indian Opinion,"

Sir,

In reading a list of subscription in aid of Pln. Rose Hall Hindi School, published on the 27th May 1944 issue of the Indian Opinion, we felt, that the people of Pln. Rose Hall have awakened at last. The need for a school in which Hindi can be taught is an important necessity of the Indian community.

It has become known now from reliable sources, that there is no Hindi School, and the money collected would be used in helping the estate to erect a "Creche," which can be borrowed by the people to teach Hindi in the night if they care to.

We feel that it is not fair on the part of the "school building fund committee," to collect money from the people for building a Hindi School, when the money collected would be handed over to the estate for an "Estate Creche."

Yours  
WATCHFUL

## Onions Sold At 28 Cents Per Pound

Canal No 1 Folder,  
West Bank Demerara,  
21st June 1944

The Editor Indian Opinion.

Sir,

I respectfully beg you to publish in the valuable columns of your weekly issue. The Black marketing prices of goods sold by all shop-keepers in Canal No 1. I beg to call the attention of the officers concerned to take an immediate step to relieve us from these "killing-out" prices in this area. The shop-keepers are selling flour at 5c. per lb, split peas at 14c. to 16c. per pint, onion at 28c. per lb, garlic 32c. per lb, saltfish 28c. per lb, and potatoes at 12c. per lb.

I also beg to call the attention of the Police Department to take an immediate step to stop the selling of rum from non-licence bars, which are being called coffee bars. These bars encourage our young generation to

## India's Role In International Economic Arrangements

### THREE DELEGATES IN UNITED STATES

The three Indian delegates attending a monetary Conference in the United States have explained that up to now the Asiatic Countries have not had adequate representation in international economic arrangements.

The three delegates now in America are Dr. B.R. Aden, Mr. A. D. Sburoff and Sir Chintaman Deshnukh.

The party explained that India is interested in raising the standard of life of its millions of inhabitants. This can only be done by large industrialisation of the country. These improvements will necessitate some international arrangements under which India could secure the necessary materials.

## Mr Herbert Katchay Die At The Public Hospitals

54 YEAR OLD EAST COAST SICKNURSE AND DISPENSER.

(INDIAN OPINION CORRESPONDENT)

The INDIAN-OPINION regret to record the death of Mr. Herbert Katchay of Plantation La Bonne Intention which occurred at the Public Hospital Georgetown at about midnight on Thursday 29th last.

Mr. Katchay was a Sicknurse and Dispenser attached to the La Bonne Intention-Hospital.

He was born in the year 1890 at Agricola East Bank, and was educated at St. Anne's Anglican School. As a Dispenser he worked under the Rockefeller Foundation Hookworm Campaign. He also went to India once.

Mr. Katchay leaves to mourn a widow (Mrs. Katchay) and their four sons and three daughters to whom the INDIAN OPINION tenders its deepest sympathy.

## Building To House Hindi School At Richmond

Funds for a Hindi School at Richmond Essequibo are being collected. An organisation has been formed to take charge of the work. Mr John Ramcharan is President. Lutchman, Vice-President, Mohabeer Singh, Secretary, Ramroop, Treasurer, together with Ramdass, Basdeo, Osman, Lillman, Baggage and Boodhwah.

drink rum and to behave disorderly. There are about five bars and the bar owners generally keep their rum in the coffee-walk.

RAMANANDA.

## India's Valuable Help To Soviet Russia

WARM TRIBUTE FROM BAGHDAD

INDIAN HEROISM PRAISED

The "Al Iraq", an Iraqi paper of Baghdad, pays a warm tribute to India's contribution in the economic sphere of the United Nations war effort.

"The free world," it says "has paid full tribute to the heroism of India's fighting men and the campaigns of Abyssinia and Africa have added new and imperishable honours to their already magnificent military record, but India is playing on the home front, too, a part which is proving of inestimable value to the war effort as a whole."

After describing how India supplied the African armies with the major part of their requirements and supplies, "Al Iraq" goes on:

"If supplying the Mid-East armies with stores had been India's only contribution in the economic sphere of the United Nations it would still have been a worthy one, but India has done far more."

"We know also that India's assistance to the Soviet has been on a grand scale ever since the Nazi invasion of the Russian soil. India has proved herself a faithful ally and a generous neighbour in the time of war and her effort will not be forgotten by her comrades-in-arms in the days of peace which are to follow."

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