

Indian Opinion

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— EDITORIAL

The Colony's Expenditure

In 1933 the Colony's total annually recurrent expenditure was \$4,986,829. The expenditure in 1943 was \$8,427,692 and the estimated expenditure for 1945, according to the 1945 Estimate is \$10,698,176. It will be seen, therefore, that the normal Expenditure of the Colony has more than doubled itself since 1933.

According to the Budget Statement by the Colonial Treasurer, the estimated deficit for 1945 is placed at \$960,393, but he stated that the figure may exceed the million dollar mark by the time the estimates are revised and passed by the Legislative Council during the next few weeks.

Are we justified then in stating that the Colony is heading to bankruptcy? We are convinced that we are justified and the present administration can be trusted to place this unfortunate Crown Colony in that position.

Our people have been the "hewers of wood and the drawers of water" for over a century and it is time all concerned realise that the Indians are not going to allow our rulers here and elsewhere to continue to exploit them for the benefit of others.

The Industries of the Indians have been ruined by Government's interference and administrative incompetence. Let us give a few indisputable facts.

Who Comes First In British Guiana

Sugar Interest Or The Inhabitants?

The political and administrative machinery of British Guiana has but only two divisions:—

(1) Those that belong to the Sugar Industrialist with its intricate network of exploitation of the people of British Guiana, and

(2) Those that have their interests in the colony, ranging from the local capitalist to the masses and labouring class.

The people of this country have been accustomed in the past, with

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The exports of the following commodities during the period 1933 and 1944 were as follows:—

	1933	1943
Rice, tons	29,092	17,180
Coffee "	510	Nil
Copra, "	921	Nil
Cattle, head	458	Nil
Pigs, head	413	Nil
Plantains, bunches	38,583	2
Coconut Oil, gallons	19,962	858
Coconuts, No.	1,748,175	Nil

The production of other crops for local consumption has been greatly reduced also, thus reducing the earning capacity of our people. We regret to place on record further that we can see little or no prospects for an improvement during the next few years although there is great scope for increasing the production of food and livestock of every kind both for local consumption and for export to our neighbours in the West Indies.

Although the Colony's expenditure has almost trebled itself during the last 25 years, the Government has been unable to find suitable lands in this colony to settle permanently a single individual. Housing in certain parts of the colony is a disgrace to any civilised country in the world. Pure Water Supply is totally absent in certain Settlements not ten miles from the city of Georgetown and on the whole there is little or no concern by the Government for the welfare of the large majority of our people in this colony.

Is it any use for our people to continue to live in a British colony that is financially bankrupt and bankrupt of progressive statesmanship and administration?

Indian Scientists To Visit U. K.

Invitations on behalf of His Majesty's Government are being extended to seven Indian scientists to visit England for six weeks to meet and have discussions with various scientific bodies.

The scientists to be invited are: DR. SIR S. S. BHATNAGAR, F.R.S. Director of Scientific and Industrial Research, and President-elect of the Indian Science Congress, DR. S. K. MITRA, Chairman, Radio Research Committee of the Board of Scientific and Industrial Research, and Secretary; Indian Science Congress Association, COL S. L. BHATIA, Deputy Director General, Indian Medical College and Superintendent of the J.J. Groups of Hospitals, Bombay; SIR PHEROZE KHAREGAT, Vice-Chairman, Imperial Council of Agricultural Research; SIR J. C. GHOSH, Head of the Indian Institution of Science, Bangalore, Chemical Technologist and President of the National Institute of Sciences of India; PROE. M. N. SAHA, F.R.S., Professor of Physics in the University of Calcutta, astrophysicist and Editor of *Science and Culture*; and DR. A. LAKSHMANASWAMI MUDALLAR, Vice-Chancellor, Madras University, and a Member of the Health Survey and Development Committee.

The party will leave India early in May and the programme in England includes meetings and discussions with bodies like the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, the Medical Research Council, the Agricultural Research Council, the Radio Board and the Royal Society.

Post War Plans For Virgin Islands U. S.

Addressing a Press Conference in New Delhi on April 4, Prof. Hill said:

I am returning to England by air this week and hope, as soon as possible, to follow up, there, many of the discussions we have had and plans we have made here, particularly in regard to co-operation between the scientific people in India and the United Kingdom. The visit of the Indian scientific men to England has now been definitely fixed for May: They will be very warmly received, they will see everything possible in the time at their disposal; and I hope that the arrangements resulting from their visit will ensure much closer contact and collaboration in future.

I should not like to leave India without expressing to the Press my deep appreciation of the welcome I received here: not only from my scientific colleagues, many of whom I know or knew about already, but from everybody. The friendliness of the Press to the purpose of my visit, and to what I have done and said, has meant a great deal in this, and I should like to express my warm and sincere thanks. As I said in my earliest talks here, if there is any subject in which people ought to be able to collaborate and be fair, friendly and reasonable to each other, it is Science. This is one of the great contributions which Science can make to the world. People in India obvious-

ly believe that as strongly as I do.

I recorded last week a broadcast talk to be given after I have left (The text of the talk is published on page 475). In it I refer to the four different processes:—Education; Research; Development or experimental trial; Production or large-scale application, in some form or other almost every aspect of National Development (agriculture; health, food, industry, communications; transport, etc.) involves these four processes. In India the situation is further complicated by the existence of a number of different Provinces and States. If national Development in India is to become a consistent organic whole, all these different processes in all the different subjects and in all the different regions must be planned somehow together. Otherwise vital things would be neglected. I cannot see how this can be done properly unless the whole business of planning is put under a single national authority with a proper planning staff.

"ALL-INDIAN MEDICAL CENTRE"

In this process of National Development the scientific method and outlook are wanted to leaven the whole lump. This means a great increase in scientific education, particularly in the higher stages, and the latter requires, for the present at least, that-

Planning Under Single National Authority

WASHINGTON—An official delegation from the Virgin Islands Municipal Council was here recently for conference with government and congressional officials in an effort to establish a programme of post-war public works and vocational training designed to prevent mass unemployment in the islands at war's end.

According to Valdemar A. Hill, chairman of the three-man delegation, the group also sought wider employment of Virgin Islanders in Federal costs in the islands.

In peacetime the principal industries of the islands, rum manufacture employed only an average of 300 persons regularly, Hill said. Consequently, there was generally a high percentage of unemployment. With the beginning of the rearmament programme, however, both the Army and Navy began fortifying the islands, and an extensive building programme has been undertaken for the past three years:

Hill said there has been plenty of work for everyone in connection with this construction programme. At the present time the island of St. Thomas has a large Naval base and there are military airports on both St. Thomas and St. Croix. Military barracks and other buildings have been erected, and the natives hope that some of these buildings will be converted to civilian uses after the war.

As a nucleus for a post-war programme, the Municipal Councils of St. Thomas and St. John recently appropriated \$200,000 for a hospital project, and \$150,000 for a sewerage system. The appropriations came from surplus funds resulting from the war boom in these islands.

Another pressing need, the chairman said, is for vocational schools where the residents may learn skilled trades. Because of a lack of a vocational programme the islands suffer a deficiency of skilled mechanics.

young Indian scientists, engineers, doctors etc., should go abroad for advanced study and training. In the long run it will require also a number of special institutions in India in the various subjects—medicine, technology etc.—in which people can be trained to the very high standards required today. An "All India Medical Centre" at which the medical teachers and research workers of the future can be trained is one such requirement. Nothing but the best should be good enough for these special institutions; by which the national standard in the various fields would be set and maintained.

In addition to organisations for medical, agricultural and industrial research, I think that others are required for Civil Engineering [roads, irrigation, bridges, soil erosion, structures, airfields etc.] and for Surveys and Natural resources. The latter is very important. The natural resources of India are very great but nobody knows yet exactly where or what they are. These five scientific organisations should be tied together in some way to ensure a consistent policy.

India has done a very great deal in the scientific and technical fields in the last 25 years—in fact more, in many respects, than in all previous history. The foundations have been well-laid. Now, if all goes well, we can look to great developments.

special B. G. Aryan Conference

GEORGETOWN, Friday December 15—A special British Guiana Aryan conference will take place at the Vedic Cathedral (Oriental College building) on Sunday, December 19, at 1 p.m. to consider several matters of vital importance to the Vedic Mission. Its provisional Agenda may be:—

Georgetown Town Council and the Vedic Cathedral; Purging Aryasamaj of fifth columnists; Launching of Aryan youth movement; Defining status of Aryan Preachers and Arya Pracharak Mandal and defining of responsibilities of Aryans in British Guiana.

There will also be a rally of Aryan ladies when the 3rd Anniversary of the Mahila Pratidinhi Sabha, Aryan ladies central organization, will be held from 9.45 to 11.30 a.m. the same day.

Joseph G Hanoman

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Letters to the Editor

SIR GORDON'S ADVICE TO
PRODUCE MORE SUGAR
CHALLENGED

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The Editor,
"Indian Opinion"

Sir;

I have been closely following the views expressed in your paper and would like to state that I myself think that the best thing for our people to do, would be to return to India. This Sir, is more so because recently we are being told even by His Excellency Sir Gordon Lethem in whom we used to believe to produce more sugar which in itself and on the surface seems to be harmless but when I consider carefully the conditions under which sugar is produced in British Guiana I can come to no other conclusion than that something is going wrong somewhere and that sugar is exerting pressure on the Governor and he is giving way to it.

This I have gathered from His Excellency's own speech since his return to the Colony; More sugar, more sugar, more sugar is heard on all ears.

All the people with whom I have discussed this matter of Sir Gordon's advice to produce more sugar were unanimous in the decision that (1) Rampant malnutrition must be first tackled which is directly connected with wages. Then (2) the number of hours worked, which at present is unlimited followed by (3) Better housing accommodation whereby an entire family [ranging from 4 to 10] will cease to live in a twelve feet by twelve feet room for their bedroom, sitting room and dining room combined and (4) Some form of social

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Yours,

"SUGAR VICTIM"

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DISSATISFACTION OF APPOINTMENT
TO THE B.G. RICE MARKETING
BOARD.

The Editor Indian Opinion

Dear Sir,

Kindly permit me space in your valuable columns to point out the unfair treatment that is being meted out to East Indians by the management of the British Guiana Rice Marketing Board.

Quite recently the Board advertised in the local newspapers for an accountant, among the applications there was one from one of the leading accountants in British Guiana. Unfortunately for the applicant he happened to be an East Indian and does not possess fair skin, blue eyes and brown hair, the usual passport for the highly paid job in the B.G. Rice Marketing Board.

The Rice Marketing Board is Governed and managed by those who apparently hate the East Indians and therefore indulge in every conceivable plan to keep out East Indians from lucrative jobs in the Rice Marketing Board.

It is time acts of discrimination against East Indians, as in the case of the appointment of the accountant to the Rice Board case.

Let those that are ingeniously trying to keep out the East Indians from the Board understand that the existence of the Board depends on the cooperation of the East Indian who produces the rice. To end this Mr. Editor I say, shame on the management of the Rice Board for such glaring discriminations against East Indians.

Yrs.

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CROAL STREET

**Who Comes First In
British Guiana**

Continued from Page 1

very few if any exceptions, to look up to the administration as one directly influenced locally and at No 10 Downing Street by Vested Sugar Interests.

In recent years there were current rumours that this policy was changing and that there was going to be certain definite times of action to be pursued by the local and Imperial Governments by which the inhabitants of the colony were to come first and the Sugar Industry after or they should both go together. Quite a fuss was made in this direction by the declaration by the local Government of the early initiation of Land settlements and Drainage and Irrigation Schemes whereby Guianese could usefully employ his own labour.

These were the rumours, dreams and plans, they have all blown off as hot air in the same manner in which they originated.

Land settlement will have to await a few more generations. If on the other hand quick arrangements are made to settle people on the lands the policy and plans of the Sugar Gods will be frustrated.

The same applies to Drainage and Irrigation. The contention now is that the Sugar Industry has clearly told the administration that Drainage and Irrigation is inimical to their (the sugar) interest. This was the case with the Corentyne Drainage and Irrigation Scheme. It is a known fact that if properly drained and irrigated lands were available there would not have existed the terrible unemployment as exists today in the entire colony.

The people of British Guiana are daily getting tired by a lot of talk but no action. The apathy that reigns today in the general affairs of the colony is directly due to the manner in which the past and present administration has placed sugar before the needs of the people of British Guiana.

Battle of Asia

SLENDER STRAWS

Chungking sorely needed straws of hope to grasp. With dismaying speed the Japanese were surging toward Kweiyang, all-important rail terminus and highway junction linking China's capital to the south-west. If Kweiyang fell, the delivery end of the Burma Road would be out, the Japs would be only 235 air miles from Chungking itself.

Even in China there was a limit upon the space that could be traded for time. The hard reckoning was that the next two months might throw the balance against China, that China might be knocked out of the war.

There was little immediate hope to offer. In Chungking Major General Albert C. Wedemeyer, the new U. S. military chief, hurried his defense plans in daily conferences with Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek. On one of China's gravest days in her seven years of war, General Wedemeyer was able to promise only a reasonable expectation—that the tide would be turned eventually by measures now in the making.

But could the tide be rolled back in time to save Kweiyang, now the last forward U.S. air base? By this week the Japs had snaked in Pachai, only 65 miles east of Kweiyang, apparently had by-passed the Chinese units set out for distant defense of the city's rail and road approaches. Another strong enemy column had appeared beyond Hochih, stood astride the railroad only 75 miles south-east of Kweiyang.

Kweiyang ordered evacuation of all nonessential workers, all U.S. and British citizens were ordered to leave Kweichow province; thousands of misery-stricken refugees were pouring out of Kweichow into the Szechwan bastion beyond Chungking.

Dead-End Road. If Kweiyang were to go as nine other U.S. bases had gone, the Japs would be in a position to: 1) advance northwest along the Burma Road toward Chungking itself; 2) turn southwest toward Kueming or northwest to Pichieh and out the best alternate road over which U.S. supplies might move in quantity, once the Burma end of the road was cleared.

The far-end clearance—once the hope of China—would be futile if Kueming fell. And in any case it was plain that China, in her darkest days ahead, would have to depend upon air home supplies. General Wedemeyer said the air tonnage was increasing. But as the Japs advanced, it was also clear to the worried, worried Chinese that supplies by air could not be the complete answer, that what the Allies had done thus far had not been enough.

"Time"

Meeting Of Coloured Peoples Send Birthday Greetings To Gandhi

(BY GEORGE PADMORE)

A Greetings telegram to Mahatma Gandhi wishing him long life and victory in his struggle for the freedom and redemption of India on the occasion of his 75th birthday, was sent to the Indian leader from a mass meeting of coloured Colonials—Indians, Africans,

Ceylonese, Burmese and their British friends and well-wishers, held in the Conway Hall.

In opening the meeting, Rev. Reginald Sorensen, Labourite M. P. declared that the Indian Congress leader would live to see his life's work come true—a free independent India.

Mr. Sorensen read messages of greetings from the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr. Priestley, Master of Balliol College, Oxford University, Lady Cripps, wife of Sir Stafford Cripps, James Middleton, secretary of the Labour Party, D. N. Pritt, K. C.; and Sir George Schuster, the distinguished Liberal M. P. and ex-Finance Minister to the Government of India.

AFRICAN SERVICE BUREAU
GREET'S GANDHI FOR
NEGROES

Voicing the sentiments of the Negro peoples of the world, the radical African International Service Bureau, sent the following telegram to Gandhi—"On behalf of the millions of oppressed and exploited people of Africa and African descent the world-over, we send you dear Mahatma our warmest fraternal greetings on the occasion of your 75th birthday.

In saluting you stalwart warrior of the East and the uncompromising symbol of the hopes and aspirations of the toiling masses of India, the people of Africa pledge you their moral support in your heroic struggle. May your life be spared to see victory crown your work. Let us hope that when the imperialist fetters which today bind our two peoples are finally and irrevocably broken, Asia and Africa will unite in helping to redeem Europe and the West from the tragedies and sufferings which Imperialism, Fascism and Nazism have inflicted on Mankind.

"This we accomplish if Asians and Africans learn from the mistakes of Europeans and tread the path of true Democracy and Socialism." The greeting message was cabled to Gandhi at his Ashram or hermitage located at Sevagram in the Central Provinces, where the Indian leader is now living with a number of his loyal disciples, and from where he directs his campaign against the might of the British Raj.

"CARIBBEAN HERALD"

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