

Indian Opinion

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ONE PENNY

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EDITORIAL —

"The Bamboozlers"

Under the above caption the newly imported Editor from the United Kingdom made the following Statements in Sunday's Daily Chronicle:—

"Speeches and barangues made when British Laborists meet in Congress are often gloriously haywire" "The crowd that cheered Sir, Walter Citrene on Friday (9th, February) will be shaking their heads in approval when we, as surmise, Mr. Churchill tells the world in a day or two that Unconditional Surrender is something that the Germans may accept if we try to explain to them first that it does not mean Vansitarism" ...

"Once again, British Laborists are wasting their time. It is well known that speeches like Citrene have for object the strengthening of the Labour Party's Position" ...

And finally the Article ended with the following words.

"Foreign and Colonial Delegates have come to London at great risks and inconvenience in order to talk about work and not to be bamboozled".

We have quoted at length from the leading article so as to do no injustice to the writer.

Election Talk

British Guiana "A Province Of India"

"Daily Argosy" Opens Barrage Against Indians

Biased Viewpoint Of Its Indian Hating Editor

BY "THE WATCH DOG"

It was indeed a sorry day that Indians ever set foot on British Guiana as they have suffered severe indignities to their national honour and integrity.

Their exploiters are some of their comrades of misery with no self-respect who ally themselves with the wealthy autocrats, the African, who oftentimes writes for newspapers against their wish and have to serve

the will of their masters and hurt his friend and comrade,—the Indians.

The Editor of the Daily Argosy, who is a descendant of the African slave, takes time every now and again to have a go at the Indians in British Guiana.

The kind of tripe, as was published in the editorial of Sunday, February 11th, only tend to broaden the gulf. Continued on page 3

Labourites in British Guiana had the pleasure of seeing, hearing and talking to Sir Walter Citrene while he was a member of the West India Royal Commission in 1929. We have a vivid recollection of comrade Citrene's personality and his work for the oppressed people of British Guiana and the West Indies. Sir Walter Citrene prevented, to a large extent, the majority of the members of the West India Commission from allowing the Controllers of the "Daily Chronicle" and a few others from bamboozling the majority of the people of British Guiana.

But what is the reason for the Editor of the Daily Chronicle to suggest that Unconditional Surrender will be modified by the "big three"? Well, the big three have confirmed Unconditional Surrender and so again the large majority of the people of British Guiana will not be bamboozled by a few people and doubtly loyalty. Have the Controllers of the Daily Chronicle German sympathies or German or Japanese blood? We are leaving these two questions for our readers to answer.

It is all very well for Labour in the United Kingdom to organise and earn about \$20 00 per week while Labour in British Guiana is to be content to earn less than \$3.00 per week, and further for Labour in the United States to combine so as to demand \$30 00 per week. Is the Daily Chronicle in favour of the tactics of the Sugar Producers who have succeeded in bamboozling the Trade Unions to sign agreement whereby the rights of workers are being two jeopardised. We would prefer to read something about Labour in these parts than the prejudiced view of one whose knowledge of the British Labour Party's work and policy is questionable. Please do not attempt to bamboozle the Guianese Labourites in future, Mr. Editor of the Daily Chronicle.

We have no doubt that Labourites the world over would like to be inspired by men like Sir Walter Citrene and we are certain that his opening speech and other speeches and advice at the World Trade Union Conference would do much good to his hearers and to the oppressed and depressed people of the British Empire.

Secretary's Report Of The B. G. I. A. for The Year 1944-45

Mr. Chairman, Gentlemen,

The following is the Annual Report of the Committee of the British Guiana East Indian Association for the year 1944-1945.

(1) OFFICE BEARERS

The Committee of Management elected at the last General Election held on Feb. 1944 comprised of Mr. Jeenarine Singh President, Mr. R. B. Gajraj Sr. Vice President, Mr. Ramroop Jr. Vice President and Mr. Septaul Persaud Treasurer.

In accordance with the rules the President in consultation with the other newly elected Officers, appointed the following persons as members of the Committee: Messrs Akbar Khan A. A. Rangela, T. Narine, Amin Sankar, John Jaikarran, H. C. Patel, Sookdeo Ojha and Bissessar Boodhoo. During the year there were changes in the personnel of the Committee as a result of non attendance to meetings and members inability to serve due to pressure of work etc. The Committee as presently constituted is as follows:

Messrs. Jeenarine Singh President, Segrin Singh Sr. Vice President, Ramroop Jr. Vice President, Akbar Khan, Hony. Secretary, L. A. Sookhoo Treasurer and Messrs N. C. Janki, Amin Sankar, Azeem Khan, A. A. Rangela, T. Narine, D. P. Debidin, J. Rampershad, Francis Kwall and Dr. M. B. Khao are members of the Committee. The vacancies were filled in accordance with our rules.

At the outset the new executive was greatly handicapped by the disorganisation of the Association's office and staff. There was no assistant secretary for many weeks before the election; many records files, receipt books, etc. were unaccounted for. Funds were meagre and demands by firms for settlement of accounts contracted in the jubilee year of 1943 were pressing and threatening. The task of reorganisation of the Association as a working machine was immediately tackled. After the trial of several persons for the post of assistant secretary, we finally succeeded in obtaining the services of Mr. M. Azeem, who is willing and conscientious.

(2) CHANGE OF OFFICE

The rent of our office at Coral Street was increased from \$10.00 to \$20.00 per month. Messrs. Resaul Maraj & Co. Ltd. generously offered us their building in Water Street, for the Association's use free of rent for one year. This was gratefully accepted. The building now houses the Association.

(3) MEETINGS

During the year, one General Meeting which took the form of the Annual Conference and twenty-five committee meetings were held at which many problems of Indian Interest were discussed.

(4) ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The Annual Conference was held on September 24, 1944 at the Pavilion of the B. G. E. I. C. C. which was kindly lent for the purpose. The Conference was fairly well attended and proved successful. Ten resolutions were passed and submitted to the Local and Imperial Government. A resolution

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The Lords Debate On India

Opening the debate in the House of Lords on July 25 on the political situation in India, LORD STRABOLGI said that the Labour Party wanted facts on this subject. They had been fierce censorship in India both military and political. There had been complaints that the military censorship had been aimed primarily at preventing news reaching the British people which was already known to the enemy and not to prevent news reaching the enemy.

The political censorship had been most rigid and it had been very difficult to obtain accurate information about what was going on in the political field.

CRIPPS OFFER

After remarking that it had been reiterated that the Cripps Offer still stood, Lord Strabolgi continued: "We have no desire to dwell on the past, but desire to look forward to the future, and it is surely inconceivable that, now that the Japanese danger has passed and the war everywhere is going well, the policy of the Cripps Mission should be thrown overboard". Lord Strabolgi added, however, that he was not accusing the present Government of doing anything of the kind.

One important piece of news received from India early that month, despite censorship, was the remarkable interview given by Mr. Gandhi to Mr. Stuart Gelder of the *News Chronicle*. After quoting from the interview and also from a subsequent interview given to the same journalist, Lord Strabolgi said that those who knew Mr. Gandhi would recognise that those statements constituted a remarkable change of front. Lord Strabolgi said he wanted to ask three questions on behalf of the Labour Party Peers.

What information has Government about these matters?

Could they see in these developments the long-awaited chance to break the present deadlock in India?

What did Government intend to advise the Viceroy to do?

In particular, were opportunities going to be provided for the imprisoned Congress leaders to consult with Mr. Gandhi and each other?

"We are not dwelling on the past. I am not posing these questions in a hostile manner. We are looking for the future. We certainly see more than a ray of hope," Lord Strabolgi concluded.

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Presidential Address

Delivered by the President Mr. Generaine Singh at the Annual General meeting on 11th February.

Friends and Comrades.

I face you today after a full year at the helm of the Association. During that time I have done my level best to lead our people according to the best dictates of my conscience.

The world as you know has continued to witness the Nations the great Nations at war and to see that as it progresses so also it carries with it enormous social reforms benefiting the masses and today after five and half years of war we find the exploited Masses of the world facing their exploiters and are seeking equality and the shaking off of the shackles with which they were tied down for all these generations. These social reforms and advancement, which is leading towards the betterment of Man's lot on earth have not reached these parts as yet; but it is moving with such tremendous force that it is sweeping everything before it and sooner or later it is bound to reach us. These influence of the social reforms that took place just a quarter of a century ago in that Great Nation The Union of Socialist Soviet Republics seems to be taking root everywhere the world over.

There is no doubt to the fact that the British people have suffered immensely during this war and have undergone great privations in their battle for survival; but amidst all of this struggle what has surprised and amazed the world to an outstanding degree is the callous and inhuman manner with which they have treated the colonial peoples especially the Indian who is being subjected to the

most barbarous form of exploitation under their rule. A common example of this can be found in any of the sugar estates of this colony.

This Association has had its ups and downs; but in spite of all the difficulties during its existence it has been able to survive; chiefly because of its ideals and principles for which it stands. It has taken a definite stand to obtain a square deal for the Indians in this colony in the entire political, Social and economic Machinery of British Guiana and the abolishing of the unwritten Charter of slavery that exists and dominates our people in the Sugar Estates.

To be continued

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Election Talk

Continued from page 2

between the section he represents and the rest of the community. Incidentally, he does not represent the African section of the community, but certain local vested interests and politicians.

The one thing that seems to be worrying the Indian Hating Editor of the Daily Argosy is the possibility of a block out of the section he represents—namely, the Portuguese and the mixed races.

Now, if I guess correctly, the organization that the editor of the Daily Argosy in his February 11th article is referring to is the Guiana Democratic National Party on which the East Indians and Africans have made common ground, much to the annoyance and headache of the section that the Argosy's editor is representing and championing.

A word of advice to the Editor of the Daily Argosy is well worth recording here. The kind of attack he makes on the Indian community tends to bind them more solidly and conscientiously than if he were to be haranguing them from a pulpit and therefore it is a good thing that he does to the Indian section of the community indirectly for which I thank him. At the same time he is enlightening his Indian readers of the power that lies within their hands.

The Daily Argosy's Editorial referred to above is directed towards creating distrust between the East Indians and Africans and to divide one section against the other, but I am afraid that that day is far gone. The editor of the Argosy will have to find another ruse to fool the Indians and Africans into distrust and disharmony between themselves.

I would like to ask the editor of the Argosy to answer me a single question in his own paper, did he write the article feeling the facts from his own conscience or was he instructed to do so by his masters who pay filthy lucre to him.

Look out for...

Mr. Sugrim Singh's reply to Mr. Evelyn Moe on "Election talk" next week.

This is regrettable and is due to lack of space.

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Secretary's Report Of The B.G.E.I.A. For The Year 1944—45

Continued from page 2

dealing with Universal Adult Suffrage was cabled to the Secretary of State for the Colonies at the request of the members who attended the Conference. The cost of the cable was over-subscribed at the meeting. The Local and Imperial Government have already replied to the resolutions passed. The replies to most of our resolutions passed were same as in previous years which are far from satisfactory.

(5) UNIVERSAL ADULT SUFFRAGE

When it became known that the B.G. Franchise Commission had decided by a majority that British Guiana should be denied Universal Adult Suffrage and that the Report contained certain specific instances of biased feeling against East Indians; the Association took the matter up. All the organisations supporting Universal Adult Suffrage were invited and a common front was established. The Governor was interviewed and our grievance placed before him; a memorandum for the Secretary of State was delivered to His Excellency on his departure for England. We jointly planned a series of meetings in the country districts; several resolutions were passed in favour of Universal Adult Suffrage and submitted to the Local Government for transmission by air mail to the Secretary of State for the Colonies. In addition cables were despatched to the Secretary of State for the Colonies. The Fabian Colonial Bureau, the India League in London, Mr. Bajpai in America, the Mayor of Calcutta and the Governor

of India. We were not wholly successful in our efforts in this matter eventually we referred the matter to the Prime Minister of England and received the same decision.

(6) LABOUR

The Association was again faced with problems of the labouring class of our people in the Sugar Estates but could not make much representation in this direction due to the existing laws governing trade Unions and labour. As a result it was observed that our labouring people was drifting from the Association. It will be recalled that this Association had represented labour almost throughout its existence. Under the circumstances it was suggested that the Association create a labour department of its own.

(7) DEPUTATIONS

Apart from the question of Universal Adult Suffrage, four deputations from the Association were received by the Government.

(a) Early in the year the Association challenged a scurrilous statement which appears in the "Daily Argosy" alleging to be part of speech by the Hon. E.F. Mc David Col, Treasurer, at the Anglo American Caribbean Conference held in Barbados. The Association immediately cabled the Chairman of the Conference refuting the allegation and discussed the matter with the Colonial Secretary. We were given the assurance that Mr. Mc David was misquoted and we were satisfied with the facts as put to us. The statement was corrected.

(b) As a result of an appeal to His Excellency on behalf of the Farmers

of Ground Provisions. His Excellency instructed the Legislative Food Production Committee with J.I. D'Aguiar as Chairman to go into the matter. The association met the committee on three occasions and came to an understanding.

(c) On the arrival of the Parliamentary Delegates from Great Britain the Association took the opportunity of putting their problems before them. A memorandum was drafted and presented to Capt. Gammons who was very frank and enlightening.

(d) As a result of a resolution passed at the Annual Conference "Re Rumshop" in rural areas a deputation met Mr. Pelham Bayley Social Welfare Officer in December last, the matter is still engaging the attention of the department.

To be continued

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