

Indian Opinion

OFFICIAL WEEKLY ORGAN OF THE BRITISH GUIANA EAST INDIAN ASSOCIATION.

VOL. 1. No. 48

GEORGETOWN, B.G., SATURDAY, MARCH 31, 1945

ONE PENNY

INDIAN OPINION: Items of news interests 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.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

Single Copies—onspenny.

LOCAL

Annual Subscription—(Posted) \$1 50

FOREIGN

Annual Subscription—(Posted) \$200

— EDITORIAL

The Rice Industry II.

Our readers would see elsewhere in this issue a letter by the Rice Producers supporting our editorial view of the 17th of March and urging upon the British Guiana East Indian Association to call a conference of persons interested in the rice industry. Similar letters have been received from various parts of the colony and we feel that a conference would do much in the interest of the rice industry. Consequently, we have placed these material before the Committee of Management of the Organization to expedite the calling of the conference.

We are of the opinion that such a conference is now long overdue and if the rice industry is to prosper and develop those who are directly interested must have a hand and a say in its management and future planning.

We have time and again stated that the whole trouble with the management of the rice industry, as directed from the Rice Marketing Board, has been due to the fact that men outside the industry, men who have opposed interests, and men sitting in their chairs in Georgetown are directing the industry, much to its detriment. It is time the Indians who are the producers, millers and owners of the rice lands meet and discuss their problems. The present conditions cannot continue if Indians are to have any self

respect left in them. They will have to sum up their courage and take a definite step in the right direction.

We hope the administration is aware of the helpless and voiceless position in which they have placed the actual producers of rice, millers and owners of rice lands and will do something to remedy it.

The Coconut Industry

In our last issue we made ourselves clear that Government was using the Defence Regulations to unduly interfere with the Coconut Industry.

Since then, the Government Appointed Copra Board has made certain specific recommendations regarding an increase in the price of copra and edible oil. We are of the opinion that the recommendations are equitable and should be adopted by the Controller of Prices if the industry is to continue to exist and progress.

We hope the administration will take fully into account the reaction of the press in this matter and act accordingly.

Education

The Government's Educational Policy in regard to Primary and Secondary Education is still very unsatisfactory. Complaints continue to reach us regarding the accommodation in primary Schools, particularly in the rural areas. We were hoping to get a pronouncement from the Governor that active steps will be taken to find room for the large number of children who cannot be housed and taught daily. We are beginning to get thoroughly satisfied that it is the policy of the Local Government as well as the Imperial Government to keep the mass of the "Native people" illiterate so that they can be successfully exploited. They have been told already that they are not fit to exercise the vote because they are unable to read or write, yet for 25 years this Government has been unable to find room for not less than thirty per cent of children between the ages of six and fourteen years.

Regarding Secondary Education the position is also very unsatisfactory.

The Government Secondary Schools can get twice the number of students that are on role if the accommodation can be found for them. Government continue to make all kinds of frivolous excuses.

The Policy of offering Scholarships of various kinds by the British Council is another sop to fool the 'native people'. We won't be fooled. It is time the Imperial Government understands our feelings in these matters. It is time the Indian Government take a keener interest in their Nationals in the British Crown Colonies. It is also time for the United Nations to understand that the majority of Indians in British Guiana are not satisfied with the British Policy.

The Guiana United Trade Union

ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS

The first general election of the office-bearers of the Guiana United Trade Union was held on 25th. March 1945 at the office of the Union, 9-10 Holmes Street Georgetown. President Hon. C. R. Jacob (re-elected), Vice President—Dr. M. B. Khan (re-elected) General Secretary and Treasurer—Comrade A. A. Cole [re-elected], Assistant Secretary—Comrade Jas. J. Barrow, Members of the Executive Committee—Dr. J. Bissessar, Comrade W. M. Persaud, F. Sukra, S. J. Persaud and F. Wolford [re-elected] Comrade D. Sooklall, J. Kamotar, H. Mohabeer and Mrs. Ogeer were elected.

AUDITOR'S REPORT

Statement of Income and Expenditure and Liabilities and Assets also Auditor's report for the year 1944/45 were unanimously adopted.

FUTURE POLICY

The next meeting of the Executive Committee was fixed for 16th April when it was unanimously decided to pursue a more aggressive policy to get Government and others to adopt the twelve points Plan of the Union which was formulated when the Union was registered in 1932.

Letter To The Editor

Coffee Grove,
Essequibo;
26 March 1945.

The Editor,
Indian Opinion,
Sir,

Kindly permit me space in your valuable columns, to let me express the kind of living we have to undergo in Essequibo, especially in this hard time of war, advantage is taken over us by Government and Proprietor.

(a) GOVERNMENT DISTRICT NURSE AND MIDWIFE: Before the war we were paying \$5.00 for the 1st born child, \$4.00 for the 2nd and 3rd etc, today we are told that these Nurses and Midwives are no longer paid by Government, and we are compelled and forced to pay \$10.00 for the 1st \$9.00 for the 2nd and 3rd for this reason many men disown their children, and many women visit the bush Doctor, and have their baby thrown away when 1 and 2 months old, now Sir this sort of affairs is getting worse to see human being living worse than beasts, Sir we beg that prompt attention be given to this matter and have things remedied.

(b) PROPRIETORS: Owing to the shortage of water which caused us to be late with our small crop, some of us who could have managed to plant few beds expect to lose it owing to the shortage of water. In the past few weeks, the beds were dried and cracked all through the slack management of the estate manager.

Now sir, whether these beds are planted or abandoned we are forced to pay full rent, whereas better water supply can be provided and better crops reaped.

Now sir, are these not advantages

Bhagavat Festival At La Grange Village

In honour of the opening Ceremony of the Rameshwar Dham Hindu Temple of La Grange, there will be celebrated a Shri Mat Bhagawat Yag. Commencing on Sunday 15th April and ending on Sunday 22nd April 1945.

A Grand Satsang is anticipated when important Religious Lectures and Songs will be delivered at intervals by renowned Pandits and Songsters.

The Preacher will be Pandit Lalman Sukul (Secretary of the Pandit's Council of British Guiana).

All Brothers and Sisters are cordially invited.

MAHADEO SINGH, RAMKHELOWAN KRISHNANAND SUKUL and Company

GENERAL PROVISION MERCHANTS

Resoul Maraj & Co Ltd

that are taken over us, isn't it time for us to awake and look forward for the future; we really need more strict attention from the Government. What is our representative in the Legislative Council doing? Has he forgotten that he is there to represent our cause? When last did he visit the Coast? And why and when would his next visit be?

Thanking you for publication.
Yours truly,
NAVIN ALLY.

See Lall's Kitty, Newtown Bazaar

For the best in Ladies Dress Materials

FOR Indian, English, Canadian and American FOODSTUFFS: BEER, ALE, and STOUT Fisherman's Requisites, including COTTON SEINE TWINE and TAR:

SEE C.R. Jacob & Sons

LTD, 9 10 Holmes Street, Georgetown.

Tel. C 625.

P O Box 128

We have a limited stock OF

Commercial Size Envelopes And American Lead Pencils,

GET YOUR SUPPLIES TODAY.

AT

LALL BAHADUR SINGH

15 & 16 WATER STREET

Water Street,

Georgetown

PROGRESS MARCHES

It is Worth Nothing that the

Acme Photo Studio

has steadily progressed under the Management of its capable proprietor—Mr ASHRAF ALI—expert Photo Artist, that to-day it ranks as the most Modern, Spacious and Attractive in the Colony. It is noted for the Production of Photographs that win the admiration of all.

VISIT US AND BE CONVINCED
Regent Street — (Next to Town Hall)

Wanted

A Head Teacher for Secondary School Matriculant (preferable)

Apply R. E. BACCHUS Secretary
Sans Souci
Wakenam

We Recommend
Brodie & Rainer
To all Physicians
for their Supply of Drugs
and to all Housewives for their
Requirements.

No Freedom for Small Nationalists

That Britain has no intention of furthering the principles of self-government and self-determination laid down in the Atlantic Charter, is confirmed by a recent article in "Great Britain and the East." This magazine is "being fathered" by the British Information Services, according to the London News Chronicle correspondent, Stuart Gelder, in a letter to the Hindustan Times, July 22nd. Mr. Gelder refused to write for the magazine.

Sir Alfred Watson, editor of "Great Britain and the East," in the article referred to:

(1) Expressed Britain's desire to do work of rehabilitation and relief in Burma;

[2] Said, "The war and its incidents express a great deal of nonsense sometimes talked about Dominion Status for small nationalities... That time has not been hastened but made more distant by the events of the war. For a long time to come Burma will want careful nursing."

The Burmese Refugee Association, Simla, [A.P.I., Aug. 22] issued a reply, in which it points out that "we can imagine nothing more calculated to discourage the people of Burma from welcoming with open arms the forces of the United Nations, which are now engaged in freeing Burma from Japanese rule." It goes on to point out that the populations of the Dominions of Canada, Australia, New Zealand and South Africa are 10 millions, 7 millions, 1½ millions and 9½ millions respectively. "Perhaps the disqualifications suggested by Sir Alfred is intended to apply only to the Asiatic and African members of the British Empire."

While welcoming British help, the Burmese Refugee Association says that the Burmese people "will regard the price as being too high if it means the indefinite postponement of Dominion Status." Pointing out that when Burma fell defense and foreign affairs were under the complete control of the British, the reply goes on to say, "This is not the time for niggardliness on the part of Britain, and the task of rehabilitation should not be made the excuse for re-establishing British rule in Burma more firmly than ever." It suggests that a time limit be set for Dominion Status, if British intentions of helping colonies to attain self-government are serious. Nothing short of this will reconcile our countrymen to the impending resumption of British rule in Burma."

—INDIA TODAY

All letters intended for publication MUST be signed, and addressed to the Editor and MUST be written on one side of the paper only. Unsigned letter will be surely thrown into the waste paper basket.

Natural Therapeutics Restore Health

for

NATUROPATHIC
CHIROPRACTIC
SWEDISH MASSAGE
and
HYDROTHERAPY

Consult

M. H. Rahat N.D.D.C. Ph. T

Sans Souci, Wakensam
Hours 4.30 p.m

General Provision Merchandise

BCODHOO

Water Street, Georgetown

BREWING today is a combination for a very old art and new scientific methods. YOU are assured of SUPERIOR and UNIFORM products brewed with the best available materials by methods of proven merit when you buy

**FRONTENAC
BEER**

DOW ALE

and

DOW STOUT

Wieling and Richter Ltd.

AGENTS

"Ready Made"

Lady's and Girl's Dresses, Men's and Boys Shirts and Pants, and Gent's Pyjama Suits at prices to suit every body's pocket

at

THE INDIA HOUSE

Parsram & Sons

16 Water Street, Georgetown

Indian Leader Arrives in New York

Continued from last issue

"We did not feel that in such circumstances we could rally the Indian people. You have no doubt been told that the Cripps offer constitutes virtual independence. The British have been careful to gloss over the fact that the privilege granted to every petty little Prince and Princeling to stay out of the Indian union would have the effect of 'Balkanizing' India. You will appreciate this when I say that there are 563 Indian Princes scattered over the length and breadth of my country and propped up by British bayonets."

Asked what she thought could be done to solve the present deadlock, Mrs. Pandit said, "The first step is to release my brother, Jawaharlal Nehru and the other Congress leaders who have now been in prison, without any trial, since August 1942. Without their advice and participation no move to solve the present situation can succeed. It was by denying Mahatma Gandhi even the right to consult these men and women in prison, that the Gandhi-Jinnah meeting was sabotaged from the very start. If the British Government were really anxious to solve the problem, they could easily release the Congress Working Committee and other Congress leaders on parole. It should by now be evident to anybody with any sense of fairness that these men and women are not enemies of the Allies."

"Mahatma Gandhi, one of the most vigorous proponents of the 'Quit India' resolution," she continued, "has been released and none of the frightful revolutions conjured up by the British have come to pass. It seems unreasonable, to say the least, that other Congress leaders are not freed. The situation has altered considerably since 1942 and the British should afford the Congress leaders an opportunity to review the situation as it now is. But I, for one, am convinced that the British have no intention or desire for our cooperation if that implies our freedom."

Questioned about the famine, Mrs. Pandit who has toured thousands of villages in Bengal and other affected areas, said that the situation was still critical. "The lack of medical supplies and doctors, high prices and shortage of food are still very acute. The British Government has attempted to do something about this terrible state of affairs, but not with much success, because they attack the problem from the top and do not try to remove the fundamental causes—black markets, middlemen, and bad transport facilities. Only a National Government capable of making revolutionary changes can meet the situation."

—"INDIA TODAY":

UNRRA and India

The UNRRA Council in its meeting in Montreal on September the 26th approved a resolution introduced by the United States delegation, under which areas affected by famine and diseases and important to the military operations of the United Nations, are included in the benefits available through UNRRA India will thus be entitled to aid from UNRRA.

This was communicated in a telegram to Sirdar J. J. Singh, President, India League of America, from Assistant Secretary of State and leader of the United States delegation to UNRRA—Dean Acheson.

It will be recalled that in the first meeting of UNRRA at Atlantic City in November 1943, Mr Singh attempted to obtain a modification of the resolutions passed by the Council, by which aid might be given to famine stricken Bengal. These efforts failed. However, Mr Singh was instrumental in interesting the United States Congress to amend its resolution approving United States participation in UNRRA as follows:

"In expressing its approval of this act it is the recommendation of Congress that insofar as funds and facilities permit any area important to United Nations military operations which may be stricken by famine or disease may be included in the benefits available through the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration."

This amendment was introduced by Representative Karl E. Mundt of South Dakota and passed by the Congress in March 1944.

Important Announcement

THE MACKAY MEMORIAL HIGH SCHOOL, WAKENAAM

OPENING OF SECONDARY SCHOOL ON THE ISLAND

Pending the acquisition of a well equipped and duly qualified staff, the Mackay Memorial High School will be opened at the Mackay Memorial Building at a date to be announced later.

Special arrangements have been made to prepare students for the following:—

- (i) Literary: The Cambridge Local (Junior and Senior) and Matriculation Examinations.
- (ii) Commercial: Book-keeping and Accountancy and Business Training and Management, Typewriting and Short hand Examinations.

Commencing on Wednesday, 15th March, there will be an Evening Class daily [Week-days] from 6 to 8 p.m., as a temporary measure until final arrangements for the opening of the High School have been made:

Fees: Day School—\$3.00 per month
Evening Class—\$1.50 "

NB. All fees payable in advance. Parents of prospective students can consult the undersigned for further particulars.

[Sgd.] M. A. SAHADAT
Secretary
SANS, SOUCI WAKENAAM

Letter To The Editor

The Editor,
Indian Opinion
Dear Sir,

I wish to congratulate you on your editorial of the 17th March dealing with the Rice Industry.

I am of the opinion that something should be done and that, pretty quickly too. I do not know for how much longer, can we, the Indians, go on suffering under the present strain. I feel the British Guiana East Indian Association should call a conference of Rice Producers from different areas, Rice Millers, Rice estate owners and tenants and discuss the whole industry.

The question of price for rice, the composition of B.G. Rice Marketing Board, the disposition of the accumulated funds of the B. G. Rice Marketing Board (which incidentally the producers money) and the future planning of the industry should be the first topics on the agenda. I hope this letter would find favour with you and receive publication. I am writing in non-de-plume to avoid victimization from those high above; I hope you would appreciate same.

RICE PRODUCER.

Wedding

Quite a large gathering of Muslims and Non-Muslims assembled at the residence of Mr. and Mrs. Abdool [Bhola] of Sisters Village, West Bank, Demerara, on Sunday 25th March, 1945, to witness the Marriage Ceremony of their daughter Bibi Aleema to Mr. Abdool Kadir eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. Abdool Hack of New Road, West Bank Demerara. The couple were joined in Holy wedlock by Moulvi Ameer Alli of Sisters Village and assisted by Moulvi Rasool Baksh of Wales.

We wish the happy couple long life and prosperity.

Whenever you are out for a good Bargain in Ladies Dress Materials and gents suitlogs—

SEE!

C. R Hanoman's

DRY GOODS STORE—

The House for quality Service, and Satisfaction.

Opposite Pestano's Hardware Regent Street Georgetown.

INDIAN OPINION: Printed at 61 Hadfield Street Georgetown Demerara, by JOSEPH N. BUTLER for Mr. Jenaraine Singh President of the British Guiana East Indian Association

BUY 'NIRMAL GHEE'

British Guiana's Foremost Dairy Product

"NIRMAL GHEE" is 100% pure cow's ghee and is manufactured locally under expert supervision. If you want your Puroe, Manbhog, Mithai and other Indian dishes made more tempting and nutritious use "NIRMAL GHEE".

"NIRMAL GHEE" is the only ghee that can be used with confidence at your Jag, Katha, Puja and other ceremonies.

PLACE YOUR ORDER TODAY AT THE

New Stabroek Drug Store

STABROEK MARKET, GEORGETOWN.

PHONE C 341