

# Indian Opinion

OFFICIAL WEEKLY ORGAN OF THE BRITISH GUIANA EAST INDIAN ASSOCIATION

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**INDIAN OPINION:** Items of news interest and Literary contributions must be addressed to

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— EDITORIAL —

## Our Problems and Pleasures and Your Problems and Pleasures

The Affair of the British Guiana East Indian Association is the affair of the entire East Indian community. Indians everywhere in the colony must realise that the problems and pleasures of this organisation are the problems and pleasures of the Indian community. Those of our brother Indians who completely lack this realisation will do themselves no injustice beginning to realise their responsibilities to themselves and their colony even at this not-too-late hour.

The present regime, few as its number of representatives are, has under consideration a number of complex problems which must be solved.

The Committee has been, and will be doing its best, but the support and the confidence of the 140-odd-thousand Indians are essential. What the Committee needs from you, and this more than anything else is your moral support.

It is true that you have given your organisation whatever you could have given of your time and yourself in the past. Never-the-less, we take this opportunity to ask you even for that which you are already giving, because we want our people to know that more than any other time their National Organisation needs the force of their full weight today.

The Indian Community is fully conscious of the fact that their interest is inseparably tied up with the interest of their fellow British Guianese. They are also fully conscious of the fact that any effort made by any set of

## Capital Blunders Again

### President Roosevelt Breaks Silence on India Question

### HOPE FOR END OF BRITISH INDIAN DEADLOCK RENEWED

### NO OFFICIAL AMERICAN COMMENT

(By Reuters)

News of Mr. Gandhi's pledge to assist the Allies in the war against the Axis was well received here. A State Department spokesman declined to comment in the absence of any official communication on the matter, but the news obviously made a good impression.

Dispatches from Bombay conveying Mr. Gandhi's statement and Indian Press comment were prominently displayed in the afternoon newspapers under big headlines. Recent Press reports expressing Mr. Roosevelt's personal concern for India revived public interest in Indian affairs and any move holding hope of ending the British-Indian deadlock is certain to be keenly followed.

### SUGAR—AN ENEMY TO THE CORENTYNE DRAINAGE AND IRRIGATION SCHEME

British Guiana faces one of those major crisis that every country encounters whenever it is about to take a great step forward towards a better era. In British Guiana where "men die faster than they are born" where conditions under which men live does not befit animals, the bug-bear of our progress is that Blood Sucking Industry Sugar. Wherever you turn Sugar says No! to development and progress. Now let us examine the position briefly and see what are the places where sugar bears its influence very strongly.

Firstly at No. 10 Downing Street in London the seat of the British Government, the old saying goes that no Governor is appointed to B. G. unless approved by the Sugar Interests, and further that if ever the Governor's action in any way is inimical to the Sugar Industry in B.G. influence is made to bear at No. 10 Downing Street and then follows either a recall, a resignation a promotion or a dancing to the tune of the Sugar Interests. The test has come with the present Governor, his going to England his possible returning and the fate of the Corentyne Drainage and Irrigation Scheme.

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individuals, or any race, based on the right principles, and organised with a spirit of human decency, such efforts can but only benefit the entire colony as a unit.

We have before us the struggle to see the effective drainage and irrigation schemes put through at all cost. The co-operation of every Indian is necessary to see that these essential provisions for a successful peasantry are put through no matter under what circumstances.

We have to fight for better working conditions for our working men and women on Sugar plantations. We are faced with a problem to see that every child—no matter what corner of the Colony he or she may be—is educated in a way that she or she may read

and write, and be able to benefit from the education to the extent of employing himself (or herself) in a practical way after leaving school.

We must see that every Indian family is housed in a manner that is not condemned by society, sanitation and civilisation.

We must be able to see that provision is made for the hundreds of beggars who for lack of shelter and adequate protection can be found sleeping on pavements, shop galleries and other public places.

These are but a few of our complex problems.

Something must be done about them. We propose to do our best. You our Indian Compatriots are expected to do your best with us.

## Mr. Woolford's Unfounded Brassed and Shameless Attack On Indian Women

### Indians Demand A Square Deal

This is a denial to Mr. Woolford's statement: in the Legislative Council regarding "The position of East Indian women" and Adult Suffrage. Mr. Woolford's statements "Is there any Indian member of this community who would deny the fact that wives of illiterate East Indians, or women with whom they live in familiar relationship, are not entirely under the dominion of their husbands?"

"Aren't they people who are very largely in bondage"? Are they free people? "Isn't it not frequently claimed by their leaders that their proper place is in their homes.

Each one of these four statements could only be made by one whose

mind is definitely brassed racially and whose mind is so warped that their thoughts could be channelled only in one direction.

There is no doubt to the fact that Mr. Woolford has done all he can to belittle Indians especially in British Guiana by his statements.

There is only one answer to Mr. Woolford's statements, there is no foundation to it and that it is nothing but a thumping lie. It is suggested that Mr. Woolford made these remarks with the object of keeping out Indians from the voting booth but there is this reminder to him come what may, Indians are prepared to demand a square deal they are no longer begging for it.

## Capital Blunders Again

Continued from page 1

2ndly. In the Newspaper world where daily and weekly a subtle politics pursued behind the scenes, This helps to mould the opinion of the people to the taste of the Sugar Industry, but they (the Sugar Interest) also know that there is a limit to starvation and nakedness, British Guiana has been in that condition for a long time and still remains so. It has almost reached boiling point.

3rdly. In the Commercial field, whoever offends the Sugar Gods might as well close their doors if they are not prepared to bend on their knees.

4thly. Government Boards and Committees look at the Drainage Board and see who runs it and reader be satisfied, similar conditions exist in other Departments.

5thly. The Georgetown Chamber of Commerce, examine its latest negative move with regard to the Corryntyne Drainage and Irrigation Scheme then examine its executive personnel and you shall see Sugar.

Similar conditions exist in almost every walk of life in British Guiana and wherever you turn sugar presents its tentacles of strangling to death progress and development so that she may reign supreme, continue her blood sucking exploitation of the people so that a few may enjoy themselves and live in luxury. This is a warning to sugar that unless she changes her system of exploiting human blood and sweat, she is doomed and one by one the chimneys shall fall never to be replaced and that may be much sooner than the Sugar Gods anticipate.

## Changes At Air H. Q., India

The formation of the Air Command, South East Asia, under the Supreme Allied Commander has led to a change in the organisation of Air Headquarters India Command, and a re-statement of the responsibilities of the Air Officer Commanding.

The Air Officer Commanding will continue to be responsible to the Commander-in-Chief for the control and administration of the Air Forces allotted to the N-W. Frontier but he will now have more specific responsibilities for the development, administration, terms of service, recruitment and selection of personnel of the Indian Air Force, in accordance with the policy of the Government of India, Air Headquarters, India Command, will similarly control the India Air Training Corps Units at India Universities.

The specific and primary responsibilities for the Indian Air Force now given to the A.O.C., India Command, a new and important stage in the development of the Indian Air Force. A considerable share of the appointments in the newly organised Air Headquarters has been allotted to Indian Air Force Officers.

The Air Officer Commanding will act as the Inspector-General of the Indian Air Force in respect of I.A.F. Units and personnel outside his command, such as those now loaned to and serving with Air Command, South East Asia, for operations against the Japanese.

Air Commodore H.J.G. Proud, Inspector-General, of the Indian Air Force, is officiating until the Air Officer Commanding is appointed, Air Commodore Proud will then assume

## Mr Woolford & The B.G. Indians

The Editor, Indian Opinion,  
Dear Sir,

I have read with great amusement, the address of the Hon. E. G. Woolford on the Franchise Report when reference was made by him to East Indian women. In his effort to belittle the position of Indian Womenhood in order to foster his idea of disenfranchisement of unlettered East Indian in this Colony he stated:—

"Is there any Indian member of the community who would deny the fact that the wives of illiterate East Indians, or women with whom they live in familiar relationship are not entirely under the dominion of their husbands? Aren't they people who are very largely in bondage?"

In reply to Hon. Woolford's hyperbolic statements, which exposed his very feeble knowledge of Indian life, it is to be denied emphatically that East Indian women are under any form of subjection, and/or serfdom of their husbands.

I must however make it very clear for the information of Mr. Woolford and his kind, that such statements betray colossal ignorance of the social conditions of our womenfolk whether literate or illiterate, as they are free to think and act according as their judgments lead, exactly in the same way as the women of Mr. Woolford's race—that is to say—the African women.—Hon. Woolford's folklore should therefore be construed as a meritorious display of a mass of verbiage to attract the attention of the public, and therefore should not be permitted to take root among certain class of people who like himself may succumb in misrepresenting for reasons best known to them facts as they exist.

Yours for truth,  
MOH'D BARKAT-ULLAH KHAN.

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AGENTS

the duties of Air Officer in charge of Administration at Air Headquarters, India.

## Our Moribund Legislative Council

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL RUN LIKE DICTATORIAL GOVERNMENT

NOT A SINGLE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE PEOPLE IN LEGISLATURE

The full responsibility for British Guiana's stagnant position economically, socially and politically since 1928 lies directly at the door of the British Government as directed from No 10 Downing St. As in 1928 the birth rights of the people were robbed from them and a completely Government dominated legislature was created. The colony's position generally speaking grew from bad to worse and the whole country became restless; then came the Royal Commission and its recommendations, followed soon after by the present war. Such parts of the Royal Commission's report was made available as suited the British Government other parts remained a dead military secret. The general elections which were due in 1940 was not held as the members in the legislature were thought to be safe enough to carry on. This was tantamount to having a completely nominated Legislative Council. The same condition prevails to date, under the circumstances no member of the Legislative Council can in anyway say they are the peoples representative. The people are beginning to get restless again, as even such parts of the recommendations of the Royal Commission's report that was made available is being cast aside by a majority of our Moribund Legislative Council.

## Chinese and East Indians Compete for Boodoo-Singh Cup

INTERESTING CRICKET MATCH IN TRINIDAD

**PRESENTATION BY CHINESE CONSUL**  
The Trinidad Chinese and East Indians played an interesting game of Cricket for the Boodoo-singh Cup. The game ended up in a Victory for the Chinese. The match was played at Skinner Park in San Fernando. Several Inter Colonial Players took part. The Chinese Team was out for 157 runs. Rupert Tang Choon the Inter Colonial All-rounder top scored with 68 runs. The East Indian team was bowled out for 139 runs. Niram Asgarali topscored with 56 runs. Several prizes offered by prominent Indians were presented to many bowlers and batsmen. The presentations were made by the Chinese Consul, NNS.

## Navy Sunday Observed in Several Districts

MOULVI MOHAMED ALI CONDUCTS RUIMVELDT SERVICE.

ROYAL AND MERCHANT NAVIES PRAISED

Moulvi Mohamed Ali explained to his congregation on Navy Sunday, the good work done by the Royal and Merchant Navies at the time when foodstuffs were running short in the colony. This Explanation was given at the special NAVY SUNDAY service held at the Ruimveldt Islamic Mosque.

The Service was attended by Muslims from all over the city.

The congregation included prominent Indian Muslims.

Similar Services were held at Mosques in several parts of the colony.

## On the Youth Council Again

(INDIAN OPINION CORRESPONDENT)

It has been made clear repeatedly through this medium that Government has deliberately kept out Indians from the Youth Council Committee which was appointed by His Excellency the Governor some time ago.

The attitude the administration is pursuing is one of partiality subtly practised by those who happen to be near to it. It should be pointed out clearly that when the Youth of half the population of a land has been forgotten it in itself become farcical as is most of the things done by those who govern us. The administration is supposed to be Christian, can it really and truly declare itself to be so? Heaven knows what it really is; it certainly could not be Christ's doctrine.

## Mr Ramsingh Rai Appointed Acting Administration Officer

SON OF MR RAMLACHAN SINGH RAI OF EAST COAST

Mr Ramsingh Rai of Paradise East Coast Demerara has been appointed Acting Administration officer of West Coast Berbice.

Mr Raj was formerly attached to the Emore Administration Office. He is the eldest son of Mr Ram Lachan Singh Rai of Beterverwagting, East Coast Demerara.

He succeeds Mr J. A. S. Douglas who is acting Assistant District Commissioner of the East Coast.

## Dramatic Society Holds Fortnightly Meeting At Ayodhya

A meeting of the British Guiana Dramatic Society was held at Ayodhya 273 Lamaha Street Georgetown at 5 30 o'clock on Friday 14th instant. The President Mr Akbar Khar, occupied the Chair. The scheduled subject was: "Presentation of Excerpts from well-known plays."

## Dr J. B. Singh Appointed Member on Education Committee

HON. E. A. LUCKHOO RESIGNS FROM BODY

The Honourable E. A. Luckhoo O.B.E. has resigned as a Member of the Education Committee.

His Successor on that body is the Honourable Dr. Jung Bahadur Singh, O.B.E.

It is believed that Dr. Singh will be able to render invaluable Service as a member of the Education Committee. He is President of the British Guiana Sanatan Dharam Maha Sabha.

Dr. Singh was awarded the O.B.E. in June last for Social Service to the Community.

## Port Mourant Band Supplies Indian Music At Olympic

Twenty-one hundred patrons gathered at the Olympic Theatre in Georgetown on Friday evening 14th instant to listen to the popular Indian Vocalist and Instrumentalist Mr. Tillack.

A cast of several Indian male and female Artistes were also in the show. Music was supplied by the Port Mourant Band.

## Sir Jagdish Chand Bose

WORLD-FAMED SCIENTIST AND INVENTOR

Prominent among the Scientists of the world is the name Sir Jagdish Chandr Bose.

His Scientific discoveries are a marvel to almost every technical institution in Europe. His lectures before the Organised Institutions of Science in London and Paris have been described by Professor Einstein as "Monumental." The INDIAN OPINION will provide its readers with a brief sketch of Bose's Life in its next issue.

## Attention! Calling All Indians

The Government of India has decided to stop the payment of money orders and delivery of insured and cash-on-delivery articles to troops in India through Army Post Offices.

Accordingly all Post Offices in British Guiana have been instructed not to accept money orders and insured and C. O. D. articles addressed c/o Army Base Post Office, India, Bombay or Karachi and the R. A. F., India.

## Mr. Basil Thakoor For The United States

TWO TEACHERS SELECTED FOR 4-H TRAINING

LEAVING COLONY IN AUGUST

Mr. Basil Thakoor of the Government Teachers' Training College and the Beterverwagting Community Centre has been selected to study 4-H Club work in the United States of America.

Mr. Thakoor is expected to leave the Colony in August for Jamaica, where he will undergo a six-month course.

In February 1945, he will proceed to the United States for an additional three month training.

The other Candidate selected is Miss L. Fraser.

Miss Fraser is Domestic Science Instructress at the Albion C.M. School. She is also a graduate of the Carnegie Trade Centre.

The cost of the training courses will be borne by the Colonial Welfare and Development Fund.

## Chamber Of Commerce Smells Of Sugar.

NEGATIVE ATTITUDE TOWARDS DRAINAGE AND IRRIGATION

[INDIAN OPINION CORRESPONDENT]

The Georgetown Chamber of Commerce has joined the band of men determined to impede at all costs the development and progress of British Guiana. The Chamber is smelling of sugar and is nauseating. What on earth has the Chamber of Commerce got to do with the spending of Money in Drainage and Irrigation. Will not Commerce benefit by more money being spent in the colony? The Chamber of Commerce business is to engage itself in promoting Commerce and keep out of affairs such as Drainage and Irrigation. It is hoped that the Chamber of Commerce will now mind its own business and keep its nose out from Drainage and Irrigation.

## Dissolution Of Moribund Legislative Council

CHAOS AND CONFUSION

(A letter to the Editor)

Dear Sir,—

What a shame on Mr. Woolford for making such a derogatory statement in the Legislative Council with regard to Indian women in connection with Adult Suffrage. Mr. Editor what is the matter with our dying Legislative Council and its members? Isn't it time that this body be dissolved? What kind of a Government have we got? Is it Imperialistic? Is it Dictatorial? Is it Democratic? or is it Chaos and Confusion?

There is only one decent thing for our legislators to do and that is to resign. The whole country is fed up with the majority of them.

Yours "GULANESE"

## Indian Political Crisis Reaches Interesting Stage

GANDHI'S STATESMANLIKE AND CONSTRUCTIVE MOVE

LORD WAVELL MOVES TO SIMLA

(By Reuters)

Political developments resulting from the recent declaration by Mohandas Gandhi and Ragagopalachari continue to be the main topic of the Indian Press; in which every scrap of British and American comment is eagerly quoted.

Broadly speaking the Congress Party Press hails Gandhi's move as statesmanlike and constructive and calls on the Government of India and Mohammad Ali Jinnah, the Moslem league leader, to take the next step.

There is a minority of Hindu opinion rumbling with open discontent over the recent offer to the Moslems.

Similarly a minority of the Moslem criticizes Jinnah who continues to keep his own counsel but the majority still follow his leadership.

As Lord Wavell, the Viceroy, has just gone to Simla, no immediate development seems likely.

Further study is causing official opinion to veer towards the belief that Gandhi's motive is rather to put the Government of India and the British Government in the wrong than to seek real solutions.

## Legislators are Hardly Ever the Choice of the People

Sir,

Mr. Woolford's attack on Indian Women lacks foundation. There is just one question I would like to ask him with regard to this question of the suffrage and the composition of the Legislative Council. Now what I want to know is this; who are the voters eventually going to vote for; is it not candidates who would present themselves to the people. Is it not true that two candidates generally, and very rarely three come forward for elections.

Is it not true that they are hardly ever the choice of the people.

Is it not true that hardly ever it turns out that these people really and truly represent the people but represent themselves, feather their own nests and indulge in the ordinary grinding of their own axes.

Yours

TRUTH.

## British Guiana Cannot Progress While Half Her Population Is Forgotten

(INDIAN OPINION CORRESPONDENT)

The attention of the Administration has been time and again called to the fact that Indians are very sparsely or often times completely left out in the different Government Boards and Committees. Cognizance of the fact seems to have oversighted the entire Administration. This certainly is a very sad state of affairs as Indians who are nearly half the population of this colony are prevented from actively contributing towards its general progress; Indians have undoubtedly the major burden of the Agricultural sustenance of the country then how can progress be made when the very persons interested are being kept out deliberately.

RELIABLE DEALERS IN

General Provision Merchandise

**BOODHOO**

Water Street Georgetown

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