

INDIAN OPINION

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ONE PENNY

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-EDITORIAL-

Farewell

We bid farewell to the Honourable Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru, B.A. L.L.B., B.S.C., Member of the Council of State, Delhi, India, and President of the Servants of India Society after his visit extending over a period of eight days. In this short time the Pandit was able to visit several places of industrial activity and interest in Demerara and Berbice, and his impressions are summarised in a cable to the Associated Press, New Delhi, India, published elsewhere.

Our distinguished visitor was warmly welcomed by His Excellency the Governor at a meeting of the Legislative Council, by the Mayors and Town Councillors of Georgetown and New Amsterdam, and by the community in general. During his stay he has impressed all sections of the Community and his Statesman like address in Georgetown and Berbice have been very greatly appreciated by all. It may be that his conclusions have not met with the approval of all sections of the Community but as he rightly stated in his last address at the Town Hall on Wednesday, he did not come to British Guiana with any ulterior motive.

After attending the Pacific Relations Conference in the U.S.A. on behalf of the Government of India, Pandit Kunzru thought it advisable to visit these parts of the Empire where Indians are

YOUR ASSOCIATION IS HOMELESS

By KUNZRU.

"Your Association is homeless, you need a centre of activity, you cannot command the respect of the authorities unless you have a suitable home" with these words Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru broke into the business of Conference last Sunday. So inspiring and timely was his appeal that the business of Conference was temporarily set aside to appoint a representative Committee to get to work immediately to provide the Association with a home and the various Indian Organizations in this Country with a common platform.

Kunzru is gone, but his appeal in this direction will not be easily forgotten. The Indian Committee will now sit empanelled and wait patiently on the Kunzru Building Fund Committee for action, with Mr. H.B. Gajraj as Chairman, Mr. Amin Sankar as Secretary together with a conclave of the leading personalities of our group, there is every likelihood that soon that long, awaited Building will be thrown open to the community.

In certain quarters people are doubtful whether the Community will function after the departure of the Hon. H.N. Kunzru. Let us not be pessimistic. On the contrary let us give the Committee our full support.

settled in large numbers. The Indians in British Guiana will remain ever grateful to our distinguished Visitor for his kindly interest in the past, and for his continued interest in the future, which is now based on the actual personal knowledge of the conditions and variety of problems which Indians are facing in this part of the world.

Pandit Kunzru is doing a great service not only to Indians, but to humanity in general. He has devoted the major part of his life in the service of mankind and we have no doubt that he will continue to exhibit the same interest in the future as he has done in the past. We wish him continued success in his life's work and while wishing him adieu from British Guiana, we also wish him a pleasant time in Dutch Guiana, Natal, and other places in Africa also a safe passage to his home

Let us register our names for a handsome amount to provide a shelter for generations to come. To Mr. H.B. Gajraj, who must be remembered launched the idea when he was at the helm of the Association, we say: "Go forward we are behind you."

CABLE TO ASSOCIATED

PRESS, New Delhi, India.

By The BRITISH GUIANA EAST INDIAN ASSOCIATION

The Honourable Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru arrived in British Guiana May 10. He was warmly welcomed by the Indian Community at the Town Hall, Georgetown. He was also accorded a Civic welcome in New Amsterdam, Berbice.

Speaking at Public meetings held at Georgetown and Berbice he deplored the deterioration that had occurred in the Indian Community and stressed the urgent need for taking steps to rehabilitate their culture and languages if they were not to disappear as a people in these parts. He also urged the need for the teaching of Hindi and Urdu in the primary schools in order to make Indians to remember their National heritage, so that they may not forget their moral basis of life. He went on to state that they had to guard against the great and imminent danger of losing their culture as there was no other culture to take its place in British Guiana or Trinidad. The help of the Government of both British Guiana and India would be necessary in this connection.

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Cable To Associated Press,
New Delhi, India

Continued from Page 1

It would be a grave wrong to the Indians of British Guiana and Trinidad if the Government of India neglected this vital question any longer. Their greatest duty is to take up the matter immediately and energetically.

He also referred to the question of education, and Labour and stated that the condition of the Indian workers on the sugar plantations was extremely unsatisfactory. It seemed to him that there was a surplus of labour on the sugar plantations and unless Indians were settled as independent farmers in large numbers there could be no hope of improvement in their present miserable condition. The wages paid were so low that the great majority of the workers were under fed and ill clad.

The housing arrangements in the main deserved to be strongly condemned, the workers lived mostly in over-crowded barracks and the surroundings were insanitary, at least during the rainy season and thoroughly depressing.

The arrangements for the supply of pure drinking water were also unsatisfactory; he was told that in some places there was no provision for pure water supply.

Regarding education, his view was that the Indian Community had been gravely neglected. There was great overcrowding, and almost all the schools belonged to Christian Denominations, it had been authoritatively stated that in consequence of this. Non Christian Indians could not be appointed head masters in any of the schools and few could even be assistant masters, while in these schools the salaries of all teachers were paid entirely from the revenues of the Colony. Mr Kunzru then stressed the need for the appointment of an Agent of the Government of India. Without an Indian Agent there was scarcely any chance of the needs of the Indians receiving proper attention. The Indian public and the Indian Government should therefore vigorously press the British Government to permit his appointment so as to prevent further neglect and degradation of the Indian Community.

General Provision
Merchandise

Boodhoo

Water Street, Georgetown.

The Need For Consumers' Cooperatives

By C. B. JAGAN B.Sc., D.D.S.

Man in his search for politico-economic forms of organization for the promotion of his welfare has accepted capitalism, fascism, socialism and communism. Most of us are aware of the short-comings of political democracy with its attendant capitalism and free enterprise which has for its prime motive the acquiring of profits. We have just witnessed the fatal termination of Italian Fascism and German National Socialism, both outgrowths of a decaying capitalism. One still finds, however, in our midst native fascists and Franco lovers. Of Socialism and Communism with the philosophy of "from each according to his ability, to each according to his need", most of us are sympathetic, a few perhaps a bit sceptical of the means pursued to achieve this just end, having been bombarded by adverse propaganda. Living in a colony dominated by the Colonial Office in London, we have no choice but to slowly evolve within the existing frame-work of capitalism. It is in such a situation that the cooperative movement, the so-called "Middle-Way" of the Scandinavian countries finds itself as an organization for the promotion of human well-being.

A consumers' cooperative society is a voluntary association of individuals organized democratically to supply their economic needs. Whereas the prevailing capitalistic philosophy of profit and self-interest places the welfare of the individual above that of the group, that of the cooperative movement recognizes that the welfare of the individual will be advanced by promoting the welfare of the group. In capitalism, the prime motive is the acquisition of profits.

The cooperative movement, starting as it usually does among the lowest income groups recognizes the practical impossibility of members of those groups ever acquiring profits. It also recognizes the exploitation of that group by those possessing the economic power, to acquire profit for themselves. The prime purpose of a cooperative is to perform an economic service for its members.

The basic principles of a true cooperative are (1). Membership is voluntary and unlimited, with one vote per member. This principle has its foundation on true democracy both political and economic. It implies no compulsion or coercion, and at the same time reserves for each member one vote regardless of how much capital he may have invested. It preserves true democratic control, not allowing control to pass into the hands of the few who may possess several

(2). Owners of invested capital are paid a limited rate of return, while net surplus savings are divided on the basis of patronage. The cooperative idea is that capital is only one factor in the production of commodities and consequently should be paid a fixed wage. One fundamental difference with existing corporate practice is that profit shall not be distributed on the basis of number of shares held or amount of capital invested, but are to be divided among its members according to the volume of their individual purchases.

(3). Merchandise must be sold at the current price a strictly cash basis.

There are various types of cooperatives. The most common perhaps is the retail marketing of groceries and food stuffs. Cooperative retail stores of this nature would definitely put an end to the abnoxious practice of black-marketing, and at the same time eliminate several middle-men whose profits add to the burden of the poor consumer. In other countries the movement has spread into the retailing of gasoline, oil, supplying of credit through credit unions, insurance, housing, health and burial associations.

The attitude to cooperatives by American Big Business may be summed up from Babson's reports of 1935. "It has something of truth and causing quality almost like a spiritual revival.....potentially it has enough votes, enough money and enough economic soundness to split things wide open.....we must watch our steps if consumers ever become wise to their latent powers, and decide to become dictators in fact as they are in theory."

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Georgetown.

**Conference Unanimously
Passes Resolution For
Indian Commissioner**

WHEREAS there are many problems peculiar to the Indians in British Guiana:

AND WHEREAS for the preservation of good relation between the Indians and other races, and between the Indians and the Government of this Colony, an Indian Commissioner would be of considerable assistance in promoting that relationship.

AND WHEREAS there are appointed in this colony Consuls and in some cases vice-consuls for several races resident here, and such appointments are serving a very useful purpose.

AND WHEREAS in no less a degree there is need for the appointment of an Indian Commissioner for this Colony by the Government of India, and such an appointment would not be incompatible with the interest of the other races.

AND WHEREAS the necessity for the appointment of such a person has been conceded by the Council of State for India by a resolution passed by the Council, a few years ago, which was moved by the Hon. Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru.

BE IT RESOLVED that this Conference Firstly, records its profound gratitude to the Hon. Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru for his assistance in initiating and guiding the passage of a Resolution in the Council of State of India for such an appointment. Secondly, that this Conference unanimously affirms the urgent necessity for the appointment by the Government of India of an Indian Commissioner for this Colony who shall himself be an Indian, solely responsible to the Government of India with as nearly as possible similar powers and privileges as a Consul, and respectfully requests Hon. Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru to take all steps necessary bringing about such an appointment at an early date.

—:o:—

EDUCATION

WHEREAS Mr. Hammond—Educational Adviser to Sir Frank Stockdale—Comptroller for Development and Welfare in the West Indies has examined and reported on the Education System of British Guiana.

AND WHEREAS Mr. Hammond has recommended that all new School Buildings erected in the future be controlled by Government, and existing Buildings be administered under a TRUST SCHEME until such time as Government is in a position to assume control of such buildings.

AND WHEREAS Mr. Hammond has recommended that Non-Christians—Hindus and Muslims who constitute 38% of the colony's population be not debarred from the Teaching Profession and denied the post of head-teachership as at present, should they have the necessary qualifications.

AND WHEREAS the Church Bodies controlling around 237 of the 247 fully and partly

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

—:o:—

**Partial Education Facilities
To Country Children & Teachers.**

The Education Department is simply an Administrative system, although this Colony is called British Guiana yet we find (a) The City children receives visits from a Medical Officer which is not applicable to the country children.

(b) The City children receives Dental facilities which the Country children do not get. (c) The City children receives Milk etc and nothing of the sort to the country ones and many glaring instances which has caught the eyes of the Country man.

Had it not been for the Country the City would have gone with the wind I wonder what is the Education Department doing are they just receiving their salaries and

aided Schools in the Colony have now banded themselves into a body: the UNITED CHRISTIAN FRONT and have published their CHRISTIAN EDUCATION PRINCIPLES which they propose to put in operation in the Schools, and which will debar Non-Christian children from attending school freely as at present, and restrict the appointment of the best teachers.

BE IT RESOLVED that Government be requested to give effect to the Recommendations of the Hammond Report as early as possible.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The UNITED CHRISTIAN FRONT BE not allowed to put their CHRISTIAN EDUCATION PRINCIPLES in operation in the Primary Schools especially those sections affecting Non-Christian children.

Mover: Sugrim Singh.

Seconder: Dr. U.B. Khan, OpD.

(Continued on page 4)

don't care as long as they get their share. why is Government taking money from the Country people, how much of the city people voluntarily offer their services to the war than the Country ones.

Even lectures are given to the City Teachers and not the Country ones a rotten kind of Democracy looks like Plutocracy is 'nt it.

Ramjeet Singh.

Port Mourant.

**Christian Parson Impounds
Labourers Cattle.**

Port Mourant Anglican Church have no back yard where all cattle grazing from the Estate land pays a visit daily in the church yard, although the Rev.

is aware that the time is hard and that he has no fence, but because he cannot find the money to put on fencing, he is obliged to impound the people's cattle, he was approached by the District Secretary of the Man-Power Citizens Association, who is also the Secretary of the Indian Welfare League; when he said he was sorry, it was never his intention to impound cattle, but he can't find the money to put on fencing it would cost \$150 for Posts alone.

Such is the state of affairs on the Poor Sugar Estates workers, who is unprotected. A complaint was sent to the District Commissioner New Amsterdam, Berbice.

R. Singh.

Port Mourant.

Berbice.

(To be Continued Next Week)

We Recommend

BRODIE & RAINER

To all Physicians
for their Supply of Drugs
and to all Housewives for their
Requirements.

Conference Unanimously Passes Resolutions For Indian Commissioner

(Continued from page 3)

REPATRIATION AND LAND SETTLEMENT.

WHEREAS there is a large number of Immigrants in the Colony entitled to Return Passages to the Port in India whence they came;

AND WHEREAS for economic and other reasons it would be very desirable to encourage their remaining in the Colony;

AND WHEREAS a strong factor in achieving this end would be the granting or transporting of land or the making of money payment to them in lieu and satisfaction of their right to Return Passage under the provision of Section 193 of the Immigration Ordinance, Chapter 208;

AND WHEREAS it is certain if suitable offers are made a fair number would avail themselves of such offers;

AND WHEREAS in view of the war having spread to the Pacific it is not possible to repatriate Immigrants at the present time, and this situation may continue for some time in the future;

BE IT RESOLVED that this Conference respectfully requests Government to offer at an early date suitable lands or money payment to all Immigrants, their wives, children, and/or dependants entitled thereto in lieu and satisfaction of their right to Return Passage in accordance with Sections 193 to 195 of the Immigration Ordinance, Chapter 208;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Conference urges upon Government as an alternative measure the establishment of land settlements at suitable sites for such Immigrants when the equivalent of their Return Passages may be utilised towards the cost of the lands taken up by them under such settlements.

ALTERNATIVELY upon refusal or failure to comply with the above requests that the Government be asked to afford shipping facilities immediately after the cessation of War in the Pacific for transporting every Immigrant and those entitled to back passage and wishing to be repatriated,

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Conference respectfully ask the Hon. Pandit Hirday Nath Knazru to make full representation in respect of the above in India and anywhere else he may deem fit on behalf of the Indians in these parts.

Mover: Hon. C.R. Jacob M.L.C.

Seconded: Hon. Dr. J.B. Singh, O.B.E.

RAISING THE STANDARD OF LIVING ON SUGAR PLANTATIONS

WHEREAS the standard of living on the Sugar Plantations of British Guiana is low and has in the course of years resulted in the backwardness of the social, educational cultural and political advancement of the sugar workers, the majority of whom are East Indians;

AND WHEREAS this state of affairs constitutes a grave danger to the general advancement toward citizenship and self-Government on the part of the whole population of British Guiana;

AND WHEREAS it is wholly necessary that every section of the peoples of British Guiana be made to advance equally in social, educational, cultural and political growth—towards self-Government;

BE IT RESOLVED that this Conference most respectfully request the B.G. Government to adopt the necessary ways and means to raise the standard of living of the workers on the sugar plantations, in order to achieve the equality of progress in comparison with the country, village and urban districts of the Colony of British Guiana;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Conference most respectfully request the Honourable Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru, Member of the Council of State for India, to use his good influence with the Government of India to impress on the Government of British Guiana the urgent and essential need for this measure of raising the standard of living of the sugar workers to achieve the goal of self Government for the peoples of British Guiana.

Mover: Hon. Ayube M. Edun.

Seconded: Amos Rangela.

—:0:—

ADULT EDUCATION

WHEREAS by the Swettenham circular and other circumstances the Government of the Colony connived at non-education of Indian boys and girls in the past and is either directly or indirectly responsible for the large percentage of illiteracy in any language among Indians to-day.

AND WHEREAS the whole of the reasoning of the majority Report of the Franchise Commission of 1941 for not recommending Universal Adult Suffrage is because of this large percentage of illiteracy among the Indians particularly.

BE IT RESOLVED that this Conference respectfully request His Majesty's Government in the Colony to provide immediate country wide facilities for Adult Education,

Moved by: R. B. Gagraj

Seconded by: D.P. Dobbins.

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Indian Opinion

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