

INDIAN OPINION

OFFICIAL WEEKLY ORGAN OF THE BRITISH GUIANA EAST INDIAN ASSOCIATION.

VOL. 1. NO. 72

GEORGETOWN, B.G., SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 15, 1945. ONE PENNY

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LOCAL GOVERNMENT

(Continued from last week).

As we anticipated, His Excellency the Governor has not agreed to the very reasonable recommendation that the Local Government Board Bill should be deferred for a period of six months, and that in the meantime the Bill be referred to a Select Committee of the Legislative for examination and report.

It is obvious that Government is determined to cause little or no improvement in Local Government administration. The present Bill has several reactionary and undemocratic clauses that it becomes necessary to review a few of them.

Clause 9 (6) states that "the Board may at any time rescind any resolution for the appointment of a committee."

According to subclause 1 of this clause the Board has power to appoint Committees, but the Board wants power also to rescind any resolution that may have been passed for the appointment of a Committee.

Can progress be made in this way? It is our experience that in many ways Government gets certain members of Boards, Committees, etc., to change their views when progressive decisions are being put

into execution.

Clause 19 of the Bill gives the Board the right to act as a Local Authority in any Village or Country District. In our opinion, if any Village or Country District decides to do anything progressive, and not in accordance with the wishes of the Local Government Board, the Board can suspend the Village Council or Country Authority.

With respect to By-laws, Clause 21, the Governor in Council must approve of them. We can quite appreciate this power being delegated to the Governor in Council. So far as we are aware, the Transport and Harbours Board have powers to make their own by-laws. Since this is so, why the Local Government Board it not given the authority to make its own?

According to clause 24 (1) (b), the Board, with the approval of the Governor in Council may "declare that any village or country district shall cease to be a village or a country district as the case may be".

It appears that we have quoted sufficient undemocratic clauses to point out that the Bill is a relic of autocracy.

Regarding the section of Councilors, the residents of villages have to find suitable candidates within the village district, but the Board can and may appoint any person who resides within five miles from the boundaries of any village district.

What a system of democracy!

Turning to voters, only a proprietor of land, or of a building, or of land and building of the value of not less than fifty dollars can be registered as a voter. This qualification remains unchanged for a period of over fifty years. No father or natural guardian, or ownership by his wife; no tenant; or no Attorney or Director of any limited liability company should or could be registered as a voter in any village or country district.

Again, what a system of democracy!

Before this article sees the light of day it is possible that the Bill will become law. Our only hope is that certain members of the council will persuade Government to refer this Bill to the Secretary of State for the Colonies, as is the Franchise Bill so that progress may be assured for the rural areas and for the Colony on democratic principles.

VIOLENCE ON SUGAR ESTATES

We have noted with concern the increased number of violence that is being committed by labourers of Sugar Estates upon the members of the Staff.

There has been various degree of this violence ranging from Murder, assault to cause actual bodily harm to ordinary common assaults and threats the later being every day occurrences.

We have made careful investigation in this matter and have found that the reasons for these recent violence can be attributed to several causes; but are due principally to the following:—

(Continued on page 2)

PETER ROHOMAN HISOBNOXIOUS ARTICLES IN THE DAILY CHRONICLE AGAINST INDIANS

The Editor Indian Opinion—
Sir;

I am sure the curiosity of a few Indians must be somewhat aroused by now, as to who is this Peter Rohoman; well here it is. He is an Indian of above fifty-five years and works in the Government's Treasury Department, is married to a coloured woman and therefore has coloured children. Judge for yourself and then be satisfied as to the articles. Thank you Mr. Editor.

Yours—Douglas.

Mr. Abdul Bayman J. P. of Vread-en-Hoop W. C. and Mr. O. R. Chau of Mahaicony E. C. both very interested persons in the rice industry have been appointed Members of the B. G. Rice Marketing Board.

We are happy of the appointments but wish to point out that the Board still needs more appointments to it like the above persons that are directly interested in the rice Industry.

VIOLENCE ON SUGAR ESTATES

(Continued from page 1)

(1) The gross advantage and disrespect with which the staff treats the labourers on frequent occasions.

(2) The immoral approach of the staff as far as the females of the labourers are concerned; very frequently the wives and daughters of the labourers are induced, chiefly by coercion to commit immoral acts with members of the staff and this exists on all the sugar estates.

(3) Excessive rum drinking among the labourers. The rum-

shops being fostered and protected by the management with the idea of keeping the labourers in a hand to mouth condition.

(4) The widening of the gap of interest between labour and management by reason of excessive and inhuman exploitation of the former by the latter thus creating hatred and malice.

(5) Evictions, assault and unfair stoppages in wages of the labourers. We feel that unless the management of the Sugar Industry changes its present attitude of treatment to the labourers, there will be a gradual worsening of the situation eventually

reaching a stage where the position of the Staff would become intolerable as they would be in continuous danger of their lives.

We finally wish to express the opinion that the general outlook of labourers have changed considerably from what it was, say fifty years ago; but that of the management has remained stagnant and unless they (the management) are prepared to adopt new methods and technique in their general treatment and handling of the labourers of Sugar Estates they might as well begin to pack up their traps and get ready to quit the Sugar Estates. It is not yet too late, a stitch in time saves nine.

NOTICE

The general public and particularly fishermen, are warned that MINES have been found at sea or washed ashore at various places in the Caribbean area.

Fishermen should not attempt to recover or tamper with any mines or other explosive containers that may be brought up in their nets, but should drop them into the sea at the earliest opportunity.

At the time of dumping, the vessel should be under way at full speed and the mine or strange looking object should be let go in water shallower than at the point where it was found. The reason for this is that certain types of mines explode if dropped in deeper water.

Anyone who sees what appears to be a mine or other explosive container should on no account interfere with it in any way, but should immediately report the matter to the nearest Police Station.

W. A. OBRETT,

Commissioner of Police

BUY 'NIRMAL GHEE'

British Guiana's Foremost Dairy Produce

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

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STABROEK MARKET, GEORGETOWN.

PHONE C 341

BERBICE RICE FARMERS ASSOCIATION HOLDS BIG CONFERENCE

The Berbice Rice Farmer's Association held its first Conference of District Representatives on Sunday the 26th August at the Cosmopolitan Cinema, Rose Hall Village. Mr D. H. Goorbarry presided and among those present were Messrs. D. Dharry, R. Monchar, H. Armogau, Kolaudawel, Johnnie Bbarrat, Narain, Ramjattan Beepat, Mangroo-Ramperad, Sonrab Molai (Bushlot), Bala Sookiam (O. W. Creek), Jagessar Singh (No 48), Hanoman Slugh (No 57) Ramsoondar No (79) Baichoo Dass "Bloomfield," Nandlal "Friendship" Jas Dick "Courtlands," Subadar "Cauje" and others.

After prayers were said by Mr. D. Dharry, the Conference proceeded to business. A Resolution was then moved and carried expressing gratitude for the successful outcome of the Corentyne Drainage and Irrigation Scheme.

The following matters were discussed with the accompanying results.

Reconstituting the Rice Marketing Board The Board to be comprised of nominees of the Rice Producers Association.

Rice Producers Association:—should be a free and voluntary Organisation of men directly interested in the Rice Industry. It should be democratic to the hilt.

Central Rice mill would be acceptable to the Farmers in the Corentyne Const and for a probable site, Bush Lot "No 27" was suggested.

Milling Fees. Fees to be paid according to the grades produced. Rice Husks to remain the sole property of the farmers.

Schedule of Prices should be conspicuously displayed in all mills.

Remittance for Consignments including advances should be made directly to the farmers.

A working scheme to be submitted by a special Committee appointed.

A special Committee was set up to inquire and advise on the following:—Storage, Steaming, Loan Facilities to secure Bags, Seedlings, Substitution of Consignments Country Grading Contracts between Millers and Farmers, Free Entry and Buying by Agents for the Board from Mills, Bonds, Ploughs, Transportation etc.

The Conference was the first attempt in getting the Rice Farmers under one umbrella and the debates were very brisk and interesting.

District meetings were held at Vryhold and No 2 East Canje on the 2nd September.

**OVER 100 RESIDENTS OF
POUDEROYEN IN CITY
ON MONDAY**

**500 ACRES OF RICE AT
POUDEROYEN AT VERGE
OF BEING LOST**

—:o:—

On Monday 10th instant over a hundred residents of Pouderoyen, West Bank, Demerara, came to the B. G. E. I. Association to have their grievances solved. They are about to lose five hundred acres of their Rice crop for want of water. They are very much distressed as it is their only means of sustenance and their situation is becoming desperate. They are asking that some water be made available to them from the Boerasaire Irrigation works which lies along-side their cultivation. They are all peasant farmers and are willing to pay any cost that may be required of them for the water.

A deputation headed by Mr. Jenarine Singh, President, interviewed Mr. M. B. Laing Commissioner of Local Government on the matter. Unfortunately the position as explained by Mr. M. B. Laing left no room for hope to these hard pressed

**UNIVERSAL ADULT
SUFFRAGE**

**DELEGATION TO
VISIT LONDON TO PLACE
CASE BEFORE SECRETARY
OF STATE**

—:o:—

A delegation is being organized to visit London on the question of Universal Adult Suffrage and to request a change in the Constitution of British Guiana. His Excellency, the Governor has been requested for Priority for the delegation to travel to England and to ask His Majesty's Secretary of State for the Colonies to receive the deputation in connection with the matter mentioned above. A reply is awaited.

Communique of the B. G. E. I. A.

citizens. A petition is now being prepared to be forwarded to His Excellency the Governor, with the hope of receiving some form of assistance in the matter.

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Dow Ale
and
Dow Stout**

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Demonstration Demonstration

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**CAPITALISTS PLANNING TO STRANGLE
WORKERS AND PEASANTS**

**CONSPIRACY TO DIVIDE AFRICANS AND INDIANS UNDER WAY
GUIANESE YOU MUST DEMAND UNIVERSAL ADULT
SUFFRAGE NOW**

Colony Wide Demonstrations Planned

Look Out For Further Developments

JENARINE SINGH.
President, B. G. E. I. Association.

Dedicated Nehru Family

"Going to jail is a trivial matter in the world today, which is being shaken to its foundations. As a mere routine, I think it has some value and does one good, but that value is not very great unless there is an inner urge to do it."

There has never been any doubt about the inner urge of India's cultured, handsome Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, who wrote these words (from jail) to his sister Krishna. This great and good friend of Mohandas K. Gandhi has spent nearly half of his 55 years in British prisons. Not nearly so familiar is the fact that his entire family—father, mother, two sisters, wife and brother-in-law—have also gone to jail in the cause of India's freedom. Krishna Nehru's brief, informal autobiography provides an intimate introduction to the First Family of Indian passive resistance.

Life with Father

Father Motilal Nehru was the leading lawyer and one of the richest men in Allahabad. He bought a great, rambling show place, raised his three children in grand British Raj style with "many horses, dogs, cars and carriages" and a strict English governess for the two girls, Swarup and Krishna. Jawaharlal 18 years Krishna's senior, was the family favorite. Educated at Harrow and Cambridge, he went home in 1912. With his return began the joint family life of dedication to their country's Nationalist cause.

Father Motilal, an intelligent, fiery-tempered man who knew what he wanted and usually got it, did not at first share his son's devotion to Gandhi and the doctrine of non-violent resistance. But on April 13, 1919, following a series of disturbances in the Punjab, British Brigadier General R. E. H. Dyer threw a detachment of soldiers around a forbidden public meeting in an enclosed square, and ordered his men to fire until their ammunition was exhausted. Result: 379 Indians killed, 1,200 wounded. That massacre (at Jallianwala Bagh) changed Father's mind.

When he changed, he went whole hog. Before joining *Satyagraha Sabha* (Gandhi's "League of People Holding to the Truth"), he gave up his law practice, and with it most of his income and all of its luxurious appurtenances. Life in the Nehru household became a chaos of conferences and political comings and goings, punctuated by arrivals of the police to pack Jawaharlal or his father off to jail. Says Krishna, "This was the beginning of a new life—a life of uncertainty, of sacrifice, of heartache.... Since then, going in and out of jail has become an incurable habit with most of the members of my family."

Happy Days

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But Krishna never did. Later their father joined them for a vacation, and the four accepted a Russian invitation to visit Moscow for the tenth-anniversary celebration of the Revolution. There they were especially impressed by the clean, pleasant interior of a prison.

Back in India, the exhausting cycle of congresses and incarcerations began again. Motilal's hard-driven health was failing, and in 1931 he died. His funeral was an occasion for a tremendous demonstration of Nationalist-minded Indians. Said Gandhi: "What I have lost through Motilalji's death is a loss forever."

Strained, tired, idealistic Jawaharlal carried on in Gandhi's dogged war of attrition against the British Empire. When he and Gandhi were again arrested in 1932, Krishna, Swarup, and their delicate, aged mother took to the hustings. The two sisters were promptly clapped into jail for a year apiece; their mother shortly followed. True to Nehru tradition, Krishna found prison life "not pleasant" but "a great experience."

Gandhi's Heir

Written in 1942-43 while Krishna waited for her husband to complete a one-year stretch, *With No Regrets* is no guide to the tortuous complexities of Indian politics. Nor is it even Gandhi propaganda. British imperialists may read it without risk of apoplexy. But for most westerners, these gentle reminiscences will help to bring alive the sensitive, ascetic man of dreams and action who will probably inherit Gandhi's sainted *khadi* during modern India's most crucial years.

(TIME)

India Today

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than any Conservative with the exception, perhaps of Churchill. Like many Englishmen, he has talked himself into believing that the trouble really lies with the Indians and not with the British.

I told him that, though India's past experiences did not justify any optimism with regard to the British Labor Party, yet it is generally considered more liberal. So I wondered if he and his party had given any thought to finding some way to settle the Indian problem. Attlee snapped back. "I would like to ask you that question. Have the Indians decided among themselves what they want?" Then after puffing on his pipe he added: "It is very difficult for us to do anything when we know that anything we may offer will be rejected. I really think it is up to the Indians." I remarked that though he is sincerely convinced the British could not part with power unless the Indians got together the Indians were just as sincerely convinced that so long as the British keep power they will never get together.

I asked Attlee if he did not think the continuance of the political deadlock in India was likely to endanger world peace. He agreed.

I suggested that, in the absence of a settlement, the present bitterness might be intensified beyond reason or control, and that within five years after the end of the war there might be an armed revolution in India with the help of a foreign power. I added that he could easily guess who the foreign power would be. That I said, would mean chaos and bloodshed. I ended by asking "Do you want that?" Attlee said Oh no, oh no, certainly not."

Attlee said he thought that Indian leaders made a great mistake in not accepting the Cripps offer. "The Cripps offer," he added, is still open. I think they ought to accept it and become a Dominion with the right to secede from the empire."

At the time of the interview, Nehru and other Indian leaders were still in jail. I mentioned this and Attlee agreed that it was a great loss to the builders of future peace not to have a man like Nehru with them.

Attlee hoped that something would be done soon. At the end he said: I am always working for Indian freedom."

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SATURDAY 15th SEPTEMBER 1945

Preserve your Teeth and Save your Money

By Cheddi B. Jagan, D. D. S.

It is surprising how little people actually know about their teeth. Every day one looks in the mirror—to comb the hair, to put on makeup, to shave, etc. It will be a good thing to cultivate the habit of also looking daily inside the mouth—at the teeth, gums, cheeks, tongue, tonsils, etc. These oral tissues have been called the barometer of the state of nutrition of the body.

Qualified dentists and physicians can recognize decay of the teeth (caries); inflammation of the gums (gingivitis), caused by tartar (calculus), bad-fitting crowns, crooked teeth, etc., leading finally to destruction of the fibres of the bone with loosening of the teeth and discharge of pus (pyorrhea); syphilis; cancer; infected tonsils; vitamin deficiency conditions, etc. You too can learn to look inside of your mouth so that you can recognize when something is beginning to go wrong. It is not expected of you to know what is wrong—the realization that something is going wrong is enough.

Let's take cancer for example. Cancer treatment in the early stages can be very successful. It is said that dentists can recognize cancer even before the physician, because of the fact that it occurs so frequently inside the mouth. If you are in the habit of looking inside the mouth you can be aware of it even before the dentist and so get early successful treatment.

Look at the teeth. Do they look sparkling, or dingy and covered with food? The latter are more likely to decay. See that the back teeth are just as shiny as the front ones even though no one else may see them. Learn to brush them correctly at least twice a day, preferably immediately after every meal. As soon as you see a cavity many times we have to use X-Rays to detect them, so look closely—have it fill-

HAGUE SETTLEMENT SHOULD STAY FOR EVER

—:o:—

Hague Settlement
W. C. Demerara
2nd Oct 1945

To the Editor
of the Indian opinion.

Thanking you for space in your
Valuable Columns

We the settlers of Hague remember the time when people came from different places to erect houses and to settle themselves at the above mentioned place. Some unbalanced men came and inspected the place saying that the place was not suitable

ed Delay will lead to extraction. This in turn will lead to bridges and plates. Any dentist will tell you that operative dentistry (fillings) is much cheaper than prosthetic dentistry "bridges, plates". The main thing to remember is that in the first case you preserve your own teeth. A survey was made among college men in the U. S. to determine what feature they most admired in women, and the answer was "perfect teeth".

Look at the gums. Do they look firm and healthy—or do they bleed quite easily? Is there a slight discharge of pus on gentle pressure to the gums? Is there a dark brown deposit of tartar "calculus" around the teeth near the gums? These are all signs that something is wrong. Do not wait until the teeth become so shaky that they can be pulled out with the fingers. Tartar is a deposit on the tooth from the salts of the blood and saliva. Thorough brushing usually prevents this deposit from forming. However, if it is allowed to remain there undisturbed for a few days, it becomes hard, and will then have to be taken out by the dentist. If not it destroys the fibres and bone, and ultimately leads to loosening of the teeth with discharge of pus. This in turn leads to extraction and plates. So look carefully inside your mouth, preserve your teeth and save your money.

THE FOLLOWING ARE THE OFFICE BEARERS OF THE BUSH LOT-BRANCH OF THE B. G. E. I. A.

President ... Mr. J. Chinapen
Secretary ... Mr. Cecil Bankay
Treasurer ... Mr. R. Ramessar
Asst. Secretary ... Ramotar
Committee Members ... Messrs. R. Kisson, O. H. Jaundoo, Shri Persaud and Victor Adams (Abraham Shariff)

to live. Then we had to write the Hon. Dr. J. B. Singh and Mr. A. K. Amin (B.L.) to visit the place, they came and representation was made, two weeks after permission was granted to erect houses, and settle.

After two years Mr. Green the then Commissioner and the Sanitary Inspector from G.T. Visited the settlement. We were permitted to leave ten rods of land house spot, in which we could plant Greens but not padi and consider the place to be very healthy.

We started some spending our money. Labour to be life settlers, Time and time had past until we invited Hon. C. R. Jacob President of the Guiana United Trade Union, to see the condition of the road we had. Mr. Jacob also made representation and it was carried, today we have a brick road for our ups and down travelling also Doctors and Nurses, can visit us any time in case of urgent need Our Settlement should be a wonder to all Guianese, to see we are only East Indians settle here unitedly.

During War we were happy with our Live Stock—gardening Cows-milk also our rice, also we transfer mostly to Ptn Leonora Georgetown (etc).

Now we are prepared to petition His Excellency the Governor as an invitation to visit Our settlement, of which we will stand unitedly to receive:

Million of thanks to all the Gentlemen help us to be settlers here.

We say Namaste to one and all.

Your most humble
and obedient Servant
Sir

H. Mohabeer Pres. Arya Samaj
Arjun Secty.

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