

INDIAN OPINION

OFFICIAL WEEKLY ORGAN OF THE BRITISH GUIANA EAST INDIAN ASSOCIATION.

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Our Governor.

The news of the threat to the life of His Excellency Sir Gordon Lethem "broke" too late for insertion and comment in our last week's issue which was already printed when His Excellency spoke of it in the Legislative Council. We received it with great consternation and in an interview with the Daily Chronicle, our President, Mr. Jenarine Singh declared: "I hardly think that any responsible person would write such a foolish letter. It could only be the act of a coward and of someone who does not wish the East Indian community well."

There can be no doubt at all that no responsible nor sane member of our community, or for that matter, of the entire citizenry of the Colony, would write such a letter or issue in any other form, threats to the person and life of His Excellency. In this view we believe that His Excellency concurs, for Sir Gordon himself suggested that the letter may be the product of "some ill balanced creature."

All responsible Indian organizations, every responsible leader of our people here and citizens of Indian ancestry were deeply stirred at the news of this despicable threat to the Governor, and on their behalf, as well as on behalf of the B. G. East Indian Association we wish to say how we all deplore this matter and that we dissociate ourselves from the letter, its threats and its remarks in every respect.

And now, for a few moments, let us ponder over the authorship of this vile letter. We have not seen it, read its contents nor studied its language. Most probably it was sent anonymously, but from the strain of its charges His Excellency concludes the author is an Indian. Quite reasonable conclusion, but our President explains that it could also emanate from a non Indian, wishing to put the Indian Community on the spot in H. E.'s eyes. Both suggestions merit thought, but ours is not the intention to develop an argument which will have to use hypothetical bases: we merely consider it our duty to record them impartially, and to say emphatically once again, that whoever is the author, whatever be his racial origin he is guilty of a most abhorrent act, one that cannot be subscribed to by any sane and responsible person owing allegiance to His Majesty the King, and his personal representative, His Excellency the Governor. Such a person must be irresponsible, wicked, malicious, venomous, mentally ill-balanced suffering from fanciful delusions, and well qualified to be confined in the Mental Hospital at Fort Conje. We earnestly hope that he will be apprehended because such an individual constitutes a potential menace to all citizens.

Now we turn to the reasons which Sir Gordon believes are responsible for this "effusion." To quote His Excellency: The apparent reason for this effusion is that I am to be held responsible, and perhaps, Mr. Woolford, for denying promised self-government to Indians and secondly that in speaking recently to a predominantly East Indian assemblage last Sunday,..... I couped a strongly worded expression of regret at the degree of malice and malicious and venomous spite that I see so evident

and so growing, both between sections of the East Indians themselves and as from their racial group towards others in this country."

Regarding the question of "self-government," H. E. evidently, refers to the fight put up for universal adult suffrage which was lost. On this subject our views are well known: we still maintain the same claim, and while the fight has been lost for the present, His Excellency himself has agreed that universal adult suffrage is the ultimate goal in franchise reform, and we shall never forget it; our efforts to prepare all citizens for it will never be relaxed what clearer example do we need than the people of England, who through the Labour Party, have been clamouring for years for the nationalizing of basic industries of production, and now they are to have it. Had their leaders relaxed after losing the first battle, their cause would have been lost forever.

As for Sir Gordon's speech at the Hindoo Religious Society's function two Sundays ago, we must be frank and say we are disappointed. Malice and spite between members of our community there is; we do not deny it, and we dislike it ourselves; we will do our best to eradicate it wherever it shows its ugly head. But Sir Gordon knows as all Guiana knows that malice and spite hatred and love, goodness and badness, godliness, and lawlessness are found in every nation, in every race wherever people live. It has been so from time immemorial, and it is not confined to any one people. One has only to read the English newspapers during the last election to see how malicious and hateful were the charges, exchanges and statements made against each other by the respective heads of the Conservative and Labour Parties.

As we have stated quite clearly, we dislike the use of these bad parts of man's nature, and while we are sorry that reference should have been made to them by Sir Gordon, we must concede that he has a right as a citizen to make these statements if he wants to, in much the

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EDITORIAL

(Continued from page 1)

same way as we have the right to offer criticism on his statements, and actions. It is the Freedom of speech which citizens of Guiana must never permit to be denied them.

It is true that we have not always agreed with His Excellency's policy or his point of view; with his utterances or his method of seeking advice, but, no matter how divergent be our differences on matters of politics, we would never think of having recourse to violence. We believed in Mahatma Gandhi's principle of non-violence, and while there may be some among our people who at times cannot subdue the martial spirit innate in all human beings (and this is a condition common to all mankind) as a whole we prefer to carry on our struggle in a wholesome, constitutional manner, confident in the knowledge that where a cause is just, right will in the end triumph over might.

In conclusion, we wish to assure His Excellency that our people as a whole appreciate his efforts on their behalf, and as we have said above, while we do not see eye to eye with him on all occasions, we know that Sir Gordon is motivated by a strong desire, a sincere desire to act equitably and deal honourably with all the peoples here, and we trust that the acts of an "irresponsible creature" will not induce him to pass judgement on an entire people. We pray God for His Excellency's health and continued strength and wisdom in the execution of his difficult task as Governor of British Guiana.

THE TOWN CLERK

We are very happy to offer our congratulations to Mr. Edgar A. Adams, F. L. A., A. Certified Accountant, on his appointment as Town Clerk of and for the City of Georgetown.

It is a fitting climax to an excellent career of honest service performed with "fidelity and zeal." Mr. Adams was, for a long number of years, chief accountant of S. Davson and Co. Ltd., and has been a practicing accountant for many years. He was at one time a Vice-President of the B.G.E.I.A., and is currently Chairman of the Indian Publicity Committee, President of the Tagore Arts Society and member of the Board of Governors of the Carnegie Trade Centre for Women.

We wish Mr. Adams unqualified success in his new post,

CITY COUNCIL MEETS

MR. E. A. ADAMS ELECTED TOWN CLERK

The Georgetown City Council, at a special meeting on Monday, 29th October, considered applications for the appointment of Town Clerk resulting from the retirement of Mr. Harris E. Belgrave, whose 6 month's leave of absence expires early in November.

There were 14 applications, prominent among whom were Mr. E. A. Adams F.L.A. Certified Accountant; Mr. R. G. Sharples, Solicitor, Mr. A. Vanier, Solicitor Mr. F. B. Pierre, Acting Town Clerk, and Mr. C. E. Tulloch, recently resigned Mayor of New Amsterdam.

Mr. Rahman B. Gajraj elected councillor of Kingstown Ward proposed Mr. E. A. Adams to fill the post. Councillor Gajraj stressed the applicants' qualifications, his knowledge and his experience and expressed the view that Mr. Adams, cool and calm judgement and his suavity of manner would make him a credit to the Corporation and create a great deal of harmony around the Council table.

The Deputy Mayor, Councillor Edward M. Gonsalves, seconded and said that he was satisfied that Mr. Adams would fill the post admirably.

Councillor Thorne in a lengthy speech which on many occasions strayed from the points and degenerated into unfair attacks proceeded in the end to nominate Mr. F. B. Pierre, acting Town Clerk. Councillor Percy C. Wight seconded, and when to the vote Mr. Adams succeeded in obtaining a 6 to 3 victory. Voting was as follows. For Mr. Adams: Mrs. Boyley, Messrs. John Gonsalves

The Deputy Mayor, Mr. Gajraj and the Mayor.

For Mr. Pierre: Messrs. Walls, Thorne and Percy Wight. The new Town Clerk assumes duty on November, 5th.

INDIAN NATIONAL CONGRESS PARTY ON UNCIO

The Working Committee of the Congress Party, meeting in Simla on July 15, passed a resolution on the United Nations Charter. The Committee regretted the ineffective position allotted to the smaller nations and the placing of the great powers above and beyond the laws they themselves helped to frame.

Frank and full recognition of the independence of colonial territories is necessary for the laying of a foundation of a stable peace, the Committee declared.

The Committee also noted that the Indian delegates did not represent the Indian people. Resolution said:

"These Working Committee welcomes the efforts that have been made by the United Nations to build up an international order to maintain peace and security and to develop friendly relations among the nations based on respect for the principle of equal rights and self-determination of peoples.

"While appreciating the work of the San Francisco Conference in this respect and realising that any world organisation must of necessity be related to the realities of today, the committee regrets that the position allotted to the smaller nations in the Charter is one lacking all effectiveness and the Great Powers not only dominate and completely control the organization but are placed above and beyond the law they have themselves helped in framing.

"The Great Powers have indeed strengthened and consolidated their own position in the world and have shown no inclination to give up their colonial possessions and the special powers and privileges they enjoy at the expense of dependent peoples."

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AGENTS.

Muzuras Ali Leaves

Muzuras Ali, Trinidad-born son of Indian parents left on Wednesday last for Surinam, Dutch Guiana, by the B.G. Airways Grumman Plane.

This famous baritone who had just returned from New York where he completed a course at the Juillard School of Music, gave two recitals at the Metropole Theatre, and ended his visit here by giving a wonderful performance at the Ursuline Convent in aid of charity.

Muzuras possesses a strong and beautiful baritone voice with tremendous power and a very wide range, and the thousands who heard him testify to his remarkable ability.

He hopes to sing in Surinam, Caracas, Mexico, New York, London, the Continent and finally in Milan, Italy. Our best wishes go out to him for greater success and the fulfilment of his ambition.

STERLING BLOC AND U. S. TRADE

Representative Emanuel Celler, Democrat of New York, a member of the Advisory Board of India League of America, urged the New York Board of Trade on July 27 "to conduct immediate and complete investigations into the operations of the sterling bloc pool and its effect as a barrier to United States trade" in many parts of the world. He criticized British monetary policies which have "deprived India of the dollar with which to buy American productivity." Since American currency paid to India by the United States for such strategic materials as mica and manganese is diverted to the Empire dollar pool, "India is forced, well nigh exclusively, to deal in British goods, if it can get them," he said.

Mr. Celler then cited as another example "the trading situation of the Union of South Africa, the largest producer of gold and always a fertile market for American goods. Why should South Africa be forced to say to American traders: 'You can't export to us, much as we need your available civilian goods,' he inquired.

"What I have said with reference to India and South Africa," he said, "is applicable to Australia, New Zealand, Rhodesia, Palestine, Egypt, British East Africa and other

areas."

Representative Celler said he had protested the sterling bloc operations to the State Department and, while he realized Britain's position makes it necessary to conserve her foreign exchange resources, he said he felt liberalization of these restrictions should now be in order.

"We deemed it unsporting to murmur during the European war," he asserted, "because the sterling pool then appeared to be a legitimate shield against exploitation and a device to conserve England's war energies."

"But, thank the Lord, V-E Day has taken its place in history and V-J Day had followed it soon, we hope, and I feel the exporters in the United States are entitled to yell like stuck pigs."

(To be Continued)

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Letter to the Editor

The Editor
Indian Opinion.

Pin Albion,
Berbice
7th September, 1945

Sir,

Please allow me space in your valuable column to publish this—disgraceful—state of affairs that is going on day by day on this Sugar Estate, Paradise of the parasites—Hell for the poor field and factory workers.

With regards to sanitation only about 8 to 10 old helpless shovelmen and 2 old women are working just 1 to 2 days a week. The area of this estate compound is about 1/2 square mile distance. Now, Mr. Editor, in the name of God; how can 10 to 12 persons keep this 1/2 square mile area clean with only one and two days work? Is it not disgraceful for the public health to allow such a state of affairs to continue. Sir, if I suggest about 40 to 50 or 60 people should be employed, I am afraid I might be partial to both management and workers. I prefer it be arbitrated by the President of the British Guiana Sugar Producer's Association or some broad minded Officer from the public works department.

A THOUGHT TO-DAY:

"Where frail thoughts are rampant,
Make haste thy speed,
For, thy journey will longer grow."

PEACEFUL PROGRESS

1. Somewhere a calmness was disturbed
Disturbed to mortal eyes it seemed
But undisturbed it wends its way,
perturbed
And in its joy forever beamed!
2. So holy was the rite performed,

On Thursday I saw about 80 odd small heaps of fire here and there, with terrible bad smelling smoke enough to mislead anyone from their track on the eastern half of the compound. Now Mr. Editor, is this not also a disgrace—is expenses the management wants to cut? or they want to destroy the health of the poor half starved workers? also is it not dangerous for the small children that play about the compound? should the police department not try to protect the children of the workers from being burnt by fire in future?

Sometimes the Latrines are not cleaned for weeks and months for no special scavenger is employed to clean them. The Hospitalization of this estate is most disgraceful. Look out for my Comments in a next issue, about the hospital

"Yours faithfully,
Dharmatma.

Its increase ran on high;
The wind drank draughts, from deeper
draughts ordained and shone with
splendour in its vestal living.

3. The far advanced Saints and Kishis
lowly bowed
For, pride their bosoms over crowd.
Their paths were stream with pollen
dust of lotuses
O'vejoyced and deeply moved, received,
their gifts with care-esses.

G.B. HANERJEE,
Stewartville,
West Demerara.
15/10/45.

The Hon. Dr. J. B. Singh O.B.E. Appointed Member of the Executive Council

The Hon. Dr. J. B. Singh O.B.E. elected member of the Legislative Council and Hon. President of the B.G. E. I. Association has been appointed a member of the Executive Council of the Colony. The Doctor's long standing interest in the general welfare of the inhabitants of this colony and his intimate knowledge of their dire necessities would undoubtedly serve to a great extent to guide the policy of the Government toward a general betterment. "Indian Opinion" expresses appreciation of the appointment.

General Provision Merchandise

Boodhoo

Water Street, Georgetown.

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SATURDAY, 3rd NOVEMBER, 1945.

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