

# INDIAN OPINION

OFFICIAL WEEKLY ORGAN OF THE BRITISH GUIANA EAST INDIAN ASSOCIATION

VOL. 1. NO. 87

GEORGETOWN, B.G., SATURDAY JANUARY 5 1946. ONE PENNY

**INDIAN OPINION:** Items of news interest 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.

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Single Copies—one penny.

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Annual Subscription—Posted \$1.50

### FOREIGN

Annual Subscription—Posted \$2.00

## The Rice Industry

We wrote some time ago in these columns regarding Government's intentions to place before the Legislative Council a bill to make the present Rice Marketing Board which is operating under the defence regulations become a statutory Body.

At the time when we wrote, certain facts were still unknown to us, but since then the Bill has been published in the Official Gazette of December 20th, 1945. We have read the bill very carefully and have come to the conclusion that there is every reason to believe that the sponsors of the movement and the Government are definitely out to do the Indians, to whom the rice industry, belongs a grave injustice. We shall have to go further than

## Subas Chandra Bose Still Alive Says Gandhiji

New Delhi, Wednesday,  
January 2

Mahatma Gandhi, addressing a meeting of Congress workers here to-day, expressed the belief that Chandra Bose—Indian Nationalist leader reported by Tokyo to be killed in a plane crash at Formosa at the time of Japan's surrender was still alive and in hiding.

"I admire his courage and his patriotism," Gandhi said, "but I have no belief in the

methods he adopted. The people of India cannot get freedom by the sword."

A fortnight ago, "Reuter" adds, one of Bose's followers said that Bose was not only alive but was prosecuting a plan to make India free."

Bose was the founder, under Japanese auspices, of the "provisional Government of India" whose "Indian National Army," operated with the Japanese in Burma during the war.

## SHRI MAT BHAGWAT YAG AT PLN. VERSAILLES

A Shri Mat Bhagwat Yag will be held at Pln. Versailles Hindu Temple, commencing on Saturday, 12th January and ending Sunday, 20th January 1946.

This Bhagwat celebration is sponsored by the Sanatan Brethren of the Estate and assisted by the management of Pln. Versailles.

Credit must be given to Pandit Deodat Sharma who by his vigilance and hard work has been instrumental in organising two Bhagwats in seven months—an achievement very rare in this colony.

A grand Sat-Sang is anticipated when important Religious Lectures will be delivered by prominent Pandits of the Colony.

All Brahmins, Sakhios, songsters, sanatan brothers, sisters and friends are invited to attend.

Pandit Deodat Sharma will be the officiating Priest.

## SPECIAL NEWS!

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our last observation and to state that that the bill is designed to permanently enslave the Indians of this colony to a hand to mouth existence and to eventually ruin the rice industry.

Had it not been for Government's undue interference in the industry during the war years the Indian peasants who are the chief producers of rice would have been on a sound economic footing today, but instead we find misery, starvation, and disease present everywhere. Typical scenes on the country side where the farmers exist are the ragged clothing and delapidated homes of the inhabitants.

We want to express ourselves quite candidly in that unless the producers and manufacturers of rice make up their minds and fight the obnoxious portions of the bill and eliminate them, they might as well abandon their present pursuits and go back to the sugar estates and cut cane,

# The British Stake In India

By K. S. SHELVANKAR

The Government of India has what is probably the unique distinction of beginning its life with a load of debt on its back. When, in 1765, the East India Company acquired possession of Bengal, it was already in debt, owing to the wars against the French in the Carnatic. This debt was fastened on the revenues of Bengal which were pledged, again, for the conquest of Mysore, while the revenues of Mysore were used, in turn, to subvert the Kingdom of the Marathas.

Not only were the Company's wars in India waged with the aid of Indian money and Indian credit (to say nothing of Indian troops), but its commercial establishments from Canton to St. Helena were maintained out of Indian funds. And nearly every imperialist exploit undertaken by Britain in the East was likewise financed out of Indian resources: military expeditions to Ceylon and Singapore, wars against Nepal and Afghanistan, wars in Persia and China and Burma—all these were charged to the revenues of India. Not British heroism alone, but the life-blood of the Indian peasant and coppers wrung out of the Indian worker helped to build the British Empire. The Revolt of 1857 cost 40 million pounds to put down; the victims of this not-too-gentle operation, the people of India, were made to pay for it as well. In 1858 India was transferred to the Crown, and Parliament generously compensated the Company for letting itself be abolished: its capital stock was redeemed at a total cost of over 37 million pounds—this bill, too, was presented to the Indian tax payer the Government of India thus started its career with obligations amounting to 142 million pounds. Like so many of her peasants and workers who are born in debt, India entered the modern world as a debt-slave.

The amount of the debt has not stood still; it has grown continuously, and a great portion of the increase is due, again, to the wars fought by British imperialism in various parts of Asia and Africa. Between 1858 and 1914 no less than about 65 millions added to the debt of this account. Among the wars and military expeditions of this period for which India had to foot the Bill were: the Bhutan War of 1863, the Abyssinian Expedition of 1867, the F-rak Expedition of 1875, the Afghan War of 1879-81, minor frontier wars between 1882-92 and the Burmese War of 1886. Then came the Great War of 1914-18, and it cost India over 250 million pounds.

Financial mismanagement and ordinary budget deficits are reckoned to have swollen the debt by about 120 million pounds. And in addition to all this was expenditure on railways and irrigation works and expenditure incurred for famine relief. The total volume of the Government or public debt of India stands today in the neighborhood of 900 million pounds. In 80 years it has increased by 800 million pounds—which is equal to an increase of 10 per cent every year. The national income, on the other hand, is estimated to have grown at the rate of one per cent per year.

Since 1875 the debt has been classified as (a) ordinary, and (b) productive. Productive debt is that portion of the debt which is completely or partially covered by revenue-yielding assets (e.g. railways), and the ordinary debt (caused by unproductive expenditure, as on wars), which does not yield any income, is paid for out of the general revenues. The respective proportions of these two categories to the total debt have varied from time to time. Whenever there was a budget surplus, the Government used it to reduce the ordinary debt but, simultaneously, the productive debt was increased by an equal amount. In effect, by treating budget surpluses as borrowed money, the ordinary debt was gradually transferred to the productive or public works category. (Special loans were also raised for this purpose.) By these not perhaps wholly orthodox methods, the ordinary debt was brought down to less than one million pounds in 1915; and the Government is able to claim that the major portion of the public debt (roughly 700 million pounds out of 900 millions) is now covered by "interest-yielding assets." This distinction, however, is of no great importance; for many years interest was being paid on assets, railways in particular, which yielded nothing but a huge loss.

More important is the question to whom the debt is owing. The debt has been raised both in England and India, in the form of sterling loans and rupee loans. Sterling loans and rupee loans have not always borne the same proportion to each other. Before the war of 1914-18, the Government confined its borrowings to the London money-market, with the result that the greater portion of the debt consisted of sterling loans. At the end of the war, however, the rupee debt amounted to nearly as much as the sterling debt. Today it stands at about Rs 730 crores (roughly 550 million pounds)

which is slightly less than two thirds of the total debt, while the remaining third, 350 million pounds or so, is held by the investors in England. But it should be noted that the rupee loan is not held solely by Indians. About 75 per cent of it, in the years following the Mutiny, and about 50 per cent—i.e. Rs 100 crores [75 million pounds] out of a total of approximately Rs 200 crores—in 1918, was controlled by Europeans. Assuming that the proportion has not materially altered since such statistics have not been published for any year after 1918

(To be continued next week)

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# Why I Believe In Freedom For India

By E. STANLEY JONES

I Believe that India should be free for the following reasons:—

(1) Freedom is the birthright of every nation willing and able to undertake the responsibilities of freedom and should therefore be allowed her birth-right.

(2) For the sake of Britain, India should be free. In keeping India in subjection Britain is dividing herself morally. The Britain of democracy and the Britain of empire are at cross-purposes in the soul of Britain and make her strained and unhappy and unable to give the clear-cut contribution to democracy she is so capable of giving. For Britain's sake, India should be free.

But India should be free not only for the sake of Britain's moral clarification, but for her economic advantage as well. Colonies don't pay. Individuals exploiting them may get some advantage, but the nation as a nation pays through the nose for Colonies. Huge military establishments have to be kept up to hold these Colonies and periodic wars over them make the holding nations spend a hundred times as much as they get out of them Europe reaching out to subject the world to itself has bankrupted itself in wars over empire.

(3) India will never be unified until she sees the open door to freedom. Then the Hindus and Moslems can sit down without the presence of a third party. to

which both can appeal against the other. I believe they would reach agreement. They would have to. Now it is all theoretical, therefore confused.

[4] India will never reform her internal life until she is sure of herself politically. No nation can afford psychologically to be reformed from without. She will resist reform or take it only grudgingly. When India is sure of herself politically she will reform her internal life, but only then, Turkey, under the domination of Europe, would change nothing. When Turkey went to Anatolia and her soul became her own, she changed more in a decade than she had in a century. India will do the same.

[5] If India gains her freedom she will become literate in 20 years after gaining freedom. Britain after 200 years in India has been able to reduce illiteracy only 10 per cent. When there is a national surge illiteracy can be wiped out by mass educational methods and it can be done in less than one generation. Japan and Russia wiped out illiteracy because both were free. India, free, can do the same.

Both India and China, if free will become literate in 20 years after the war. In those two nations are over 800 million people, nearly half the human race. India and China are bound to draw together in the future. They have much in common—economically, culturally, spiritually. Can

# LABOR

Art of Negotiation I

The new Ford may or may not be a better car than the new Chevrolet, but there was evidence last week that the new Ford labor policy was much smarter than General Motors'.

While Ford's negotiations with the United Automobile Workers were characterized by the giving of bouquets G.M. and the U.A.W. were still throwing brickbats harder than ever.

It was true that G.M. was on a hotter spot than Ford, but there by there by the

(Continued on page 4)

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the West sit on 800 million people, knowing all our sciences, militarism and arts, plus a deep culture of their own? It is absurd.

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# LABOR

(Continued from page 3)

U.A.W. strategy, which had singled it out as the first target to strike. But as the G.M. strike entered its fifth week and the language on both sides grew more violent, G.M.'s negotiators were no match for U.A.W.'s fiery, eloquent Walter Reuter.

While Reuther kept the spotlight playing on the company's profits rather than on labour's earnings, G.M.'s Vice President Harry Anderson was frequently reduced to snorting exclamations. Sample:

**Reuter:** I will tell you this gentlemen, if it goes much longer you make it worse. ... You turned it on. We have some mortar panzer divisions to roll out... We have not turned on the full steam yet.

**Anderson:** Does that mean the goon squads are going to be called out?

**Reuter:** It has nothing to do with goon squads.... It has everything to do with turning on our economic pressure.

**Anderson:** We are going to give you the demands on the contract changes Monday.

**Reuter:** We will be prepared to discuss these demands in about the same schedule you were prepared to discuss our wage demands. About six weeks from now we will be prepared to talk about those things ... And then we will give you the union's demands. For every one you give us we will give you a counter-demand... Because you ain't fooling anybody.

**Anderson:** You ain't following us, either.

**Reuter:** When a bunch of workers asks for their share you thumb your nose at them, tell them to go to hell, refuse to conciliate, refuse to bargain, refuse to negotiate, refuse to arbitrate. That is the way you do it. You are asking for a fight and, brother you are going to get it, and if it is the last thing we do, brother we are going to sweat this one out to the bitter end... The whole American labor movement is behind us. We are backed to the last goddam inch.

Whatever the merits of G.M.'s case, G.M. did not make the best of it. The company, as Reuther wove dialogue, was made to look merely obstinate and unsympathetic. Bitterness grew; the strike dragged on; the public watched impatiently.

## PANDIT NEHRU PREDICTS

# Asiatic Revolt May Develop Into World War III

## WARNING BY INDIAN CONGRESS PARTY LEADER

The Indian Congress Party leader, Pandit Nehru, spoke in Rajputana yesterday of "a coming Asiatic revolt" and declared: "It will be a continuous revolt with millions behind it and no atomic bomb can suppress that revolt, which will develop into a third World War."

Pandit Nehru criticised the use of Indian troops in Indonesia and said: "Our friends there are fighting the same cause as we are."

### Art of Negotiation II

After a mollifying and gratifying gesture from the U.A.W. last week, Henry Ford II came back with one of his own.

The union's Richard Leonard, to the surprise of almost everybody, answered Ford's demand for security against wild out strikes (Times, Nov. 26) with a counter-proposal: any union work stopper would be fined \$3 a day (\$5 for a second offense), provided similar penalties were imposed on company chieftains who deliberately provoked the stoppage.

For this sweetly reasonable gesture, the company thought the union was "certainly to be commended." But it went on to suggest that settlement on general wage increases be postponed until production volume, costs and profits were known, until company and union had probed their "joint ability to increase the productivity of employees... and our ability to get into full production." The company hoped that Leonard would approach the production problem with the same "constructive thought" he had given to work stoppages.

Then young Henry Ford made an unusual gesture of his own. He apologized to the U.S. public for failing 50,000 cars short of the 80,000 he had promised to make by Christmas. But he exonerated Ford employees of blame, put it instead on parts suppliers, hampered by price ceilings or by labour troubles of their own.

Negotiations continued amiably. Detroit dopsters believed that a new Ford contract, with a compromise wage boost, was on the way.

India, Pandit Nehru said, was on the verge of a great development, but he thought that will probably be initiated by the people more than by the British Government.

Pandit Nehru spoke of the Indian Princes as British Fifth Columnists and said they can't rely for long on the protection of an alien Power, but must be invited to join hands in the great task ahead."

The British Parliamentary delegation to India saw the Prime Minister yesterday afternoon.

The delegation is due to leave Britain tomorrow and will meet leading personalities in India with a view to removing misunderstandings—B.B.C.

## BURMA

### Devilish Devious

Had anybody seen U Saw? What had become of the crafty, witty Premier of Burma who recalled the British Empire in its hour of greatest trial? He had dropped from public view in December, 1941. U.S. officials, who could not learn his whereabouts from the British, guessed he was still jailed somewhere in Africa.

U Saw had engaged in effective propaganda for Burmese independence. Just before Pearl Harbor Londoners flocked to hear him twit British imperialism. When he was reminded of the Japanese menace, U Saw made a restrained statement of loyalty to the Crown: "The people of Burma are rather inclined to rely on the devil they know than on the devil they don't." Then he suavely added: "It is not for me to decide [between Britons and Japs] the degree of their devilment." On his way home U Saw perhaps got as far as Cairo. Then no more was heard of him.

THE INDIAN OPINION printed and published every Saturday, at the Bharat Printing and Publishing Company, at lot 14A Queen Street, Georgetown Demerara by CHARLES EDWARD PACKWOOD for Mr. JENARINE SINGH, President of the British Guiana East Indian Association.

SATURDAY, 5th JANUARY, 1946