

INDIAN OPINION

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THE RICE INDUSTRY

We feel it our duty to advise all interested parties in the rice industry to strongly resist the new move Government is making to control the industry. We feel Government's intention in this matter is not in the best interest of those engaged in the rice industry and every effort should be made to make Government realize that the people resent such undue interference; on the other hand we have received several requests intimating that Government should organize the single buyer and selling system not a purely co-operative basis backed up by legislation. We propose publishing the bill as from next issue for the general information of our readers.

ADULT EDUCATION

The Government of British Guiana seems to regard the education of the adult population of the colony with complete unconcern; in spite of it (the Government) being chiefly responsible in passing legislation disqualifying those that are illiterates from exercising the franchise.

We regard this action of the local government as highly immoral in this respect; in spite of our repeated requests, its chief officers whose salary come from these self same illiterates continue to disregard the demands of the people.

We know that certain high Government officers are what is termed "pass masters" at racial politics and that these very high Government officers are definitely Indian hating.

The largest number of illiterates in the colony are to be found among the Indians and we feel these very high Government officers are clamping down on the Indians generally; because their minds have become biased by the influence of certain groups of Indian hating men and exploiters of our people.

We are asking that adult education classes be started as early as possible and that there be a change in the heads of the Government departments to remove the present partiality that is taking place.

We feel Britain is fast losing its goodwill among colonials by poor administrators who rule despotically,

BIG TEN IN SCIENCE

What were the ten most important scientific advances of 1945? Watson Davis, director of Science Service chose:

1. The atomic bomb - and the practical release of nuclear energy.
 2. Verification of the trans uranium chemical elements 93, 94, 95 and 96.
 3. Use of the drug, streptomycin.
 4. The Army & Navy's proximity fuse.
 5. LORAN, an aid to navigation based on time radio signals.
 6. Psychological warfare methods which speeded the Japanese surrender.
 7. British development of BAL, successful antidote for arsenic poisoning.
 8. The rodent poisons 1080 and ANTU.
 9. The Russians; successful transplantation of hearts in warm-blooded animals.
 10. Steps toward establishment of a National Science Foundation.
- Notable omission: radar—released from military secrecy last August.

play racial politics and indulge in gross partiality in governing. We hope the new socialist Government will take stock of the errors of the past conservative government and try to remedy them.

READ THE
Indian Opinion

The British Stake In India

By K. S. Shelvankar

(Continued from last week)

we are entitled to conclude that the bulk of the Indian "national" debt is held in one form or another by British investors.

It is less easy to calculate the volume of British investments in India on private account. It is generally agreed that they do not exceed, if they are equal, the sum invested in Government securities. They must nevertheless be very considerable, for the magnitude of the British hold on India's economic life is not in dispute. About half the capital in industrial, mining and transport concerns, and much more than half, possibly two-thirds, of the capital in such fields of investment as banks, insurance, plantations and commerce, is estimated to be British. As for shipping, the share of Indian companies is only 13 per cent of the coastal traffic and 2 per cent of the ocean-borne trade of India. Any estimate of the total investments covered by these different items must inevitably lack precision. The following figures, worked out by one of the ablest of the younger economists in India, are the most exact available:

	million pounds
1. Capital of joint-stock companies registered out of India but working in India	160
2. Share in the capital of companies registered in India	42
3. Share of the total capital of banks, insurance companies, etc., doing business mainly elsewhere than in India, which can be properly regarded as employed in India	34
4. Non-residents' share in partnership firms, etc. working in India	15
5. Municipal and Port Trust borrowings	13
Total	264

Adding 264 million pounds to the amount of the sterling debt, we obtain a rough estimate of a little over 600 millions as the total of British investments in India. But this is not complete. As we have said, a part of the rupee debt is also held by Europeans, mainly resident in India. If we suppose—we can only suppose in the absence official statistics—that this part is equal to a third, we must raise the estimate by 180 million pounds and fix it in the neighborhood of 800 millions. However, only 600 million pounds out of this sum counts as a "foreign liability" in the sense that the interest and profits earned are sent abroad and paid out in England. The interest on the sterling debt is known; about 15 million pounds; The rate of return on private investments can only be

guessed at; it is not unreasonable to place it at 8 per cent—which makes a total of about 20 million pounds. Thus, in all, 35 million pounds a year is the price paid by India for the privilege of entertaining capital owned by persons in England.

It is not the whole story. Every year large sums are disbursed in England by the Government of India, which do not fall under any of the categories we have mentioned above. They are described in the Indian budget as "Home Charges." In part they include interest payments, but they also include civil and military expenditure under other heads: for salaries and pensions, purchase of stores, etc. The "Home Charges" have steadily increased from an average of about 10 millions in the decade following the Mutiny to an average of about 30 million pounds in more recent years. About half the sum, roughly, is covered by the debt services, leaving an average annual balance which has risen from about 5 million pounds in the post-Mutiny period to under 15 million pounds today. This does not actually represent a yield on investments in the ordinary sense, but it might legitimately be treated as such in any attempt to assess the total cash value of the British stake in India. For it is not a fortuitous payment; it has been drawn to England with the utmost regularity for over a hundred years and undoubtedly constitutes one of the advantages accruing to her through her possessions in India. The capital value of these annual remittances cannot well be put at a figure less than that of the sterling debt, viz. about 350 million pounds.

We are now in a position to form a rough estimate of the total value of British vested interests in India. The main items are:

	million pounds
1. Sterling debt	350
2. Estimated British share of the rupee debt	180
3. Estimated total of private investments	260
4. Estimated capital value of that part of the "Home Charges" which is in excess of the interest on the sterling debt	350
Total	1,140

It will be seen (a) that the Indian Government is directly responsible for the greater part of this amount; and (b) the greater part of the interest and profits—approximately 50 millions out of 155 million pounds—is drained out of India for the benefit of British investors and others.

Three observations remain to be made: (1) What India is worth to Britain cannot be judged on the basis of the figures for any particular year, but must take into account the balance of transactions over a long period. Payments on one pretext or another have been exacted for nearly two centuries. Their total is incalculable. Since 1834 the "Home Charges" alone are estimated to add up to about 1,500 million pounds. (2) That India's financial obligations to Britain arise out of her having borrowed capital for the development of her resources is but a very small part of the truth. Otherwise, she would not be in her present background condition. Besides, such capital as has been applied to economic development has been applied so that not only the interest on it but the profits are taken out of the country, leaving India nothing more than the wages, at the rate of a few pennies per head per day, of a couple of million workers in plantations, mines and factories. (3) India's financial obligations to Britain, represented by the public debt and the "Home Charges", arise mainly out of her political servitude. Although there are some "productive assets" to show for them, they have reached their present level only because, over a long course of years, Britain has used her power to impose arbitrary demands on her that she was unable to resist. History has a hundred names for the deed that plain men know as robbery.

The primary function of the Indian revenue system is to find the money to meet these claims.

Mr. Shelvankar's factual survey of India's financial position was published in April 1940, in his "Problem of India." Though India now has huge money surpluses in the United States and in Britain, her indebtedness has correspondingly increased because of the share she is asked to contribute to World War II. India as a creditor nation is not allowed to invest her assets as she deems fit, as this would affect Britain, so Britain continues to direct India's financial policy.

—Editor.

(Concluded)

MORE AND BETTER PENCILLIN?

Every jingle-learner knows what little boys are made of but science is not so sure about pencillin. Hundreds of U.S. and British scientists have searched for years, trying to find out. They still don't know for certain. But the U.S. British findings, summarized in *Science*, gave hope of two important possibilities: 1) pencillin's active ingredient might be synthesized to make the drug much more plentiful; 2) the ingredient might be altered to make the drug more effective.

BLUNDERINGS BY GOVERNMENT**Local Government Board Appoints Defeated Candidates In Rose Hall Village****Causing Widespread Resentment and Dissatisfaction**

Rose Hall Village,
Corentyne Coast Berbice,
22nd December, 1945.

The Editor,
The Indian Opinion
Dear Sir,

I will be grateful if you will please permit me through your columns to call the attention of the public in general and His Excellency in particular to yet another rotten deal that the Local Government Board is handing down to certain village districts.

The election at the Rose Hall Village District are now over and six candidates have been duly declared councillors for the period 1946-1947; Now the Board has appointed the two defeated candidates to be Government nominees in the council.

I am not trying to dispute the authority of the Board to appoint who it likes, but when it appoints candidates who have been defeated at the elections,—as it has done in this case, then the Board is definitely de-

feating one of the most important principles of democracy and local administration becomes a huge joke. The action of the Board in this case is entirely sectional and the majority of the villagers are very much concerned about it; it has reduced the recent election to a complete farce and one wonders why the Board did not spare the village the expense of having a useless election.

Mr. Editor His Excellency doesn't like us to write to him, but when we are faced with things like this what on earth must we do. I can assure you Sir, that the ratepayers here are very much concerned about the principle that is involved in this matter and they certainly are not going to take it easy. Those concerned should take notice that very bitter fruits might be reaped from seeds like this.

Thanks for space,

Yours etc.

Deodat Singh.

GREAT BRITAIN**Classic Question**

The war was barely over, yet the British fascists were back again. A thousand of them celebrating their release from war time internment held a "reunion dance" in London's Royal Hotel. Because the dance was "private," listening reporters were thrown out of the hall, after one was kicked and beaten.

Sir Oswald Mosely told the celebrants that the years in prison had not changed his ideas at all. Present fascist tactics are cautious and exploratory. "Alien infiltration." "Socialist bureaucracy," Russia, the U.S. are the targets of propaganda slogans. Later the groups may get together under Sir Oswald, who is finishing a book on matters dear to his heart.

British fascists probably do not number more than 50,000, but their early reappearance has startled Britons, embarrassed their Government. When angry M.P.s in the House of Commons last week demanded action against the fascists they knew they were raising a classic question. Home Secretary James Chuter Ede draw the classic answer from Milton: "Where people aim at extirpating free discussions, they must be regarded as ripe for extirpation themselves." Mr. Ede continued with an assessment of Mosley that only a Briton could make: We have a very ancient democracy, with a great sense of humor, and I am quite certain that we shall put the proper valuation on many of the claims and statements that have been made."

The End of Amery

When his time came to die for treason, John Amery, 33, rose and shaved himself carefully. The night before, he had taken leave of his parents. Leopold S. Amery, once Secretary of State for India, knew that no power on earth could save the life of his ne'er-do-well son.

When he was ready, John Amery shook hands with a young woman believed to be Una Wing, his actress wife, and with his brother Julian, a captain in a parachute regiment. Later the prison chaplain came into the cell.

(Continued on page 4)

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PHONE C 341

New Year's Message Broadcasted On Bose's Indian Hour On Monday 31st. December, 1945

By CHANDRAVATIE SINGH

Good Evening Radio-Listeners,

It is my privilege to speak to you on the eve of a New Year. First and foremost we must thank Providence that we enter the New Year free from the horrors and cruelties of war. The tone of aggressiveness in men has been somewhat subdued. Let us hope that there will be a better understanding among the great nations of the world, the result of which will be an everlasting state of peace.

And now it is my pleasure to address my Indian sisters of every class and creed living in British Guiana. The time has come for us to prepare to make great sacrifices so as to tackle the manifold problems which present themselves so forcefully to us. We must lend a helping hand to our down-trodden sisters of the estates, to those who are stricken with sickness and poverty, and to those who are handicapped educationally and otherwise. We must now organise ourselves with the object of improving our present state for the good of our people and ultimately for the good of British Guiana.

Let us put aside personal differences and

band ourselves together in this great bid for our own general upliftment.

The Balak Sahaita Mandalee is always willing to give some assistance they can, to those who can hardly eke out an existence from their meagre earnings.

The British Guiana East Indian Association will protect your political rights. The various religious bodies are there for your comfort and there are many individuals who are awaiting the call eagerly, to assist us in this great struggle.

Time marches on, and we must keep pace with it. Let us establish a feeling of trust respect and affection among the various races in this colony. Let us look forward with courage and confidence to attain our ideals and desires.

Make now, your resolutions for 1946 and with God's help may it bring you, my sisters, the long overdue comfort and happiness which have been denied you for so long, and which you so richly deserve.

And now, on behalf of the Indian women of British Guiana, I wish you, radio-listeners a very prosperous New Year.

GREAT BRITAIN

(Continued from page 3)

but Amery had nothing to say to him. He walked alone to the execution chamber, where Hangman Pierpont was waiting. With a firm step John Amery climbed the gallows.

Outside Wandsworth Prison the young woman and his brother sat waiting in a car. At 9:08 a.m. a warden pinned a notice on the wall: Judgement of death was this day executed on John Amery."

Tangled Chain

The China-Burma-Indian area was the most confused of all Allied war commands. A.U.S. colonel once despairingly explained that the multi-national, multi-service command could not be illustrated on an ordinary service chart, but needed "a three-dimensional organization chart with a wire framework and five shades of colored ribbon, which ought to indicate at least the simpler relationships."

British Army Commander in Chief in India was tall, handsome General Sir Claude John Eyre Auchinleck, 61. K.C.B., D.S.O., O.B.E. Top Royal Air Force Commander in that area was his friend Air Chief Marshal Sir Richard had com-

plex, varying command relations with Mountbatten, Stilwell, Wavell, and with each other.

Last week Sir Claude, living in a bachelor flat near Buckingham Palace, went down to Lewes, Sussex, for a divorce. He named Sir Richard as co-respondent, charging adultery with Lady Auchinleck. The judge's decree broke up the Auchinleck marriage after 24 years. Apparently vivacious, bright-eyed Lady Jessie, like everyone else in the CBI area, had become confused over the relationships.

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