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ONE PENNY

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EDITORIAL —

One Million Pounds Thrown Away No. 1

Sir Gordon James Lethem, K.C.M.G. Governor of British Guiana in his Review of the year 1943, dated May 1944 made the following statement—

"The actual output of sugar for the year was 132,868 tons, instead of more than 200,000 tons which might have been anticipated under normal conditions.

In the first place, shipping difficulties forced producers to extract only a portion of the potential output during a part of the Spring crop. This procedure reduced the production by some 33,554 tons and for statistical purposes the potential output has been fixed at 166,422 tons."

The Sugar Producers did not extract 33,554 tons of sugar from sugarcane that had been planted, cared for, and reaped and sent to the several sugar factories to be crushed. The sugar valued at \$60.00 per ton was \$2,013,240.00. In addition to the sugar value, the value of molasses and rum could be safely put at say \$10.00 per ton, or another \$335,540.00, therefore approximately two and a half million dollars worth of sugar and its by products have been allowed to waste by the British Guiana Govern-

ment, and the Imperial Government. This happened during 1943.

In 1944 only about 150,000 tons have been produced as the producers were unable to ship the large quantity of sugar that was actually manufactured during the years 1940, 1941, 1942, and 1943. As a matter of fact we are reliably informed that about 75,000 tons of manufactured sugar is still in the Colony awaiting ships to take this quantity away to the United Kingdom. It would be in the interest to the Colony to ascertain what quantity of sugar is being wasted by the large quantity of sugar that has been and is being stored in various parts of the Colony which cannot be shipped, and one who is supposed to know has estimated that no less than 40,000 tons of manufactured sugar has been and is being wasted in this way. It can be safely estimated therefore that another \$2,400,000 has been wasted in this manner. In other words, the British

Taxpayer has thrown away about ONE MILLION POUNDS in British Guiana in order to help the Sugar Producers, who have always told the British Taxpayer that when you give assistance to the British Guiana Sugar Industry you are helping the workers who are in dire need of assistance.

The time has come when the British Taxpayer must be told in no uncertain way that nine-tenths of the preference and aid to the British Guiana Sugar Industry goes into the pockets of the three or four Sugar Companies that are operating in this Crown Colony and if the Taxpayers of the United Kingdom are prepared to continue to pay Sugar Companies and not the workers who produce the sugar and rum for the Taxpayers in the United Kingdom, then we have to decide what course should be adopted to prevent this wilful waste which must bring woeful want sooner or later.

(To be continued)

Sir Frank Stockdale's Visit.

We cannot help referring to the present visit of the Comptroller of Development and Welfare as late and long overdue, especially since it appears that his decision is vital and to a certain extent final in matters of major interest to the colony.

Sir Frank Stockdale has certainly neglected to a large extent this forgotten and forsaken part of the British Empire. His last visit to this colony was roughly about two years ago and most of the advice tendered by his advisors on matters of vital interest to the population have been neglected and very little done towards even ameliorating conditions which were then considered grave and acute. The question of Education, Land Settlement, Medical care of the population, Drainage and Irrigation Schemes, and the future of the Rice Industry simply had to wait on his pleasure to finalise plans and give the last word.

We do not believe in academic methods of handling situations and the man on the spot seems to be

greatly influenced by conditions which repeat themselves, and therefore we feel it our duty to point out the necessity of periodical visits by the comptroller to this our land.

We must voice our disappointment in the Comptroller not having been able to make a final decision earlier with respect to the putting into effect of the Corentyne Drainage and Irrigation Scheme and the East Demerara project which apparently still hangs in the air.

In conclusion we wish to make a special appeal to Sir Frank Stockdale that something definite be done about land settlement and that the indefinite postponement from which we seem to suffer in British Guiana be waived aside at least in this one matter. On Sir Frank Stockdale lies the decision and apparently the present destiny of the people in British Guiana.

We hope his decisions will have as its first consideration humanity and their sufferings.

Anglo-American Authorities In Britain Faced With Problem Of Coloured Children

(BY GEORGE PADMORE)

Among the post-war social problems which will soon have to be tackled, by the British and American military and civilian rehabilitation authorities in this country, is the future of large numbers of coloured children born of American Negro soldiers and English women.

As a result of a recent tour through Liverpool, Manchester, Bristol, Derby, Cardiff and Glasgow, I heard from reports from British social welfare workers and American Red Cross Club directors concerning the number of such children faced with destitution. No complete survey has been made as yet, but all concerned with the problem are agreed that there are several hundred such children of mixed couples. Apart from children by American Negro soldiers, there are also a number of African and West Indian soldiers and technicians brought over to this country by the Ministry of Labour to work in war industries. Apart from the interracial aspect of the problem, Britain is faced with an increase in illegitimacy since the war due to the loosening of family life on the one hand and the large numbers of white American, Polish, French, Dutch, Norwegian, Canadian and other troops stationed throughout the British Isles for over four years.

Recent reports of illegitimacy disclosure that the figure for England and Wales is now one in every 14 born.

MANY MOTHERS ARE WIVES OF BRITISH SOLDIERS ABROAD

Most of the mothers of these illegitimate children by coloured and white foreign soldiers are young girls hardly out of their teens, attracted by the ability of Americans to give them a 'good time'. But apart from these single girls, there is the problem

of married English women whose husbands are soldiers serving abroad.

The Government is now taking steps to amend the adoption Law so as to make it possible for these married women with illegitimate children to get such children adopted by relatives and friends, before the husband returns and thereby avoid breaking up of their homes.

Under the existing Adoption Law in this country, a woman who has a child by another man other than her legal husband has to get the written consent of the husband to have someone adopt it, for the legal husband is legally the father of the illegitimate child according to British law, said an official of the National Adoption Society.

'We have a few dozen cases brought to our Society every week, and in most cases the consent of the husband, is obtained.'

COLOURED LEADERS ESTABLISHING HOME FOR MIXED BLOOD KIDS

Not all husbands forgive their wives for having such children, this is especially so if the father of such illegitimate children are coloured men for in such cases they are unable to claim the child as their own. In such cases terrible tragedy is the result. But where the husband is prepared to forgive the wife the condition is usually that the wife must get rid of the coloured child before the husband returns home.

To help take care of such kids, a committee of leading coloured Colonial representatives has been organised in Liverpool under the leadership of Rev. Daniel Ekarte, a native of Nigeria, and pastor of the African Church Mission in that city. The Committee has collected funds to establish a Booker T. Washington Home for the children of Coloured American soldiers. A number of these children deserted by their white mothers have been rescued and placed in the Home. I understand that accommodation will be provided for 50 but the problem is too big for private enterprise and needs the support of the British and American military and civilian authorities.

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"The Fate of The World"

Continued from last issue

About two months before D day, Eisenhower and his top commanders were gathered in a room, beside a sand-table model of the target beaches. After the commanders had spoken in turn, piecing together the total picture of the operation, Winston Churchill stalked on to the platform, clutching his lapels. He said: "I have confidence in you, my commanders. The fate of the world is in your hands."

This slice of Churchillian rhetoric was not necessarily an overstatement. If the invasion failed, the waste of time and effort, of men and material, would be incalculable, almost too staggering even to contemplate. If it failed, Russia might be so discouraged as to seek a separate peace with Hitler. In that case, when the western Allies were ready to mount another invasion, in 1946 or 1947, they would find three or four hundred German divisions manning the Atlantic Wall instead of 60.

To Grips on Land. The purpose of the invasion, was not to knock out Germany at one blow. If the mere establishment and holding of Allied beachheads should discourage the Nazis to the point of capitulation well and good. There were extreme optimists (later developments were to prove how extreme they were) who hoped for that outcome. But in the realistic battle plan, the purpose of the gamble was to bring the forces of the western Allies to grips with Nazi Germany on her western land approaches. When that purpose was completely achieved, affable, incisive, confident "Ike" Eisenhower became the man of 1944.

A year ago, Eisenhower announced his conviction that Germany would be beaten in 1944. "Many persons of the highest technical attainments, knowledge and responsibility," said Winston Churchill, had shared this feeling in their extenuation it might be said that none of them knew that Soviet Russia's main military effort for the year, on the main highway to Berlin, would run its course in six weeks of the summer.

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Letters to the Editor

SOCIAL SECURITY

SUGAR ESTATE LABOURERS DEMAND PENSION RIGHTS

The Editor

'Indian Opinion'

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AGENTS

I am a person of the labouring class. I am now about fifty years old. I have a wife and five children. All my life I lived in a sugar estate and gave my whole life blood in the same estate; my wife and children did the same. I have been working so hard that at this age I cannot any longer work hard. I have become asthmatic and somewhat emaciated and what should befall me Mr. Editor. The manager send a message to me that unless I can turn out to work more regularly I shall have to leave the estate. Well I sat down and cried and prayed to God as I am completely hand to mouth, when I work there is food, when I don't well I credit or starve. During my whole life on the sugar estate I have not been able to save a single dollar. God only knows what will happen to me from now on.

Today, I am faced with eviction from an estate to which I contributed my entire strength and life without even a good word from the manager; In my humble way of thinking I am beginning to realize how cruel the management of the sugar estates and our Local and Imperial Governments have been to us the labouring class in the sugar estates.

I agree that since I have become useless to the estate as a hard working labourer that the estate should evict me but certainly I cannot agree to their putting me out under the conditions as exists at the moment, and now this brings me to the point where I appeal to the judgement of the intelligent people of this colony.

Today, the whole world is talking of social security. In our local government men and women serving in the civil service are given a pension at the end of their term of employment 55 years of age. Now I think the time has come for men and women like myself to demand some form of pension also, according to the services rendered to the sugar estate when we have reached 55 years. If I was given a pension right of ten cents a week, now that I have been working for the sugar estate for over thirty-five years I would be entitled to a lumpsum pension of just one hundred and eighty-two dollars.

I am sure even at this old age I could make a start all over again. Fellow labourers would you think and not let us act and get this important matter legislated. Thanking you Mr. Editor.

I am Yours,
EVICTED LABOURER.

Ranbaros Misir

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The Late Pandit Sookdeo Persaud Ojha

MEMORIAL MEETING

A special meeting of the Executive members of the B.G. Sanatan Dharma Maha Sabha will be held at the Town Hall on Sunday January 14, at 2 p.m. to pay tribute to the memory of the late Pandit Sookdeo Persaud Ojha

Early Visit Of Governor Of Surinam.

A. D. C. IN COLONY MAKING ARRANGEMENTS.

At present on a visit to the Colony is Lieut. Vanvinsbergen, A. D. C. to His Excellency the Governor of Surinam.

Lieut. Vanvinsbergen is here to make initial arrangements for the visit of the Governor of Surinam to this Colony shortly.

His Excellency Sir Gordon Lethem K. C. M. G. was accompanied by Lieut. Vanvinsbergen on a motor car drive yesterday afternoon

Enemy Activity Over England

More damage and casualties were caused by German V-2 bombs, which were sent over England in the 24 hours ending just before dawn yesterday—(BBC)

PROGRESS MARCHES

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"The Fate of The World"

Continued from page 2

The notable fact about Eisenhower's prediction is not that it was wrong, but that it was based on a complete confidence that the invasion would succeed. In retrospect his brilliant success made it seem like much less of a gamble than it had seemed before June 6.

Another Gamble. As the year drew to a close, the Germans found their border invaded and themselves in a position where they, in April, preferred a great gamble to a continued, steady, losing retreat. Adolf Hitler had withdrawn into the shadows and Heinrich Himmler was Germany's Man of 1944. Himmler had held the people and the Army in line while he squeezed them for the last ounces of German strength. Field Marshal Karl Rudolf Gerd von Rundstedt, the cold wily Junker who mounted the December counteroffensive, was the Man of the Hour.

Rundstedt's all-out gamble involved the U.S. forces in their gravest and costliest battle of World War II. That savage outpouring of German strength showed clearly enough that the Man of 1944 was not to be found among the idealistic dreamers and crafty politicians who wanted to perform a Caesarean operation on a world at war to bring the postwar world to birth ahead of its time. Not in three years of war had there been so much mutual recrimination among Russia, Britain and the U.S., nor such alarming cracks in their solidarity. In these cracks lurked the last vestiges of Germany's hope for escape.

The war was still on. The shape of the postwar world still hung on the manner of its winning.

Another War In 1944 there was also war in the Pacific. It was a year of great achievement for Admiral Chester William Nimitz, top U.S. commander in that theater of tiny land patches in vast reaches of water. For the first time, in 1944, Nimitz took the offensive, as distinguished from the counteroffensive (Guadalcanal, the upper Solomons, the Gilberts). In the Marshalls, the Marianas and the Carolines, Nimitz put his amphibious forces on the fringe of the Japanese inner empire. For the first time the main strength of the Jap fleet was lured to battle, and it was badly beaten, leaving the U.S. with at least temporary dominance in the western Pacific.

Douglas MacArthur kept his promise to the Philippines. "I have returned," he said. But at year's end the total redemption of the Philippines still lay ahead.

On the Asiatic mainland it was a year of tragedy for Chiang Kai-shek. China's perennial man of the year. The Japs cut his country in two. The recall of General Joseph W. Stilwell

Indians and the Judiciary

Government Deliberately Discriminates against East Indians

I sometimes wonder why the Government deliberately steps on the corns of the East Indians and discriminates against them.

I have time and again stressed the point that no useful purpose could be served to the colony by neglecting the East Indians as far as the civil service is concerned and giving the plums to the other races.

I have also clearly written before on the subject of the "divide and rule" policy of the present administration, which is no exception to the past regimes other than that it tends to accentuate it to a greater degree.

The magisterial bench has been filled almost wholly with members of a single race who practice in a manner not altogether in keeping with the best dignity of the profession and East Indians have been complaining over and over again but without any effect.

The complaints that have reached me are particularly bitter from the Corentyne Coast and the city of Georgetown. Some of these complaints appear very alarming in nature and make me wonder if the higher authorities are cognisant of them.

I know that the policy of the Government of British Guiana is to keep the East Indians in a state of sub human existence and as labourers all their lives, so that the sugar companies can continue to declare large profits from their toil and sweat.

All in all the Government and the majority of its advisors are overdoing their acts of discrimination against the East Indians and sooner or later British Guiana's East Indians will have to fight back with their backs to the wall.

In conclusion I wish to state that East Indians form about 45 per cent. of the population of the colony and there is just ONE solitary Indian on

brought down, on the Generalissimo's head the most searing criticism he had ever suffered from the U.S. But he strove to put new vigor into his regime and his war effort. Neither Chiang nor Onina was beaten.

In 1944 the war against Japan stood. Germany stood in 1943. The strategic bombardment of the enemy homeland had begun; but the battles which the enemy's major land forces were still to come. Soldiers in the Pacific complained that their war was neglected by the U.S. press and public. Yet the people were only following the cue of the Allied leaders; the defeat of Germany had been given priority over the defeat of Japan.

To be Continued

the magisterial bench. My readers are well informed that the rest of the bench is filled with only one race and my readers are also informed that the magisterial bench is today filled with few exceptions by most incapable and unsuccessful lawyers.

My readers are also aware of the fact that there are many capable East Indian lawyers who should have been appointed to the bench but are being kept out apparently because they are East Indians. I ask, is it a crime to be an East Indian?

Assassination Of Lord Moyne

TRIAL OF TWO PALESTINE NATIONALISTS BEGUN

APPLICATION TO SEND CASE TO CIVIL TRIBUNAL REFUSED

The trial of two men accused of the murder in Cairo on November 6 last of Lord Moyne, late British Resident Minister in the Middle East, was begun in Cairo yesterday.

Both accused—young Palestine Nationalists—speaking in Hebrew, pleaded guilty to the charge. They are Eliahon Hakin and Eliahon Wheat Suri.

The trial is taking place before three judges of Egyptian Military Court.

Just before the trial began, two Army Engineers searched the Courthouse and vicinity for explosives, but found none. The authorities said that a plot to blow up the Courthouse had been feared.

The defence challenged the competency of the Military Court and asked that the case be remanded to a civil tribunal, where the prisoners would have right to appeal.

The presiding Judge denied the request. —[BBC & Canapress]

THE FOUR FREEDOMS

Freedom of Speech & Expression
Freedom to Worship and
Freedom from Want,
Freedom from Fear,

—President Roosevelt

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