

Indian Opinion

OFFICIAL WEEKLY ORGAN OF THE BRITISH GUIANA EAST INDIAN ASSOCIATION

VOL. 1. NO. 53

GEORGETOWN, B.G., SATURDAY, MAY 5, 1945

ONE PENNY

INDIAN OPINION: Items of news interests 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.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

Single Copies—one penny.

LOCAL

Annual Subscription—(Posted) \$1.00

FOREIGN

Annual Subscription—(Posted) \$2.00

— EDITORIAL — The Future

The war in Europe is already closed, and the end of the war in the Far East is already in sight; yet as far as British Guiana is concerned the years to come are gloomy and dark.

Everything is being done by those responsible to rule our destinies to keep us tied as semi slaves to the Sugar Estates and its economy.

We reproduce below our editorial of March 10 1945 in view of the fact, that there is a general talk and whipping up of enthusiasm around to produce more sugar than at present and the impending arrival of A Distinguished Son of India. The Hon. Hirday Nath Kunzru; member of the Council of State Delhi and President of the "servants of India Society."

The entire economic condition of British Guiana, present and future, depends on the rural development and the activities of the inhabitants of the rural districts.

We are of the opinion that very little attention has been given in the past and at the present to the careful and systematic planning of the development of the rural areas and the welfare of their population.

It appears that the machinations and the ingenuity of the Sugar Planters have been carefully planned and laid out in this respect and they have worked out a plan to keep the rural

Distinguished Visitor From India Arriving

Member of Viceroy's Council of State, Delhi

Cabled message has been received by the Association that the Honourable Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru,

population closely tied to the sugar estates where wholesale exploitation can continue under conditions of semi slavery.

The problem of British Guiana's economy is made to be knitted with the sugar estates which receive every conceivable aid from the local and imperial Governments. It is therefore clear to those who think for the future of British Guiana, and incidentally for the future of the British people in England, that the resolution to the problem lies in a direct approach to it and the working out of a plan whereby the proprietors as well as the labourers can benefit from the sugar plantations.

It is plain as daylight that the present conditions on the sugar estates are getting to be unbearable and sooner or later a breach may occur between the management of sugar and the labourers of the sugar estates.

We are sure if anything occurs, the losers would be the sugar planters in such an event and not the labourers. We want to state emphatically that times are changing, and today the exploited sugar worker is beginning to think for himself and can no longer be hoodwinked.

We place the responsibility on the shoulders of Government, both local and Imperial to plan boldly and immediately for the future of British Guiana. The rural population awaits a programme of immediate and future planning for their welfare. The rural areas with open arms await adequate solutions to the many age old problems. We want to see bold planning for the post-war years.

member of the Council of State, Delhi India, will be arriving some time next week and may be spending about one week in British Guiana.

He is now in Trinidad spending a week there.

Pandit H. N. Kunzru is also the President of the Servants of India Society and British Guiana Indians are fortunate and privileged to receive a visit from so distinguished a son of India.

The meeting of prominent Indians have met hurriedly yesterday (Wednesday) and a grand reception is planned for Pandit Kunzru.

This paper extends in advance a very hearty welcome to Pandit Kunzru and express the hope that his visit will result in great mutual benefit to him and the Indian community.

May his stay, though short, be a happy one.

U.S. Urged To Demand "Equality For All Races"

SAN FRANCISCO

Two Negro consultants asked the United States delegation yesterday to demand an "equality for all races" declaration in the World Organization Chapter before the United Nations Conference.

Dr. W. E. B. Dubois and Mr. Walter White of the Executive of the National Association for the Advancement of Coloured People asked that three provisions be written into the Dumbarton Oaks proposals; one Equality for all races two, a Bill of Rights for all peoples of the world, and three the abolition of the colonial system in favour of an international agency to which colonial powers would report.

Germany

HORROR

As the U.S. armies penetrated the dark heart of Germany last week, they discovered and revealed to the world some examples of the most highly organized horror of all time—a series of concentration camps for political prisoners from most of the nations the Nazis had conquered, including the German nation. For 12 years the enemies of totalitarianism has told the world of these horrors. They were past belief. But evidence of the camps at Buchenwald, Belsen, Eria and Nordhausen was as irrefutable as death, as monstrous as human degradation. From three camps, TIME & LIFE correspondents described these horrors.

ERLA

At the Eria Camp, the S.S. guards prepared to massacre the prisoners as the U.S. Army approached. The prisoners knew what was coming, but most of them were too weak to try to escape, though a Czech prisoner had short-circuited the electric fence. From Eria, TIME Correspondent Bill Walton reported the atrocity as pieced together from the stories of the few survivors:

All day Tuesday the S.S. guards made their preparations. All day the prisoners moved weakly around their barracks or stretched restlessly in the hot April sunshine in the narrow gravel yard around their barracks. Among themselves they discussed all the possible fates the brutal Germans might be planning for them, talked about escape and what to do, but none of them did anything. Years of imprisonment had taken too heavy a toll of their capacity for action.

SONG FOR THE DOOMED

Shortly before noon the guards herded the few remaining able-bodied prisoners into the barracks of the weak and ill, saying that at noon meal would be served there. Two hundred and ninety-five men were crowded into that barracks—40ft by 120ft—jammed in and the doors locked after big tubs of soup had been brought in.

Once the doors were locked the SS men began to work with furious speed. First they nailed army blankets over every window. Then they hauled up huge cans of highly inflammable acetate. The 13 guards were all ready, armed with every weapon in their hurrying arsenals. At a signal all sprang into action.

The low murmur of worried conversation turned to cries of fright when the guards unlocked the two doors and hurled in acetate, dousing the madder-dry buildings and splashing the prisoners crowding close to the only routes of escape. In one split second the acetate ignited and

(Continued on page 4)

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The Future of Sugar

For some time now sugar has been receiving quite a lot of direct attention both in British Guiana and the United Kingdom, so much so, that many of the absentee proprietors have made special visits to their sugar estates in this colony.

We have heard these gentlemen making pronouncements of every kind regarding the necessity of increased production of sugar from British Guiana and the need of co-operative sugar estate labour towards that end, but we have not heard these gentlemen making any pronouncement regarding the general welfare of labour employed on sugar estates or an increase in the wages of these labourers by which these people would be able to stave off the present malnutrition under which they are forced to live.

We are compelled to feel that those absentee proprietors are doing all that lie within their power to preserve the present status quo of intensive exploitation of the British Guiana sugar estate labour.

We cannot allow manouvering of this nature to continue and sit idly by watching the devastation and ravages that the present sugar estate employers are causing to our people without protesting against it.

We feel that the time has come when labour should share directly in the profits of these estates and that arrangements be made to have these estates run on a cooperative basis.

We are of the opinion that if the present attitude of sugar capitalists is maintained sooner or later relations between the sugar estate absentee proprietors and labourers is bound to reach breaking point and consequent disaster for the sugar industry.

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AGENTS

Alcoholism as it Affects Us

(BY JANET JAGAN)

Alcoholism is a disease that is the result of excessive drinking. Very few people realize that rum-drinking, aside from its bad moral effects, is a serious disease that leads to many physical and mental defects. There are many false ideas concerning drinking. Many people believe that rum is a stimulant, whereas, it is actually a depressant, and only has a temporary stimulating effect. Many people, too, make the excuse that rum is nutritious; the fact is that distilled alcohol is entirely lacking in minerals and vitamins. Drinking also lessens diet. Then again, there is the erroneous belief that alcohol is a medicine, and will cure colds, snakebite, shock, etc. This has been proven false—and actually in some diseases, alcohol will hinder recovery.

GREATER PHYSICAL REACTION

Alcohol brings many diseases and disorders. One very serious manifestation of excessive drinking is delirium tremens which many refer to as "DT's" or the condition of seeing "pink elephants". Many think this amusing, but it is very serious for it is a variety of acute insanity. Lesions of stomach, liver, heart and nervous system are all results of alcoholism. Diabetics may go into coma and die from rum-drinking. Science has proven that the reaction time of the individual is reduced by drinking. It reduces the efficiency of skilled labour; it reduces the efficiency of the automobile driver. The Chronic drinker is more susceptible to pneumonia because his resistance to infection is reduced, and the chances of his dying of this disease are greater than for the normal person. The statistics of Life Insurance Companies show that heavy drinkers experience a considerably greater mortality than the abstainers or occasional drinkers. Figures show that in the U. S. A., of all alcoholics treated in hospitals, 10 per cent have mental diseases 35 to 40 per cent have pellagra (a nutritional disease) and about 8 1/2% have cirrhosis of the liver.

ALCOHOL AND THE HOME

Aside from the medical aspect of alcoholism there exists the economic factor. What happens to the wife and children when the wage-earner is incapacitated or hospitalized when he becomes ill as a result of his excessive drinking?

Then we come to the problem—what is to be done? For the chronic alcoholic there are two alternatives; if he is strong-willed enough he can willfully cure himself by abstaining from drinking; otherwise he must be hospitalized.

That merely takes care of the severe

cases. The most important thing to do is to prevent the occasional drinker from becoming a chronic drinker.

A VERITABLE CAUSE

To come to the very root of the evil we find this fact. The reason why so many of our young men drink is because there is a lack of proper recreation. On the sugar estates and in the villages, when a man is through with his day's labour, there is little for him to do. Libraries are almost non-existent, radios are not in abundance and there are no night schools. There are only a few recreational Clubs, and so the working man, turns to the rum-shop. That is his club—the "poor man's club." He must drink to be friendly, and so one drink increases to many. This goes on for months and years; ultimately such men become chronic alcoholics.

CONCLUSION

Therefore, to alter this situation, we must give the poor man more recreational facilities. Groups could be organized to offer adult education to the illiterate. Regular lectures—covering all aspects of culture and life could be offered. Small libraries with books, periodicals and exhibits could be opened. Recreational clubs with table-tennis, billiards, games and the radio and phonograph could be started. Even though Government has never accepted its responsibility of recreation (parks, libraries, adult education, play-grounds, etc.) it does not mean that we should "run" ourselves to decay and stagnation.

The Bahamas

(continued from last issue)

"My resignation does not mean a permanent severance from public life. After the war men with experience will be badly needed, and I'll fit in anywhere that I can be helpful.... I have interests in Canada, America and Europe...I shall go to England some day...."

But the fact was, and he knew it, that, in a world where there is little demand for men whose only training is as King-Emperor, he was technologically unemployable, an obsolete man. He might have liked to be Governor General of Canada, but there was a scant chance of it—not so long as straitlaced Bachelor Mackenzie King was the Dominion's Prime Minister. Australia had already received his brother Gloucester. And the British were not likely to make David's Wally Viceroy of India. Perhaps France and conspicuous unemployment were inevitable.

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Money

NO OBLIGATION BUT . . .

The U.S. Treasury last week tried to clear up a year-old financial mystery with some fiscal double talk. It stiffly announced that the U.S. is not obliged to redeem the millions of dollars worth of invasion currency which U.S. armies have used in invaded countries. Said the Treasury: "No promise of redemption was ever made. No invasion currency carries any legend suggesting redemption by the U.S. . . . We have no secret understandings that we will ever do so."

Despite these uncompromising words, the plain fact was that the U.S. has already made good in part on much of this currency. The U.S. has paid dollars to Allied nations to match the amount of French and Belgian francs, and Dutch guilders, etc. which the US has spent to pay its troops and buy supplies.

Even in Italy, where \$350,000,000 worth of "Four Freedoms" lire were issued by the Allied armies, the lire used to pay U.S. forces (but not those used to buy services, supplies, etc.) have been matched by dollar credits to the shaky Bonomi Government (TIME, OCT. 23, 1944).

In effect, the U.S. has already supplied dollars to offset invasion currency, although there is no guarantee that it will be used for redemption. In view of this, skeptical money men last week wondered: would the U.S. eventually have to make good, in the same manner, on the millions of dollars in invasion marks now being spent in Germany?

Germany

[continued from page 2]

burst into a roaring inferno. Cries of fright changed to screams of terror and of mortal agony that were soon drowned by the leaping flames and the bursting of hand grenades tossed into the open doorways.

At least 100 flaming men crawled their way through the exits, packed with crazed, dying men. Through spattering gunfire from SS machine pistols and b zookas, most of the men staggered blindly for the nearby latrine even though it too was aflame. In a last gasp of agony they threw themselves into the excrement-filled trench where SS guards shot them and clubbed them to death, their bodies sinking slowly into the filth.

RIBBONS OF FLESH

A few others got as far as the low, 3-ft.-thick band of barbed wire besides the electric fence before they were shot or died of burns. So awful was their agony that they paid scant attention to the agony prongs of barbed wire and wiggled under even though it ripped their flesh to ribbons. A handful, protected by a mad confusion succeeded in getting over the fence, hastily stripping off their burning clothes, and started running eastward across the flat plowed field. On the other side of the field was a tank retreating eastward. Hitler Youths, manning that tank, turned their guns toward the blazing barracks and mowed down the naked prisoners running and falling and rising to run again across the open field. Only four made it to safety. Only four survived the hell carefully planned and executed by the Germans, in a fury because they couldn't carry their prisoners with them when Leipzig fell

Russians Parade for May Day

MOSCOW, May 1

Moscow celebrated May Day with a ceremonial parade of armed might, marching one hundred thousand strong before an imposing array of dignitaries including the Japanese Ambassador Naotaka Sai-o who stood grim and alone in a corner of the diplomatic box.

Moscow's first May Day military parade of the war brought to the capital the pomp and panoply of a holiday in peacetime. The celebration was tense to the verge of exultation by word from Berlin that the Red banner fluttered over the Reichstag and final victory was at hand.

Stalin reviewed the parade and stood practically motionless for two hours, his fingers touching his visor cap as the Red Army men and armour streamed across the Red square and hundreds of planes roared overhead in perfect formation.

Adult Suffrage in the Colonies

Endorsing in a letter to "The Economist" a correspondent's condemnation of adult suffrage in Ceylon (and still more in less advanced Colonies) Sir Bernard Bourdillon, the late Governor of Nigeria, went on to point out that the great danger of a limited franchise people unrepresented. The was that it left many of the usual method of giving representation to the peasant and small trader was nomination by the Governor, which had the drawback that in some Colonies, the nominated member was regarded as "semi-official," although the Governor usually chose his nominees on the advice of some body of unofficials so that such members ceased, in fact, to be Government nominees. Was it not time, asked Sir Bernard, that this fact was recognized by Statute? "Surely it would not be difficult to devise, in any Colony not ripe for adult suffrage a system or systems of indirect election.

The tribal organization in many parts of Africa is democratic to the extreme, and would readily lend itself to such a system. Systems of this future would be better than the ballot-box in most Colonies and of many to come."

—CROWN COLONIST.

All letters intended for publication MUST be signed, and addressed to the Editor and MUST be written on one side of the paper only. Unsigned letters will be surely thrown into the waste paper basket.

INDIAN OPINION: Printed at 61 Hadfield Street Georgetown Demerara, by JOSEPH N. EUTLER for Mr. Jenarine Singh President of the British Guiana East Indian Association

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