

# INDIAN OPINION

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ONE PENNY

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## GOVERNMENT

### WORKERS

Last week we dealt with Sugar Estates Workers. It is our intention this week to refer to workers who do manual work for Government, but whose wages are really controlled by certain Boards the personnel of which is dominated by the representatives of the Sugar Estates.

The Sea Defence Board, the Central Drainage and Irrigation Board and the Board of Agriculture employ a large number of workers and they have all agreed to pay their manual workers the basic rates of wages ranging from 64c. to 72c. per day for men, and 32 to 36c. per day for women. A war bonus is also paid to these workers. In order to spread the work to a large number of workers the majority do not get work on an average for more than four days per week. In the majority of cases four days work per week is the rule and at certain periods workers are not given work for several weeks, the excuse being that funds are not available. The real reason is not to allow the workers an opportunity to work six days per week and be able to put aside a small amount which may come in useful in times of need but to utilize any amount that may be put aside when workers get regular work to use when he is given no work at all.

All this is well known to us, and if those in authority believe that these methods will be allowed to continue indefinitely, they are sadly mistaken.

The Government on the other hand believe that they can continue to fool the majority of workers by getting them to believe that they are willing to improve the lot of their manual workers. They are not going to be fooled. In the same way we did not advise workers who are working on sugar estates what they should do, we ask all daily wage earners if it is in their interest to work for gross wages ranging from \$2.00 to \$4.00 per week including war bonus, and in some cases to maintain a family, or to work for themselves on their own lands or farms.

We should, perhaps, point out to these workers where they should look for work on their own account, pending the laying out of suitable lands for Land Settlement. The several Rivers and Creeks in Demerara and Berbice, the Canals Polder, the Bonasika River, and the Essequibo Coast and Islands offer some scope to daily workers of Government and Sugar Estates.

We have to ask Government two open questions.

Have the Government forgotten their solemn promises to provide suitable lands to settle families on their own lands in Demerara and Berbice?

Have the Government forgotten their solemn promises to assist families to build their own houses on the Essequibo Coast and Islands?

We warn Government not to break faith any longer with the people who have made British Guiana a Colony worthy of the British Crown.

GENERAL PROVISION

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## District Meetings

### PLN. FARM & PLN. DIAMOND

Representatives of the Executive of the B.G.E.I.A., including Messrs Jenarine Singh, Amos Rangela, Sugrim Singh, L.A. Sookhoo and Dr. Oheddie Jagan D.D.S., toured the East Bank on Sunday last visiting Pln. Farm and Pln. Diamond. In spite of unfavourable weather the attendance was surprisingly satisfactory. The meeting at Pln. Diamond was a record one within recent years. The Programme there was interesting with musical items.

At Pln. Farm the visiting members addressed the gathering on several problems, Education, Agriculture, Labour, and the New Constitution. Special emphasis was laid on the importance of establishing a Youth-centre at Pln. Farm for the young people of the District. The aims and objects were fully outlined and much interest was shown by the young men of the District.

The following Committees was appointed Messrs Sheer Mohamed, Arjune Rampersaud, Kanhai, Daleep Singh, Lakshan Singh, Boodram, Seeharron Lalai Sookhoo, Hassan, Ishmeil, Motial and Pandit P.R. Tiwary

### PLN. DIAMOND,

The meeting was held at the Theatre Hall. Mr. Lochan, Schoolmaster occupied the Chair. The hall was crowded and musical numbers were rendered by Messrs Garbai Narine Singh & Francis. Much interest was evinced at this meeting and again the representatives of the Executive emphasized the importance of organizing a youth Club for Pln. Diamond. The speakers included Messrs Jenarine Singh, Dr. Jaggan. L. Sookhoo, Amos, Rangela, Sugrim Singh, Charles Ramdhany Maraj others.

The British Guiana East Indian Association proposes to organise youth centres in these two Districts and to equip these centres for the benefit of the young people of the district. It is hoped that the young people of these districts will give this effort their full cooperation. It is realized that the future of our community rests in the hands of our young people.

# THE INDIAN NATIONAL CONGRESS AN HOMAGE

ON this January 26, —INDIAN INDEPENDENCE DAY—we pay our humble homage to all the patriots of India, to all the political parties that have striven for India's freedom to all the friends of India's freedom abroad, and above all to the Indian National Congress that supreme political organization, under whose banner the declaration of India's independence was first read in 1930.

The Congress was organized in 1885 by a handful of Indians as a protest against Britain's discriminatory measures in India. In its early career the Congress pleaded only for a few paltry concessions—to day it demands freedom for India as the birthright of a nation. In its early career, Congress was the mouthpiece of a handful of intellectuals and middle class people—to day it echoes the sentiments of India's vast millions.

Since 1919, Mahatma Gandhi has been the undisputed leader of the Congress. It is he, who has brought it down to the masses and he alone could have done it because he is a "symbolic expression of the confused desires of the people." Under his leadership, hundreds of thousands of men and women have for years now cheerfully faced imprisonment, flogging and shooting. And they are neither sorry nor dismayed, for Gandhi has firmly implanted in their hearts the idea that death is infinitely preferable to slavery. And they are determined not to rest till India is free.

The India National Congress is an organization of the people of India for its membership is open to each and every one, Hindu, Moslem, Christian, Parsee, and Sikh, who stands for India's freedom. Congress stands for the equality before law of all individuals, as it also stands for the equal protection of the rights of all the minorities. It stands for economic democracy. And it stands for international cooperation and justice for all nations, big and small.

Like all others mass organizations, the Indian National Congress has possibly made many mistakes in its long and checkered career, but even its worst critics cannot honestly withhold from it the due credit for the ideals it has espoused and its impressive achievements.

It has infused among the apathetic and almost cringing masses of India a new hope and a vision of their destiny. By its insistence upon peaceful methods to achieve its ends, it has saved so far the lives of untold Indians and English. It has produced a number of leaders, whose courage and integrity and moral stature will compare favorably with those of any the world has ever produced. It has made the freedom of India a world issue as it has brought the world problems nearer home to the Indians. As in peace, so in war, it has neither wavered nor deviated from its lofty ideals. During peace its strove for India's freedom, during war, it made its contribution

to the idea of world freedom by reminding us all that the ideal for which the war is being waged will not have been vindicated unless India's four hundred millions are free.

India has a long and hard road to travel. There are many old domestic problems to be solved and many new ones that have recently raised their ugly heads to be faced. Her alien task-master is resourceful and equipped with all the latest weapons available at his command and determined to perpetuate his hold upon India. Whatever future may be in store for India and whatever trials and tribulations she may have to go through the Indian National Congress has redeemed India's name and honor and has taught her people to face the present with courage and the future with hope.

ANUP SINGH,

The voice of India.

## NOTICE

I Hereby warn the public that I will not be responsible for any debt or debts contracted by my wife Dhanraji known as Catherine of Rose Hall village Corentsyn Barbice.

She having left my home since the 9th day of June 1945 without any just cause.

Alfred Bacchus.  
Hague Front W.O., Dem.

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PHONE C 341

# Letter to the Editor

The Editor  
Indian Opinion

Would you be good enough to publish the following article for general information to what is happening on this particular sugar estate although we have signed a new agreement to protect the sugar industry, and also to settle disputes between employees and workers. The estate authorities seem to be still using their secret weapons that is because there are too many labourers here and that there is not sufficient work to upkeep them, (Sir Gordon is well aware of the fact for in an interview with him, Sir Gordon said that the Albion-Portmoutant areas are too congested and something must be done so as to relieve these people.) The estates are in the habit of serving notices to workers to quit or whosever own houses on the estate's land must pay one dollar per month or pull down their houses. Several notices have been served to workers and are still being served. Below is a notice served to a worker whose wife is working regularly, as sufficient work is not available this poor man has to hustle outside so as to maintain his families. The notice reads thus:

To Rambarran,  
Doctor Bush,  
Plo, Albion,

Plo. Albion,  
Berbice,  
9. 4. '45.

Take notice that we the Urentyne Sugar Company Limited, do hereby give you notice to quit and deliver up on 30th June 1945 quiet and peaceable possession of the house lot of land measuring 5 rods by 5 rods situated at Doctor Bush on the Corentyne of the County of Berbice which you now hold of us under a monthly tenancy of 2c. per month, and to remove your house therefrom. You are fully aware that the condition of your tenancy was that you work regularly as an agricultural labourer on Plantation Albion and it was strictly on this Mutual agreement and understanding that the nominal rent of 2c. per month was fixed in respect of the said house lot, but you have failed and neglected to carry out and fulfil this condition despite warnings to you to do so, and in consequence we are now compelled to determine your tenancy pursuant to the aforesaid mutual understanding and agreement. However, without prejudice to the above notice, we are prepared if you still wish to retain possession as an ordinary tenant of the said house lot under a monthly tenancy upon payment of an economic rental of one dollar per month, provided you take steps to make the necessary arrangements with us therefore within 14 days from the date of service of this notice on you, and on failure of your so doing, this notice shall remain in full force and effect.

Mr. Editor the first paragraph states 2c. per month, but previous to the rental fee of 2c. per month people occupied lots for 30 odd years and according to the law of the land the people should be given transport for their lots. The second paragraph states:

You are fully aware of your tenancy, that you work regularly. It was strictly on this mutual agreement for the lots at 2c. per month. I say there was never such an agreement.

I can give an instance during the year 1918 just after the influenza, Mr. James Bee the then manager felt that rooms are not sufficiently available for large families, so he issued orders saying whosoever wants to build houses of their own on the estates' land can do so (of course in those days work was quite available) he then laid out plans and completed "Chesney Settlement" for which he aided people in putting up house-frames and sold them for \$12 each. The present management should take a copy from those records.

Now paragraph three states: We are all prepared if you wish to retain possession of the said lot as an ordinary tenant at the rental of one dollar per month provided you take steps to make the necessary arrangements within 14 days from date of this notice, failing of your so doing this notice shall remain in full force and effect. Now sir, within 14 days this poor man went and beg the manager that he is prepared to work if he can be supplied with work the manager refused to listen to him and said pull down your house or pay one dollar per month.

Now sir persons who have travelled to corentyne and have seen the decent small cottages that have been built by workers of Plantation Albion, even Sir Gordon has seen them too. Several notices are being served to these poor people of Plantation

## NOTICE

A meeting of the Berbice Rice Farmers Association will be held on Sunday, 17th June in the Bose Hall, Canje Area at 7pm. Important matters that effect the industry now and in the future will be discussed. All rice-farmers must endeavour to attend.

### Peoples Displeasure

Residents of the Boomfield Whim B'co are very much perturbed over the utterances made by His Excellency the Governor when he visited Whim, over the 3rd Depth Rice Empolder. It is an accepted fact among them that the entire project was allowed to be sabotaged.

### Skeldon-New Amsterdam Passenger Service.

It is shocking to find that the Buses are carrying double the registered number of Passengers on this route. Strap-hanging is done between Skeldon and Port Mourant. More vehicles are needed to cope with the ever-increasing traffic.

Albion, to pull down their decent little cottages if they can't pay the sum of one dollar per month.

British Guiana is a country which needs development but it reminds me of our great little England where bombs fell and destroyed. It appears as if this sugar estate management is a sort of bomb that is prepared to destroy all the decent houses that took years to build by poor workers. The estate authorities always say that the estate is there they can do what they like, but I think the time has come that these things should be stopped. I pray that Sir Gordon enquire into this ridiculous state of affairs as an administrator.

Thanking you Mr. Editor.

Yours faithfully,  
Jagnarine.

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# \$5,000,000 Govt. Loan

## Chance For Guianese Investors

The Government of British Guiana invite applications for \$5,000,000 three and one half per cent Debentures to be issued at par on the 1st day of January 1946 under the provisions of the General Local Loan Ordinance, No. 25 of 1941,

The loan is required to defray in part the cost of War Service and for such other public purposes as the Secretary of State and the Legislative Council may from time to time approve, as well as for the redemption in par of outstanding 4 c/o bonds of the 16th and 18th issue under Loan Ordinance No. 6 of 1916.

The Loan is secured on the general revenues and assets of the Colony, and the principal will be repaid at par on the first day of January, 1986, but the Government of British Guiana will have the option of redemption at par on or after the first day of January, 1976 on giving six calendar month's notice in the Official Gazette.

Debentures will be of the denominations of \$1000, \$5,000 and \$10,000, will bear interest at the rate of 3½ per cent per annum payable half-yearly, and will be transferable by deliver. Each debenture will have attached thereto coupons for the half-yearly interest payable thereon. Repayment of the debentures and payment of the interest thereon will be made at the Colonial Treasury, Georgetown.

Application will be closed on 1st November, 1945 or on such earlier date as may be notified in the Official Gazette.

Prospectuses and application forms may be obtained from the Treasury, Georgetown, or from any Post Office.

(For full particulars see prospectus published in Daily Newspapers of 3rd June.)

## OBITUARY

We regret to chronicle the death of Mr. Mungal of Bagot Ville, West Bank, Demerara, who died suddenly at his office desk at the Public Works Department, Kingston, on Wednesday, 6th June, 1945.

Mr. Mungal who was 47 years of age was apparently in good health up to the time of his death. He was employed for many years as a clerk at the P. W. D. Office, Vreeden Hoop, after which he was transferred to Head Office Kingston.

On the day of his death, it is stated, that Mr. Mungal left for office as usual. Shortly after breakfast, he complained of feeling bad, and expired in his chair immediately after, before any medical aid could have reached him.

His sudden death was a shock to his wife, children, many friends and relatives among whom he was held in high esteem. The large gathering of Hindus, Muslims and Christians that attended his funeral was evidence of his popularity and friendship among his people.

Among those that are left to mourn his loss are his wife, three sons and three

## MUSLIMS OF PLN. VERSAILLES TO BUILD MADARSA (SCHOOL)

The Muslims of Pln Versailles have embarked on the building of a Madarsa [School] in the Mosque-Compound, for the teaching of Urdu, Arabic and English.

After teaching in the Mosque-Shed for the past ten years, the Muslims think it is ample time now for them to have a separate building to educate their children. Mr. S.M. Shakoor, Chairman of the School Committee and members of the Jamaat have made up their minds to leave no stone unturned for the acquiring of this Madarsa. It is also understood that the Management of Pln Versailles have promised to give them their full support and cooperation.

daughters. He was buried at Bagot Ville the following day, according to Hindu religion, Pandit Lalman Sukul performed the last Rites.

The "Indian Opinion" begs to tender its sincere sympathies to the relatives and friends of the deceased.

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SATURDAY 16th JUNE 1945.