

INDIAN OPINION

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ONE PENNY

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FREEDOM FOR INDIA

We the Indians of British Guiana, not unlike those of India and other parts of the British Empire, as well as our fellow Compatriots every-where in the world must express our gratitude to the masses of the people in England for their stand towards the liberation of India.

It must be admitted that hitherto there was a secreted suspicion in the minds of Indians (and even in the minds of some of India's non-Indian friends that not only the Lories and the Churchills and amorys but even the white population in England were against India what is her birth-right, and what is long overdue—her independence.

This wrong impression has now been wiped off to a very great extent. Indians every-where are not yet in a position to say what action the Labour Government will take towards India, and when

Letter to the Editor.

Bush Lot Village,
West Coast Berbice,
31st July 1945.

The Editor,
"Indian Opinion"

Dear Sir,

Kindly oblige me space in the valuable columns of the "Indian Opinion" to publish this humble letter.

On Tuesday night 24th instant at 7.30 p.m. a Havan Ceremony was performed

by Professor Bhaskarnand M.A. Vedic Bishop. The function was closed by singing a Song Kula-Jest and Aartee.

A general election for office bearers took place at the said night, after the ceremony for the Bush Lot Arya Samaj. At their Temple for the year 1945-1946.

ELECTED MEMBERS

Mr. Mahipaul Singh (President), Mr. Ramphaul (Vice President), Mr. Ramsaroop (General Secretary), Mr. Latchmi Persaud (Treasurer) Mr. Ramassar (Representative) Western Berbice.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Mr. Deonandan, Mr. Ramotar Singh, Mr. Haricharan Singh, Mr. Manohar, Mr. Shivanandan.

Thanking you,
Yours Faithfully,
Ramsaroop,
Secretary.

steps will be taken for the abolition of the India Office and declaration of Dominion Status for the Sub Continent with its population of almost 400 million souls.

We how-ever have confidence that this will be done, because we know as a matter of fact that the Labour Party in England actually got into power on the "India ticket."

We can now see that because of the feeling in favour of India among the English masses, The British Government of India has been spending thousands and thousands of dollars in the United States of America in the hope of biasing India's case for Independence.

The eyes and ears of the masses every-where in the world are opening, and the days when a free India will take her right position in world affairs will soon be here.

To the enemies and arch-enemies of India we say "You can't fool all the people all the time."

War Against Japs And The Indian Problem

SPARKBROOK, BIRMINGHAM, June 24, (Reuter): Secretary of the Communist Party Harry Polit told a big Communist rally in support of R. P. Dutt in Sparkbrook to-night that the Japanese war has been unnecessarily prolonged because of British failure to secure the co-operation of India. The Conservative Party are hoping to create doubt in people's mind as to whether if there is a change in Government, the war against Japan might not be lengthened, and it will be longer still until the boys come home, he said. I cannot see how you can guarantee success in the war against Japan when you have in Government L. S. Amery who did everything in his power to support Japan in its war against China in the first stage. Lots of lads are sitting down today in Burma who would prefer to be sitting here in Birmingham, and the reason the boys are not sitting here is because Britian never won the co-operation of the Indian people in the hour of common danger, and because of that, the war against Japan was lengthened.

Mr. M. J. Kirpalani Leaving Shortly For India

—:0:—

At an extraordinary meeting of the Directors of Trinidad Clubs Limited, the proprietors of the India Club, Mr. M. J. Kirpalani, the Managing Director from the inception of the Company in 1942, tendered his resignation on account of his impending departure to India on long holiday.

Mr. Kirpalani made the announcement to the members of the Club's General Committee at its regular meeting on June 9, 1945, and while everyone wished him *bon voyage* all were equally sorry to lose him. Mr. H. P. Singh, Mr. H. Dixon and Mr. S. M. Rameshwar expressed the feeling of the Committee.

Mr. Kirpalani has held a key position in the life of the Club from the very beginning. He helped to have the Company organised and watched its interest with extreme keenness. He was also pivotal in activities of the Club. He organised many successful functions, often at his own expense. He was very anxious to keep the premises clean and bright and made of it an institution worthy of our people.

But Mr. Kirpalani did not confine his activities to the Club alone. He took an active and often a leading part in other matters of importance to our people. He took the initiative in declaring two Indian holidays a year—the birthday of the Holy Prophet Mohamed and Dewali Day—and in encouraging all shops and stores to close to mark these occasions. He took a leading part in collecting funds for the erection of a Night Shelter for Indian Destitutes, in aiding the R. A. F. Benevolent Fund, in purchasing a cinema projector for the inmates of the Leprosarium, in donating \$5,000 to Pundit Bhaskaran and for his Oriental College in British Guiana and most important of all in raising the grand total of \$54,000 for the relief of the famine stricken in Bengal and other parts of India.

His part in the Language Test campaign is well known. He was one of the leaders and helped to organise the Indian Central Committee. Credit for the recent victory must go largely to him.

Mr. Kirpalani goes to India on holiday but also to do post-war planning for his extensive business enterprises in the West Indies. It is hoped that he will return with new ideas and with renewed inspiration to carry on the good work he has started.

Replacing Mr. Kirpalani as Managing Director of Trinidad Clubs Ltd., is Mr. D. Beharry.

I STILL BELIEVE IN NON-VIOLENCE

By MAHATMA GANDHI

THE principle of non-violence means, in general terms, that men will deliberately shun all weapons of slaughter and the use of force of any kind whatsoever against their fellow men.

The most familiar comment on this principle is that we who believe in it are naive fools without realistic knowledge of the world. The criticism is leveled particularly against me, since it is my name that is most commonly associated with non-violence.

It is said that if I were not such a simpleton, deliberately closing my eyes to conditions as they really are, I would know that non-violence can never hope to prevail over such powerful and brutal forces as those represented by Nazi Germany and Japan, which are the essence of unscrupulous armed might. Non-violence, it is said, may be all very well in theory, but in practice, it is too hopelessly idealistic to have any chance of success in this modern world of armored divisions, parachute troops, dive bombers.

Are we naive fools? Is non-violence a sort of dreamy wishful thinking that has never had and can never have any real success against the heavy odds of modern armies and the unlimited application of force and frightfulness?

India's recent history gives the answer to this. We have won considerable victories. We have faced powerful armed forces and we have not been swept out of the way. We still exist; belief in non-violence still exists. Does not the fact that only a single victory has been won prove that non-violence, developed to greater perfection, could win greater victories against greater armed forces?

But let me describe the true follower of non-violence—the true non-violent soldier as I see him.

The chief requisite for a soldier in a violent army is physical fitness. He must have this in order to develop the ability to kill. Old people, raw youths and those suffering from disease are thus excluded.

But in the non-violent army, the chief requisite is the ability to die for your belief. This depends not on physical but on mental fitness. Therefore, this army can welcome to its ranks old men, women, youths, the blind, the sick and the lame. Thus it follows that the non-violent army has a much greater mass base; it consists not merely of a certain section of the population but of all sections.

The non-violent army has no use for weapons. It beats its swords into plowshares and its spears into pruning hooks. Whereas, the soldier of the violent army is trained in the use of violence by being taught how to shoot, the non-violent soldier has no time or need for this. All his training comes through nursing the sick, saving those in danger at risk of his own life, and cultivating the capacity for sacrifice of the highest type.

To be Continued

READ THE
INDIAN OPINION

Dr. Kafiluddin

Dr. Samuel Kafiluddin (the younger brother of Miss L. S. Kafiluddin, Missionary, New York) is a graduate of the Paramaribo Medical School, Surinam. He is a clever and successful medical practitioner. His services are being utilized by the N.G. Government which has given him an area covering several plantations along the Comewijne River.

It is rumoured in Paramaribo that a petition is being prepared by the inhabitants of the districts to be transmitted to Government praying for the definite retention of Dr. Kafiluddin in the area to which he is assigned.

ANOTHER INDIAN FOR MEDICAL PROFESSION

—:0:—

Mr. Walter Singh attached to the Department of Agriculture, Bourda, Georgetown, has tendered his resignation with the intention of leaving the colony in the near future.

It is understood that Mr. Singh will be going to Canada to study medicine at the Dalhousie University, Halifax, Nova Scotia.

Mr. Singh is from a prominent and respectful Indian family of the East Coast, Demerara and was educated at the Modern Educational Institute, Georgetown.

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CAPACITY FOR GREATNESS

Every nation is obsessed with one problem which is the measure of its capacity for greatness: Egypt with immortality; Greece with beauty; Rome with administration and law; France with rationalism; Germany with war; Britain with the freedom of the individual man. India, islanded by sea and land, and haunted by the hourly wanton foreclosure of life by death, looked within and found that its obsession was the soul and its creator, the problem of good and evil. It embodied this vision in one of the world's great faiths (Buddhism) and in religious works of great power (the *Vedas* and *Upanishads*). India, under its squalor and its faith, its superstitions and its cruelties, its babble of 75 languages and dialects and hodge-pole of peoples, its lethal famines and lethal wars, was nevertheless the most intensely spiritual area on earth.

In its obsession, it worshipped God under all forms, from inexpressible abstraction to inexpressible obscenity, from the monkeys which defiled villages and ruined precious crops, to the snakes which every year killed 20,000 people. More extreme devotees, the Jains, even placed cloths over their mouths and noses lest they breathe in and kill forms of life too minute for vision but nevertheless God created.

HISTORIC IRONY

In 1750 this God-obsessed nation suffered one of history's supreme ironies: its conquest was begun by the world's No. 1. modern industrial power—Britain. For a century

India supplied a large part of the capital wherewith Britain financed its industrial expansion and presently formed a big part of the market to which Britain sold its manufactures.

For two centuries tiny, remote Britain ruled India by the policy of divide and conquer. The differences between India's Hindus (256 million) and India's Moslems (92 million) were more than religious; they were almost organic. Says Moslem Dr. Aziz of the Hindus in E. M. Forster's *A Passage to India*. "I wish they did not remind me of cow dung." Britain was suspected of setting the Moslem League against the Hindus, slowly acquiring political maturity as the majority in the All-India National Congress. Against the caste Hindus she played the 40 million Untouchables, whose very shadow, to a high-caste Hindu, is defilement. Against both she played the panoplied, privileged world of the Indian princes and the martial nations of the Sikhs and Gurkhas.

INSPIRED DISCERNMENT

Then in Natal, South Africa. (circa 1905), a lean, struggling, expatriate Hindu lawyer, Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi, had a political discernment of genius: in God-obsessed India the politics of liberation must take the form of a religious struggle. Doffing his European store clothes and donning a *dhoti*, the little man moved against the British Empire in the name of four principles: *satyagraha* (acceptance of Truth), *ahimsa* (non-violence), *swadeshi* (home industry), *swaraj* (independence). From then on, the history of Indian-British relations has been a long, painful procession of thousands of non-resisting Indian nationalists passing in and out of British jails, or under the *lathis* [staves] of Britain's police.

Many of the Congress leaders who sat around the conference table with Lord

TRINIDADIANS' SUCCESS AT BAR EXAMINATION

At a recent Examination held in Trinidad for the English Bar, three Indians successfully passed the first part of the Bar Examination. The candidates took papers on Roman Law, Constitutional Law and Contract and Tort.

The successful candidates are as follows:—

Messrs. Seedan Singh ... Roman Law.
F. D. Mohan ... Constitutional Law.
M. Nazurdeen Khan... Contract and Tort.
E. K. Ramnarine ... Contract and Tort.

The "Indian Opinion" congratulates these gentlemen and wishes them further success.

MR. RIENZI RE-ELECTED FOURTH-TERM PRESIDENT FOR THE INDIA CLUB

At an election Meeting for the Officers of the India Club recently held in Port-of-Spain Trinidad, Mr. A.O. Rienzi, Crown-Council of Trinidad, has been re-elected fourth term President.

Mr. Rienzi is a former Labour Leader of that Colony who resigned his position to accept a Government appointment. He is however, still very popular with the Masses in Trinidad.

Wavel at Simla last week had spent more time in the last few years inside than outside of his jails. Among them were the Congress Party's Moslem President Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru [both newly released from jail], and the Congress Party's moderate, resourceful lawyer Chakravarti Rajgopalachari. In the background hovered the little man in the *dhoti*, Mohandas K. Gandhi, freed over a year ago. He was not participating in the conference, but his influence permeated it. Also present were the Moslem League's dapper, fractious President Mohamed Ali Jinnah, the Sikh leader Tara Singh, the Punjab's non-League Moslem Premier Malik Khizar Hayat Khan Tiwana. But the man on whom, more than on any other, the future of 400 million Indians depended at this climax of 200 years of British rule, was the short, thickset, smiling one-eyed, taciturn Englishman at the head of the conference table.

(To be Continued)

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Mr. Ramjohn Appointed Village Chairman

Of San-Souci Wakenaam

The voice of the people is the voice of God, so says rate payer Mr. T. Dan Jeffrey (chief clerk in charge of the Govt. Steamer Stelling Wakenaam) when signing the recommendation to be forwarded to Government to elect Mr. Ramjohn to be the chairman of the Sans Souci, Melville Local Authority Wakenaam. The ratepayers must be congratulated for taking such a bold step forward in asking the Local Govt. to appoint the man that is suitable to be their District father. We wish to thank Government for fulfilling the wish of the people, by the people, for the people by appointing Mr. Ramjohn as the Village Chairman. Congrats and hats off to Mr. Ramjohn our Village Chairman.

THE POSITION AS CHAIRMAN

The position as a chairman in a village is one of great importance, having then at least the right to the most important position in a community it is a crime against one's self as well as one's fellows to fail to measure up to the standard the opportunities and responsibility of such a position. The position is that of leadership:—Leadership in everything that is for the betterment of humanity.....not a fanatical leadership which demands homage whether or not; but a leadership which by precept example gives the other members of the community something which they may prove and make their own. It will not do merely to keep informed upon the things one believes to be true and good. If you are to be successful you must also keep informed and in touch with the things that your fellows and Government are thinking about, as individuals and collectively, you will also be a poor leader and at least not worthy of your high calling, if you demean yourself toward any of your fellows, in any other manner save and except that which begets confidence. Your concern is not to keep in the so called good books of the masses. Therefore for the benefit of the people you may have to go at times in opposition to the wishes of the people you may have to guide them and must not drift with them you must take it upon yourself to train your fellows in public life and look only to their best interest regardless of whether it will win their favour or disfavour. Remember you stand for upliftment and you must leave no stone unturned, for non-cooperation and non-comprehension arise solely from lack of power to grasp, or faulty presentation of the truth, and not from any willful perverseness.

SIMLA CONFERENCE FAILURE

—:~:~:~:—

A Canapress report from London quotes the Vice-Roy of India as saying: "The responsibility for failure of the Simla Conference is mine."

These are indications how-ever that even before results of the General Election in England were made known, Viscount Wavell had not given up hope for the formation of a more representative Indian Government.

GUIANESE TO STUDY DENTISTRY AT HOWARD

Mr. Bhagirath ("Bhagi") R. B. Persaud, of Kitty and Alexanderville, East Coast, Demerara, left British Guiana on Sunday last for the United States, via Paramaribo to take up studies in Dentistry at Howard University.

A nephew of Mr. B. Persaud, of Bar Street, and Stanley Place, Alexanderville, "Bhagi" was a student of the now defunct Fountain High School, and subsequently of the Modern High School where he gained his Junior and Senior certificates. He afterwards joined the staff of the school, remaining there until some days before his departure. He received a grand farewell from the staff and pupils.

"Bhagi" is a son of Mrs. Narainee Persaud, of Maria's Lodge, Essequibo, and the late Sant Persaud and is a brother of Mrs. B. Gopaul, of 33 Barrack Street, Kingston, and of Mr. Guya Persaud, Magistrate's Clerk.

KALI PUJA AT VERSAILLES

On Monday 23rd July, the Hindoos of Pn. Versailles celebrated one of the oldest customs of Mother India, that is, the worshiping of Mother Kali, the Great Goddess of the Old.

The Estate's Management cooperated with the people by giving them a holiday to celebrate the function.

Hundreds of men, women and children from the district and its vicinity were seen throughout the day walking to and fro from their homes to the place of worship. The celebration lasted throughout the whole day.

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