

INDIAN OPINION

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LITIGATIONS

We have observed with concern the large number of Indians appearing in the Civil Section of the magistrate and Supreme Courts of the Colony.

From our observations the majority of these people appear in court on matters of a civil nature and we feel that the old social structure upon which the lives of our people were built is being slowly disintegrated; and that unless energetic measures are not adopted sooner or later the situation will grow so bad as to cast a completely new outlook into the social framework of our people

The inherent culture of the Indian is to love, respect and have faith in each other but it seems the

AS PROMISED WE HEREBY PUBLISH FOR THE INFORMATION OF OUR READERS THE PROPOSED RICE MARKETING BOARD BILL

A BILL INTITULED

AN ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT CONSTITUTION POWERS DUTIES AND FUNCTIONS OF THE BRITISH GUIANA RICE MARKETING BOARD AND FOR PURPOSES CONNECTED WITH THE MATTERS AFORESAID,

BE it enacted by the Governor of British Guiana with the advice and consent of the Legislative Council as follows:—

1. This Ordinance may be cited as the Rice Marketing Ordinance, 1945.

2. In this Ordinance,—

“the Association” means the British Guiana Rice Producers Association being an association of rice producers to be established by the authority of the Governor for the protection of the interests of rice producers under an enabling Ordinance to be hereafter enacted;

“officer in the public service” means any person appointed to an office in the service of the Crown or the Colony or employed in any capacity under the Government;

“the Manager” means the Manager appointed under this Ordinance;

“manufacturer” means any person who operates a rice factory;

“the parent Board” means the British Guiana Rice Marketing Board established under the Rice (Export Trade) Ordinance, 1935, as modified by the Defence (Rice Control)

(Continued on page 2)

influence of the West has been for some time now filtering into their ways of thought and action which in turn is leading up to the present situation.

We feel that all Indians of some standing whether in the villages or towns should devote their energies towards solving the problems of our people and thus keep them out of court.

The Indians in this colony have a relatively speaking good criminal record compared to the other races; but certainly they lead all the other races in civil matters and it is time a halt be called.

We call on Indians everywhere in this colony to think twice before thinking of going to the court as in the long run it is really the lawyers and the courts that stand to benefit.

PROPOSED RICE MARKETING BOARD BILL

(Continued from page 1)

Regulations, 1940, and the regulations amending the same;

"rice factory" or "factory" means any premises in which padi is manufactured into rice by mechanical power, and includes any place, building, machinery or equipment used in connection with or in relation to such premises for the storage of padi or rice or the manufacture of rice; "rice producer" means—

- (a) any landlord of rice land and any tenant of a holding of rice land within the meaning of these terms as defined by section two of the Rice Farmers (Security of Tenure) Ordinance, 1945;
- (b) any rice farmer who cultivates his own land or any land let or leased to him or which is otherwise lawfully occupied by him notwithstanding that the provisions of the Rice Farmers (Security of Tenure) Ordinance, 1945, are thereto inapplicable;
- (c) any manufacturer:

"the Secretary" means the Secretary appointed under this Ordinance;

"section" means a section of this Ordinance.

CONSTITUTION AND ADMINISTRATION.

3. (1) There shall be established a Board under the name and style of the British Guiana Rice Marketing Board (hereinafter in this Ordinance referred to as "the Board").

(2) The Board shall be a body corporate with perpetual succession, the power to have and use a common seal and the power to hold lands without the licence of the Governor in Council.

(3) The Board may sue and be sued in the name of the British Guiana Rice Marketing Board.

4. (1) The Board shall consist of sixteen members.

(2) Subject to the provisions of subsection (3) of this section the members of the Board shall be appointed by the Governor, and shall be—

- (a) four persons who are officers in the public service;
- (b) eight persons who are rice producers; and
- (c) four other persons (not being officers in the public service or rice producers) of whom two shall be members of the Legislative Council.

(3) The persons to be appointed under paragraph (b) of subsection (2) of this section shall be selected from the members of the council or other governing body of the Association; provided that until the Association has been established or where for any reason the Association ceases to function or fails to elect a council or governing body, or there is an insufficient number of members of the council or governing body of the Association, the Governor shall select such rice producers for appointment as in his discretion he considers fit.

(4) The members of the Board shall be appointed for two years, and they shall be eligible for re-appointment.

(5) The Governor shall appoint a member of the Board to be Chairman of the Board and another to be Vice-Chairman.

(6) The Chairman shall preside at all meetings of the Board which he attends, and in his absence the Vice-Chairman shall preside. In the absence of both the Chairman and the Vice-Chairman from any meeting of the Board the members present may elect one of their number to be Chairman of the meeting.

[To be continued next week]

R.A.F. STRIKE IN INDIA**MR. ATTLEE TO MAKE STATEMENT**

Approximately 6,000 R.A.F. personnel including about 1000 Indians were reported yesterday to have halted work at two air stations in Cawnpore, the biggest R.A.F. maintenance centre in India. To emphasize "We want to go home demands". The strike began on Saturday but representative of strikers met on Sunday and offered to resume work for ten days if they were satisfied that full publicity had been given in the United Kingdom to the demands formulated earlier at Mauripur, near Karachi. These demands included speed-up in demobilization and trebling of shipping allocations for repatriation, more information on sailing dates and greater use of naval shipping.

OFFICIAL DATES FOR HINDU FESTIVALS

The Hindu festivals of Phugwa, Ram Naumi and Deya Devali, occurs as follows:—

Phugwa—Monday, March 18, 1946.
Ram Naumi—Wednesday April 10,
Deya Davali—Thursday, October 25.

These dates were officially gazetted on January 26, 1946, for public information.

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No. 10 of
1945.Establishment
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Guiana Rice
Marketing
Board.Constitution
of Board.

Raising of Indian Workers Standards

Dr. AMBEDKAR'S SPEECH

[Continued from last week]

Dealing with other points he observed: "The argument about the capacity to bear the burden of the cost involved in labour legislation is an argument of very serious import, and labour will have to take note of it. At the same time, the question is, about the faith behind the argument. Is it a *bona fide* argument? Or is it merely a cloak for avoiding liability? Labour may well say that this argument about cost loses much of its force when one thinks of the money spent on war. All of us know what colossal amount of money has been raised for the war and how the monied classes have borne the crushing weight of high and heavy taxations for carrying on the war. Labour may well ask statesmen to say how many houseless persons could have been decently housed, how many naked persons could have been properly clothed, how many hungry men and women could have been given full nourishment, how many uneducated persons could have been educated, how many sick persons could have been restored to health, if the money spent on war had been spent on public welfare?"

Referring to the constitution of the Conference, the Hon'ble Dr. Ambedkar said that the Government do not at present propose to make any alterations beyond changing its name to "Indian Labour Con-

ference". The Government proposed, he informed the delegates, to place all recommendations and Conventions passed by the I. L. O. for discussion in this Conference.—

(Bureau)

AGREEMENT ON 48-HOUR WEEK IN FACTORIES

New Delhi, Nov. 27:—The Indian Labour Conference consisting of the representatives of Central and Provincial Governments, important States and Employers' and Workers' organisations unanimously supported the principle of the 48-hour week in India's factories. There was, more or less, complete agreement in regard to the Government's proposals for the statutory provision of industrial canteens and for the amendment of Workmen's Compensation Act, 1934.

The Labour Department's memorandum on the reduction of working hours pointed out that it was both unjust and unwise to deny the worker a reasonable amount of spare time away from the factory, which was indispensable for the building up of citizenship and for the maintenance of his

physical efficiency. It emphasised that the present was an opportune moment for taking up this question because there was a need for giving relief to factory workers who had been put to a great strain during the war. Moreover, shorter hours would lead to greater employment. The memorandum made it clear that the reduction in hours should not be accompanied by any reduction in basic wages or dearness allowances unless there was a fall in prices. The rates of piece-workers should be adjusted on the principle that a piece-worker should earn not less than a time-worker.

The Conference also discussed today the organisation and functions of the Employment Exchanges set up by the Labour Department to help the resettlement and employment of demobilised Services personnel and discharged war workers during the transition period. The Labour Department's memorandum on the subject recorded that Employment Exchanges can only give useful assistance if they are in possession of information regarding the employment opportunities available or likely to be available. The use of the Employment Exchange organisation, it continued, will prove of mutual benefit to employers and employment-seekers and will ensure satisfactory distribution of manpower among various branches of production. It will also facilitate the mobility of labour, both occupational and geographical, and will obviate any bottle-necks in the supply of various categories of workers.—

(Bureau)

YOUNG STUDENT RETURNING HOME ILL.

Mr. Omar McDoom, son of Mr. C.A. McDoom of McDoom Village, E.B. Damerara, is due to arrive in the Colony shortly by the s.s. *Alcoa Puritan*.

Mr. McDoom who was a pre-medical student at Dalhousie University, Halifax, N.S. took ill during the winter and was advised by the physician in charge of the Students Health Service to return home for a prolonged rest in a warm climate.

This advice was also conveyed to young Mr. McDoom's father by the President of the University.

It is planned that after the young man has recovered from this illness he will proceed to England to continue his studies.

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RECENT CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGES AND ISSUES AND THE QUESTION OF SELF-GOVERNMENT FOR BRITISH GUIANA

By D. P. DEBIDIN

(Continued from last week)

SELF GOVT. FAR OFF

This race suspicion in politics would be, if it continues to exist, one of the 3 main causes why we would never get anywhere to Self Government.

The other two causes are [1] Large vested interests who would dread the result of the masses having to control their own economic and other destinies; and [2] The British Government's attitude towards the Colonies, crystallised in the following statement of the West India Royal Commission Report— "The claim for independence is irreconcilable with that control which, though not necessarily in its present form, must continue to be exercised in the interests of the home taxpayer, over the finances of Colonies receiving substantial assistance from funds provided by Parliament." So long as financial control remains in the hands of the British Government so long will it and must it deny self-government to British Guiana. The long terms plans at the moment, good as they are spells one thing that Self Government is a remote possibility.

It seems perfectly clear also that past present and future commitments of the Imperial Government must have its quid pro quo in their being able to control trade and industrial relations between Great Britain and her colonies. Industrial development in the past has been nil in spite of great possibilities in British Guiana. I strongly believe that economic salvation will come with the development of more industries in the colonies just as I also believe that Political development will be quickened by such industrial development.

THE DOMINION OF BRITISH SOUTH AMERICA

The size and acknowledge potentialities of British Guiana do not make it difficult to visualise British Guiana as a Self Governing Colony and possibly to be called some day *The Dominion of British South America*. This is not just a dream but can be an actuality if from now on our cosmopolitan community can weld themselves inter-racially and otherwise into one single unit of thought and action so that with a solid front backed by a united public opinion and sympathy, a political strength can be assured and in turn we will be ab

A Plea For Unity

By CHEDDI B. JAGAN, B.Sc., D.D.S.
(Continued from last week)

Lend an ear, dear workers, to the confessions of a millionaire American Publisher Joseph Medill Patterson; "For instance it takes to support me just about twenty times as much as it takes to support an average workingman or farmer. And the funny thing about it is that these working men and farmers work hard all year round, while I don't work at all. I have better food, better clothes, and better houses than the workers who supply me with money to spend. I can travel oftener...I have horses to ride and drive, domestic servants...the best physicians...My children will never go to work in cotton mill or a sweet-shop. In short, I lead a far more highly civilized life than the working people, I have offered me the choice of all the best things that man in his stay upon this earth has discovered, evolved or created. The working people do not have this choice offered them. There are left for them the shoddy things of life—hard work and small reward, I have little or no work and the earth's best for reward. The work of the working people, and nothing else produces the wealth, which, by some hocus-pocus arrangement, is transferred to me, leaving them bare. While they support me in this splendid style, what do I do for them? Let the candid upholder of the present order answer; for I am not aware of doing any; thing for them...That my life is so much completer than the lives of the workers who support me has been excused on the ground that they are less 'cultivated', and therefore, less fitted to enjoy things which please me. But that seems a little like begging the question...I don't think it was entirely natural aptitude that marked me out for a university education, since I remember

to strive slowly but surely towards economic and financial independence as a Colony—a factor which is very essential for Self-Government.

And so my friends I would wish you the seasons greetings now and in respect of the future let me say like Alexander Dumas in his *Count of Monte Cristo* at the end of the 1st. Book—"Wait and Hope," but like the Count let us plan to achieve and achieve what we plan.

Editors Note:

This article was intended for the Christmas Number of *Indian Opinion*; but was late for publication. We recommend it to our readers.

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that frequently I had to pay money to tutors to drill into my head information of a remarkably simple character. I was foud of a good time—and that I had. Of course, it took money, which was obligingly supplied, via my family, by the pressmen, the switchmen, the cigarette girls, the rolling-mill men, etc."

Dear workers, you now know where you belong. Whether you are white, black, brown, or yellow, whether you are Christian, Atheist, Hindu, Muslim, etc., you are one of the working exploited class. It is for you to put into action the words of the great revolutionary—Workers of the world unite; you have nothing to lose but your chains."

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