

# INDIAN OPINION

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ONE PENNY

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## THE FRANCHISE

In a short while the present ten year old Legislative Council will debate the new franchise recommendations for British Guiana. We have time and again expressed the opinion that the Franchise recommendations have been biased and drawn up in such a way as to keep out the majority of Indians from the voters list.

We want to be frank in stating that the authors of the Franchise recommendations have been very narrow minded and short sighted in their outlook in not placing the advancement of British Guiana before their own selfish self-interest. It must be taken for granted, by now, that if this colony is going to advance, it has to do so as one unit and not as fragments; so that, when means are devised [with Government's consent] to keep one section [the Indian]

down from attaining the same live. status as the rest of the community, as is the case with the new franchise recommendations, the entire progress of the colony is retarded.

The advanced section of the community should maintain a more charitable outlook in this matter and extend a hand to the Indians who at the moment need some assistance. We hope the the Legislative council will take this view and do something about it.

The people of British Guiana as a whole stands to gain much if measures are adopted to put the Indians on the same footing as the other races and we are certain that in the near future tangible proofs of good faith is bound to come forth from every Indian.

We ask the members of the Legislative Council to bear in mind the needs of the people of British Guiana and let them assume such an attitude in this matter as will benefit all in the near and distant future.

## THE GOVERNOR'S BERBICE SPEECH.

We listened with much concern at the Governor's speech regarding excessive drinking of rum and crime on the Corentyne Coast,

We have been much concerned on this matter for some time now, so much so, that at the conference of the B.G.E. Indian Association for 1944 held in September. A resolution was passed to curtail the number of rumshops especially on the sugar estates where the majority of the Indian population

We forwarded the resolution to Government, the Legislative Council, the Sugar Producers Association and the Social Welfare Officer, asking them to assist in implementing measures to curtail rum drinking, unfortunately the matter could not be pursued to finality because the Government and the other bodies mentioned above refused to do anything to lessen the excessive consumption of rum,

We have recently started social centres of the B.G.E. Indian Association with the object of creating counter attraction to rum drinking and lawlessness and to teach the people to occupy their leisure time in other directions than in rum.

Of course we cannot understand how the Governor could have singled out the Corentyne as an outstanding area; for crimes, rum and theatre going compared to the rest of the colony.

We hope the Governor's speech does not have an adverse effect on the present sitting of the Berbice session of the Supreme Court.

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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 Services 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% 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 News-papers of 3rd June].

## THE NEW ORDER

By DAVID DHARRY

(Continued from last Week)

But is this possible? Yes it is. Whilst Britain unfetters herself of the shackles of its Coalition Government, you coalesce, summon once again the priesthood of the colony and lay before it the approaching disaster—the Economic Bankruptcy of the Colony. See to it now that there is erected for all time an 'Economic SUB-PARLIAMENT'. The politic of our Local Parliament are wholly unrelated to the life of the people.

It is Prosperity they clamour for and not Politics. It is wondered if there be in another Legislative Body, men of such stamp and calibre, as in the case of some now serving us, who are so unworthily enthroned, apparently just to cast their votes to the peculiar but wishful taste of Government, irrespective of the grave consequences and economic privations that may be

threatening the very existence of a helpless people. What a pity if there be another. But however there could be a solution. The United Christian Front can solve it. Add to your body genuine and tested leader of the economic interests in the colony, and present with unremitting and unrelenting aggressiveness to Government the chaotic state of any economic concern, and this backed up solidly by your sphere of influence, a united people of a harmonised ecclesiastical system, must, must bring the desired effect. An 'Economic Sub-Parliament' such as this, with its members located within a convenient radius, as not to make the holding of meetings too burdensome and expensive, and moreover not to absorb too much time of the individual, would not only be of inestimable importance and a filip to Government, but that it will happily adorn Guiana's history with one more colourful

## Child welfare Training Centre In Memory of Mrs. Gandhi

THE Kasturba Memorial Medical Board at its first meeting, which was attended by Mahatma Gandhi, adopted a scheme, the principal features of which may be summarised as follows: A maternity and child welfare training centre should serve villages in an area of five miles radius or a population of 15,000 to 20,000. Those selected for training should as far as possible come from villages. The training given should fit a candidate not only for midwifery work but also to be of some real nursing and medical assistance to village women and children when not engaged in maternity work. The idea was, therefore, to create a new type of village medical worker.

Nine sub committees were set up to report to the Board by March 31 on various matters connected with the work of the Board.

The memorial is being established in memory of the late Kasturba Gandhi, wife of Mahatma Gandhi, who died shortly after her release from prison.

page, with an indelible inscription:—"The CHURCH rescued as Government fumbled." The duties of such a body would be to assist in the true development of all economic projects and to investigate and probe into all such incidents as may be inimical or prejudicial to such interests and to make such representations and to take such reasonable actions as may be necessary to restore or to enrich the outlook of all economic concerns.

In conclusion, let it be emphasised all over again, with the CHURCH happy sphere of influence, a correct attitude to problems affecting human happiness would lead to an amazing attitude of rich and happy Christian living. But an analysis of the situation would reveal that there must be an immediate and effective disarmament—a disarmament of self-assertion—a disarmament of the Curtian Principle of Theocratic Imperialism with this gone, then the Church will once again be ready to re-arm herself to fight the good fight, to work unceasingly for human brotherhood, to labour zealously for social and economic reconstruction, to deprecate and deplore the spirit of cheap proselytism, and promote instead true world evangelization with an abiding peace in God. The NEW ORDER is directed to the Church. The Church must move in Harmony one with the other, without any reasoning among themselves as to which of them should be the greatest, and then only will there be 'Peace on earth and Goodwill towards men'. Will the good Father Fenn accept the 'NEW ORDER'?

Rose Hall Village David Dharry,  
June, 10, 1945.

# B.G.E.I.A. Holds Meeting At Grove E. B.

## Social Centres To Be Organised

### GOVT'S. ATTITUDE TO SOCIAL WELFARE WORKERS ON SUGAR ESTATES DENOUNCED

Mr Jenarine Singh President of the B.G.E.I.A. along with Mr Rangela and Dr. C. Jagan, held a large meeting at Grove Coomacha, tree. There were also Present at the meeting Messrs Liladray, Chatter Paul Singh, Charles Roberts and Hyder Ali of Grove.

Mr Jenarine Singh stressed The need of organizing good Social centres and creating counter attractions to the rumshope and rum drinking and added that Indians must organize themselves and make every effort to maintain their self respect in this cosmopolitan Community.

Mr Liladray spoke on the necessity of having a centre where they could meet and suggested that they should make every effort to raise funds to have a building of their own at Grove.

Mr Chatter Paul Singh the next speaker said the main object he had in mind at the present time was to desire means to improve the lot of the East Indians of the district and to see that East Indians hold their own anywhere. He appealed to the Indians to consolidate their forces and organize themselves in one solid unit. Mr Charles Roberts stressed the point of the present backward condition of the East Indian children compared with that of other races and added that from his knowledge he was of the opinion that the B.G.E.I. Association was interested in the general welfare of the Indian people and he was proud to belong to

such an organization. He pointed out the fact that all the Indians in India today were of one opinion and were asking for Independence in a similar way all Indians believed in the interest the B.G.I.E.A have in the welfare of Indians in British Guiana at this stage Mr Roberts pointed out the malicious and erroneous statement of the Labour Advocates of the 1st of July and said that the paper had done them a grievous wrong.

Mr. Roberts went on to say that he was interested to do all he can to embrace the lot of his race and advice parents to cease using abusive language at home and not to curse in the presence of children. Dr. Jagan Here addressed the meeting and said "How do you judge the advance that a people have made towards civilization; and said that much depended in how their leisure time was utilized, as people all over the world worked, but as the advanced they worked less hours and utilized their leisure to great advantage. In England and America they were thinking of a 40 hour week while in B.G the Sugar Estate labourer still worked 12 hours a day for five days but did not know what to do in the two days they did not work. Consequently the people took to rum drinking petty gambling and crimes. The time has now come when the people will have to be taught how to use their leisure time properly or less the present chaotic condition of crimes drunkenness and

Hague Settlement,  
3rd July, 1945

The Editor,  
"Indian Opinion"

Dear Sir,

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

Some time ago the Hon. A. M. Edun challenged Government about the repatriation Fund which was in Government's hand, and which he said should have been given to the entitled Indians if they did not want to go back to India. Today we see the same Hon. A. M. Edun is asking Government for a part of that same Fund, which is neither his nor Government's, to go to India. We wonder if the money had already been given to the Indians, what Fund the Hon. A. M. Edun would have asked for.

We now see the type of representatives we have and can imagine the representations that can be had from them. We therefore appeal to all our poor Indians of British Guiana to arise and be ever watchful lest we be fooled by ONE OF OUR OWN.

Thanking you for space,

We are  
your humble Indian brothers,

R. Wilkie,  
Persaud,  
D. Singh,  
G. Gherao,  
P. Nandlal etc.

lawlessness will increase People who worked under the same economic conditions have very little to do as far as religion is concerned and all should fraternize for the betterment of the whole and when a body is up it should have the broadest possible democratic outlook.

Mr Amos Rangela pointed out the efforts the other sections of our cosmopolitan Community were making to keep their people outside the Sugar Estates including the negroes. He emphasized the fact that Indians must make every effort to improve their lot and that some self help and initiative must come from the people themselves. He deplored Government's attitude in not extending their social welfare work to the Sugar Estate Labourers. He said Indians must make a greater effort to educate themselves. Mr. Hyder Ali spoke on the question of the evolution of the E.I. Associations organization in the district and asked that every effort be made to consolidate the people into one strong unit and march forward together. At this stage the meeting was brought to a close after two persons moved and seconded a vote of thanks to the executive's of the B.G.E.I. Association from Georgetown.

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## MEET A EUROPEAN WHO WENT TO PRISON FOR INDIA'S FREEDOM

### SAD DEATH OF MR. KALLENBACH

THERE must be very few of the older generation of the Indian community of South Africa who do not know the name of Mr. Kallenbach. In the early days of Passive Resistance his name had become a household word. From the high pedestal of an aristocrat he became a simple man. He joined the band of European sympathisers in the cause of justice for the Indian community and he went to the extreme length of suffering the rigours of prison life for our cause. He dedicated not only his wealth but his whole life to the cause of justice. The spirit of service and sacrifice was within him. He needed a man to inspire him and that man was introduced to him by the late Mr. R.K. Khan a well-known figure in Natal who has left £400,000 for hospital purposes for the Indian community without distinction of class or creed. That man was Mahatma Gandhi. Both were attracted to each other like a magnet and very soon they became one in body and soul. There was nothing that Mr. Kallenbach could not do for Mahatma Gandhi. There was nothing that Mahatma Gandhi could not get Mr. Kallenbach to do. Those nearest to Mahatma Gandhi gave Mr. Kallenbach the name Hanumana, the great disciple of Shri Rama the hero of the Ramayana. As Hanumana was to Shri Rama so was Mr. Kallenbach to Mahatma Gandhi. Mahatma Gandhi had had the good fortune of having many European friends and co-workers wherever he went and in South Africa Mr. Kallenbach was among the best of his friends. Indeed he was more than a friend. He was nearer to him even than the closest members of his family. It is not easy for anyone to keep pace with Mahatma Gandhi in living up to his ideals and Mr. Kallenbach was about the only one who kept pace with him cheerfully and with the slightest signs of unwillingness or strain. Mahatma Gandhi was the severest task master to those who were nearest and dearest to him. And he was severest with Mr. Kallenbach in living up to the ideals of Tolstoy and Ruskin which both cherished equally. One who was accustomed to all the comforts of life imaginable and who spent money like water to acquire all those comforts was transformed by Mahatma Gandhi into a simple man with an expence of two or three shillings a day. In the year 1914 when after the end of the long drawn Passive Resistance struggle Mahatma Gandhi left South Africa, Mr. Kallenbach accompanied him to England and intended to go and settle down with him in India. But it was otherwise destined and Mr. Kallenbach was taken as war prisoner as they happened to reach England just when the great Great War was declared and Mr. Kallenbach was a German Jew by origin. We did not see or hear of Mr. Kallenbach till after

the end of the war in 1919. He then came to South Africa and resumed his office as an architect and until the time of his death, which took place at the age of 74 on Thursday night, March 22, after an illness lasting over nine months, he was the senior partner of the well-known firm of Messrs. Kallenbach Kennedy and Ferner architects. He was also one of the Trustees of the Phoenix Settlement founded by Mahatma Gandhi in 1904 and of the Parsee Rustomjee Trust. Immediately after his release he resumed his contact with Mahatma Gandhi and made a special trip to India a few years back to spend some time with him. In latter years he was keenly interested in Jewish affairs and was at one time a member of the executive of the South African Zionist Federation. The treatment of the Jews in Germany had shocked him terrible and it will not be an exaggeration to say that was partly responsible for shortening his life. Mr. Kallenbach who was a bachelor all his life is survived by his brother, two nieces one of whom is Mrs. Hanna Lazar, who is great admirer of Mahatma Gandhi's ideals and is endeavouring to live up to them and a large number of relatives to whom we extend our heartfelt sympathy in the great loss they have sustained. May his soul rest in peace.

A public meeting was held at the M. K. Gandhi Library on Monday night with the Rev. Choonoo as chairman. Tributes were paid by several speakers to the late Mr. Kallenbach for his great services and sacrifices in the cause of Truth and Justice.

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