

INDIAN OPINION

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ONE PENNY

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WELFARE OF LABOUR

We have been hearing quite a lot recently on the part of Government and Capital that labour is becoming more and more difficult to handle everyday; but we have heard very little about the utter negligence, disregard and contempt with which Government and capital has been treating labour on to the present time.

We feel that as long as things are allowed to continue as at present, the future of British Guiana will remain completely clouded and its outlook dark. This colony can only progress when and if there is complete harmony between labour, Government and capital. But it is impossible for any harmony to come about as long as the inhabitants are continued to be ruled as a crown colony from a distance of four thousand miles and the fruits of their labour go to furnish the luxury of men four thousand miles away. It is practically impossible for any government and Capital 4000 miles away to fully appreciate the needs, requirements and natural aspiration of a people who are merely regarded as cattle from whom are to be drawn the wherewithall of sustenance.

The present war was fought for the liberation of men but it is becoming apparent daily to us colonists that this liberation is meant for Europeans and not the other races. We are sure that a new stage is being set for a war of destruction and liberation. It is time the British Government begin to set things right and make new moulds if it is going to survive at all.

It is time labour begin to place its just demands on the table for discussion. The time is now quite ripe.

* * *

SCHEMES AND ACTION

We view with considerable satisfaction the action Government has taken with respect to the colony advancing the necessary funds to initiate the Corentyne Drainage and Irrigation Schemes etc.

This colony has long been in need of decisive action on the part of its inhabitant has always had its desires frustrated by a lot of talk and no action.

At last we see that the Corentyne and Essequibo are going to receive some attention from the Government which will be of permanent benefit to the Colony as a whole.

We are of the opinion that the Government should have taken a similar initiative with respect to land settlement as this is one of the most urgent requirement, among the several pressing demands of the inhabitants.

We wish to express our whole hearted support for the present action the Government has taken; but wish to say a word of warning as to the caution government should exercise to avoid frauds among its employees a factor which has become very prevalent in recent times.

READ THE

Indian Opinion

WORKERS MEETING HELD AT PLN. SCHOON ORD

Messrs. E. S. S. Burrowes, Deputy Commissioner of Labour and Tahar Ally, Inspector of Labour (Acting) Advised Workers To Join Trade Unions.

At a meeting held at Pin Schoonord on Monday 16th July, Mr Burrowes deputy Commissioner of labour told hundreds of workers, that if they wanted to improve themselves so as to become better men and women of their country and further that if they wanted to better the lot of their children and become the proud parents of the worthy citizens of tomorrow, then they cannot in the least ignore their Trade Unions. He advised that every worker should be a member of a Trade Union and always see that he or she is financial. He further added that in Trade Unions lies the failure or success of the Workers.

Mr Tahar ally, inspector of labour (acting), spoke exhaustively on the Estate Joint Committee and explained how it would help in bringing about a better understanding and harmony between the Workers and the Management. He also stressed the importance of Trade Unions and urged every worker to become a member of a Trade Union.

After the speeches, Mr. Burrowes and Tahar Ally left for the city and Miss Pita Pita Piaree entertained the gathering with her songs and dancing.

We congratulate the workers of Schoon-Ord and vicinity for their spirit of improvement and would like to call the attention of the Estate Authorities to see how well social centres would do on Sugar Estates in creating a counter attraction to excessive rumdrinking and other vices and improve the general outlook of the people.

One Convicted, One Acquitted, In Port Mourant Murder Trial

BAIJOON, ex labourer of Pln. Port Mourant, Courentyne, Berbice, was found guilty on Monday afternoon by a jury, of the murder of Mr. George Wilkie, Deputy Manager of the estate. Jaisupersaud, also an ex-labourer at Port Mourant, who was also charged with the murder was found not guilty.

After the jury had announced their verdict, Mr. S. I. Cyrus, Counsel for Baijoon asked the trial Judge, Chief Justice, Sir John Verity, to reserve certain points which he would raise for consideration by the West Indian Court of Appeal. Mr. Cyrus intimated that one of the principal points he would raise was that in the course of the trial certain statements were admitted in evidence which were inadmissible and dangerous and highly prejudicial to his client. These statements it was explained were given in the evidence of David Rowana, a witness for the Crown.

The Chief Justice announced that he would hear Counsel's arguments [Tuesday morning July 17, 1945], and then pronounce sentence on Baijoon.

Sir John began his summing up to the jury Monday morning, after which the jury retired at 2.20 o'clock in the afternoon and deliberated until 4.55 p. m. returning to the court room without arriving at a decision. In answer to the Chief Justice the foreman of the Jury, Mr. J. Dow, said there was nothing on the law which they desired to be explained to them. The jury retired again at 5 p. m. and after further deliberation returned at 6 o'clock with the verdict.

On Tuesday however, the Chief Justice dismissed the Counsel's application to state a case for the Appeal Court. In the circumstances therefore the guilty verdict returned by the Jury on Monday last against Baijoon stands unchallenged.

The Simla Conference

It is indeed regrettable that the Simla Conference has broken down and for some time the present stagnant political position of India is to be continued.

The responsibility for the failure of course lies directly on the shoulders of the British Government and Lord Wavell. As soon as the talks were announced world opinion became aware of the fact that The Churchillians Conservative party was jockeying for votes at the poles and wanted to show some progress on the one issue that stands as a pistol over its head. "The Indian Deadlock." But we are certain that whatever happens and no matter who comes on top in the British General Elections the Independence of India cannot be withheld from the Indian people for much longer. It has become the one desire of four hundred million people.

The Artificial creation, in the minds of the world of the Indians not being able to agree on their own problem is so much eye-wash and tomfoolery on the part of the British Government. The parties in India cannot be even compared to the conservative and labour party of Britain.

or the Republican and Democratic party of America. May we just ask the Churchillian Government why Mr. Atlee left his government and there is still a national Government in Britain.

Now, all Indians are aware of the one

BERBICE RICE FARMERS' ASSOCIATION

The executive of the BERBICE RICE FARMERS' ASSOCIATION travelled up the Upper Courentyne on Sunday 15th inst and held a series of meetings. Meetings were held at Nos 48, 57, 60, 71, 79 and Crab Wood Creek. Opportunity was also taken in interviewing Land lords, Village Chairmen, and Millers who promised to cooperate in fostering the aims of the Association.

At Crab Wood Creek, rice farmers who had just come out of the fields eagerly assembled for the meeting and felt that an organisation of the kind was a long felt want. They went further to inform the executives that their area is commonly known as "LITTLE BURMA". At these meetings the suggestions of Government in reconstituting the Rice Marketing Board and of representations for the industry were thoroughly discussed.

In keeping with the democratic plan of operation the following Local Secretaries were elected by the farmers,—

No 48 Village.....Mr. Jagessar Singh
No 60 Village.....Mr. Hanoman Singh
No 71 VillageMr. Madho
No 79 VillageMr. M. Yussim
Crab Wood CreekMr. Ramkarron

Meetings will be held in the near future at the various centres in order to elect representatives in the Central Executives Committee.

INDIAS TELEPHONE LINES MAY BE MONITORED.

New Delhi (Reuter) May 3,

The Government of India has informed the press that civil telephone lines are likely to be monitored in future as, in view of the importance India is assuming as an operational base, no information as to military plans should reach the Japanese.

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IN

"TILL WE MEET AGAIN"

At The ASTOR

fact that the Muslim League is a creation of the British Government through its intelligence service and that the President Mr. Jinnah is under complete and continuous control of the British Government. Under the circumstances we are astounded to find such a hypocritical drama played before the world. The Simla talks breaking down because of Mr. Jinnah. We wish to state to those who are not aware of the fact that the present President of the Indian National Congress is a Muslim Dr. Maulana Kalam Azad. We cannot but denounce the hypocritical system that Lord Wavell and the British Government are employing to keep India from her rightful place in the world.

TRINIDAD CENTENARY

GOVERNOR'S SPEECH

(Continued From Last Week.)

VITAL CONTRIBUTION

"When they came here they must have foreseen full well the difficulties that lay ahead, and have felt the doubt to which all mankind is subject, whether the fruits of their labour would be assured, whether the venture upon which they had embarked would for them and for their children prove worth while. We could tell them, as we have already been told this morning, of the vital contribution which their labour and that of their successors have made to the agricultural life of this colony and of the part their descendants have played in increasing measure in the professional and commercial life of the community, as independent farmers and in the service of the State. And they would see you assembled in this vast company and judge your stature in the community against their own. What then would they say to you"

"They would not ignore, but they would not, I think, dwell upon the hardships and difficulties that have been encountered on the way. Children of time they would know full well, as we all learn to know as we grow older, that what matters more than the hardships or difficulties is the manner in which they are overcome. It is, I feel sure, on your achievements and your prospects that their minds would rest and, as they summed up the record of these hundred years from your appearance before them they would say with pride that they, that you had done well. They would say, Well done, go on and prosper; and that tribute, those good wishes would be acclaimed by all sections of community in Trinidad.

TAKING STOCK

"On occasions such as this, one is led to ask why it is that we celebrate centenaries. Time must of course be divided and subdivided into convenient periods such as the round number of a hundred years affords. But a centenary is something more than a division of time. It well exceeds the span of normal human existence and is about twice the length of a working life. Yet it does not exceed the greatest age to which men can live, and it is not too long to contain within itself living memories and associations before they pass into history.

"The observance of a centenary provides the occasion for acknowledging our debt to those who preceded us before they are forgotten. Let us then acknowledge the doubts and difficulties which must have faced and exercised your ancestors in taking and fulfilling the decision that brought them here.

"You have more than justified their early expectations. Let us look back upon them with the respect which is due. Your place here and your opportunities are fully assured, and you stand, with all your fellow Trinidadians, on the threshold of the fuller opportunities which we rightly expect from the post-war world. Though they will be open for all to see, do not imagine that it will require any less effort or ingenuity to find or make good use of them. The road that leads to opportunity will still go uphill and for many years is likely to be steeper than before.

OPPORTUNITIES AHEAD

"The war in which we are still engaged

Press Release.

World Trade Union Conference.

The British Guiana Trades Union Council has accepted an invitation to be represented at the World Trade Union Conference to be held in Paris in September of this year.

The Conference is to approve of a Constitution for a World Federation of Trade Unions it was decided to establish at the London Conference held in February of this year.

The persons elected to represent B. G. at the Paris Conference are

D. M. Harper and
H. J. M. Hubbard President
and Secretary respectively of the British Guiana Trades Union Council

Details of the agenda for the Paris Conference are not yet available, but these will be published as soon as they are known.

has destroyed life and property and has dislocated the organisation and industry of peace in on a scale hitherto unknown. Even with unprecedented goodwill and hard work many years must before this is all set right. Few of us will escape entirely from the consequences of the upheaval. Our assurance for the future lies in the unity of purpose and spirit found by the people of the Empire and its Allies in waging war. This unity of spirit far outweighs the war's material losses and is the best hope of building up the kind of world we seek for our children.

"As I contemplate the next hundred years and the part that you will play in it and speed you on your way with the good wishes of all your fellow countrymen, I would just say this: That here in the West Indies your opportunities will be wider and that yours will be a fuller life, if you can develop and promote this unity of spirit among yourselves and in ever widening circles among your fellowmen, I have behind me the authority of ancient wisdom when I tell you that only a people which is one in spirit can be great and free."

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MESSRS. W. O. R. KENDALL AND E. R. GANPATSINGH RE-ELECTED

Messrs. W. O. R. Kendall (272 votes) and E. R. Ganpatsingh [232 votes] were re-elected Councillors yesterday at the New Amsterdam Municipal Elections. Messrs S. F. Carew, who challenged Messrs. Kendall and Ganpatsingh, the retiring Councillors, collected 207 votes.

The franchise was exercised by 567 voters. Nine (9) votes were spoilt.

Mr. C. A. Henery, Town Clerk (acting) was Returning Officer. The candidates thanked the voters and the Returning Officer.

INDIAN TROOPS' WELFARE

BOMBAY, Tuesday, Sir Homi Mehta, Bombay banker, millionaire and industrialist, has accepted an invitation from Gen. Auchinleck, C.-i.-C., India, to inquire into and report on welfare arrangements and amenities for Indian troops in Persia, Irak, Palestine and Egypt and in the Italian theatre.

MORE INDIAN POLITICIANS RELEASED

Bombay Sun, July 15 More Congress Party members, including two former Congress Ministers detained since the 1942 disturbances have been released in the provinces, according to reports received in Bombay today at the same time as the failure of the Simla Conference was announced.

The further releases are expected. Releases on a large scale would have been one of the first acts of the new Executive Council if the Conference had succeeded.

The fact that Congress members have been released is now regarded as either recognition of the Party's unreservedly cooperative attitude toward the Wavell Plan or a step foreshadowing the formation of responsible Governments in the provinces at present ruled under Section 93 of the Government of India Act.

ROCKEFELLER PUBLIC HEALTH COURSES

We have been informed that the Rockefeller Foundation is offering facilities to enable Medical Officers in British Guiana and the West Indies to attend training courses in Canada and the United States. It is understood that these Public Health Courses will last about ten months.

MAHAICONY COUNTRY DISTRICT FIRST STATUTORY MEETING

The First statutory meeting of the newly created Eastern Mahaicony Country District will be held on Saturday the 21st instant. The District Commissioner Mr. O. P. Ashurst of the East Coast Administration Office will attend the meeting. The Councillors have all been already summoned.

MR. RAMJOHN POPULAR CORENTYNE BUSINESSMAN GOES ON HOLIDAY

Mr. Ramjohn popular businessman and Saw Mill Proprietor of No. 78 Corentyne, Berbice and of the Inner Colony of the Berbice Chamber of Commerce will be leaving the colony on Holiday, for United States on Sunday next.

It is understood that Mr. Ramjohn will be visiting most of the West Indian Islands before proceeding to United States. It is not likely that this popular gentleman will return to British Guiana before the end of September next.

GEETA YAG AT PLN. VERSAILLES.

On Sunday 8th instant, a fairly large gathering of Hindoos assembled at the residence of Mr. Manohar of Pln. Versailles, to hear the reading of Geeta.

The Officiating Priest, Pandit Deodat Sharma, read and explained the Geeta in language understandable to the gathering. The Latohmi Sabha which was also present contributed largely to the success of the function.

It must be recalled that since the coming of the young and enthusiastic Pandit to this Estate, there has been evidently a greater religious awakening among the Hindoos of this Estate. The Pandit is doing all that is humanly possible to improve the people religiously, socially and educationally.

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