

# INDIAN OPINION

OFFICIAL WEEKLY ORGAN OF THE BRITISH GUIANA EAST INDIAN ASSOCIATION

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## Whose Fault?

Within recent times it has almost become a settled policy for the press and even some public figures to seize every opportunity of charging the Indians domiciled in this country with sectionalism, and racialism etc. They claim that it is wrong, almost a crime, for Indians to keep alive their national customs, culture, tradition, history, race, but that instead, they should cease to think in these terms and live in this way, merging themselves into the hotch-potch, criss cross-pattern that it is hoped will emerge as Guianese citizenship, Guianese race, Guianese culture and Guianese tradition. In other words, and to put it bluntly, they want to see us disappear from the scene as Indians, and in a generation or two end up as "mixed races" unable unwilling or even ashamed to trace our ancestral origins.

We deplore this attitude on the part of those who are spending so much on this wasteful propaganda.

It is only to be expected that in a country where several races dwell side by side isolated cases of inter-marriages will take place, but it is also natural to realise that inter-marriages on a large scale, can never, no never, happen, whether there be high-

pressure propaganda of press, officials, unions of cultural clubs, deceptive schemes for social welfare or otherwise. No, let us not waste precious time debating, discussing or promoting wholesale intermarriages under the misleading title of "Homogeneous Culture". The Englishman living in the Colonies does not forget his English culture, his customs, his comforts, his tradition or his race. Whether his habitat be in the city or in the countryside, he sees to it that he is well-housed, well-fed, surrounded by luxurious comfort, modern inventions, and later on he marries into his own race. He does not rush off and take for his lawful spouse, an African or an Indian, and we do not blame him. He knows that the difference of race, customs and culture, even mixed in the sanctity of marriage, cannot produce that homogeneity that is now being talked about. If our teachers (for so they claim to be) cannot be the exemplars, why try to urge others to commit such senseless suicide. The object cannot be cultural; could it be political? We wonder,

Now, let us view the subject from a different angle. We are charged with sectionalism because we have an Association, a Cricket Club, Societies for the promotion of Art and Drama. They say why Indian this and Indian that? The question is so puerile; nevertheless, let us ponder over it for a while.

The Indian had to start in this country with a tremendous handicap, and he started in bondage. Illiteracy was a required prerequisite in accepting them for recruitment to the cane-fields of Guiana. He had, therefore, to work his way through a term of bondage, and then slave away to gain some measure of economic satisfaction. Naturally employers and others resident here looked upon him, not with respect, but with contempt and derision. We had, therefore, to come up the hard way, and when, after a time, we had reached the stage of establishing ourselves somewhat in the towns and villages, it was only natural to expect our people to come together in groups or organisations. If it was ever intended for our people to be treated as equals, as partners in the opening up of Guiana; if it was ever intended create the equality of citizenship envisaged in the idea of "Civis Guianis" and offer us an equal place in it, that was the time to do it—a little over a quarter of a century ago.

## PANDIT KUNZRU WRITES THE ASSOCIATION

*The Hon. Hriday Nath Kunzru, President of the Servants of India Society, has written to Mr. Jinarine Singh, our President, of his return to Allahabad, India.*

*The Pandit has been very busy, but states that British Guiana has been a source of happy memories to him owing to the whole-hearted welcome and the unbounded kindness which he received from everyone.*

*He will like to be remembered to all friends, and hopes that the Indian National Home will soon be an accomplished fact.*

*Pandit Kunzru also mentions the dissolution of the Indian Legislative Assembly in view of the coming general elections; and though he has not yet been able to take up matters affecting Indians in British Guiana in the Council of State he has already spoken to the Commonwealth Relations Dept. and the Immigration Committee about the needs of the Indian Committee in British Guiana.*

At that time there were institutions and organisations into which the Indian could have been invited but NO, he was still called and considered a "coolie" even though we had begun to climb into the professions, into industry and into commerce. We were still considered inferior, of no consequence, not fit to be associated with on a footing of equality: As a people we have pride, was it not natural then, that an Association be formed to urge the equality of our people with other colonists; to try and remove the disabilities from which we suffer. Why blame us now for what is really a deplorable lack of vision by others.

Our people love cricket and other games. Which Club 25 years ago was willing to open its arms and receive us? Again we see why the East Indian Cricket Club was formed. The G.C.C. is for Europeans and

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**EDITORIAL**

(Continued from page 1)

Englishmen: the D.G.C.C. and D.O.C. for the African and Coloured middle classes. The Indian was forced to form his own.

Even today no Indian can obtain membership in the Georgetown Club or either of the Golf Clubs, although there are no similar Indian institutions. Is this attitude not a clear indication that if we want to enjoy similar things we must start our own?

The reason for stating these facts is not to accentuate "sectionalism": we do so only to show that the charge against us is false and baseless. The Englishman started this racial segregation and this "sectionalism" so why blame a people who have had to struggle every inch of the way against terrific odds and grave handicaps.

(To be continued)

**AGRICULTURAL BANK**

Approximately eighty-five percent of the people in this country are either directly or indirectly dependent on Agriculture for their livelihood; because the main economic structure of the country depends on Agriculture:

In spite of this fact, it will be surprising to the outside observer to know that not even one per cent of the agricultural community is able to obtain credit or loans for agricultural purpose from any of the two commercial banks operating in this country.

Under the circumstances, we are not surprised at the slow progress made by the average farmer in improving his general status and standard of living.

Agriculture generally is regarded as a business where money is invested with the hope of getting a fair percentage on the investment and whether that investment takes the form of Capital or labour the principle underlying it is just the same.

As far as our knowledge goes the average farmer has no source from which he can obtain capital credit for purchasing land, and developing his farm, growing and marketing his crops as the doors of both of the banks operating in this country are closed to him.

The result of this lack of credit facilities to-day reflects itself in the generally low living standard of the majority of our

**HIS HONOUR MR. JUSTICE LUCKHOO**

With the departure from the Colony on promotion to the Chief Justiceship of Nigeria of His Honour Sir John Verity, Knight, Guiana-born JOSEPH ALEXANDER LUCKHOO, Esq., King's Counsel, First Puisne Judge of the Supreme Court, has assumed duties as acting Chief Justice, to the satisfaction of all Guianese.

His Honour has an unrivalled knowledge of the Courts of this Colony, and the Law, and without doubt, he will maintain the prestige, the dignity and the honour of the Courts.

This newspaper takes the opportunity of congratulating His Honour, and of wishing him greater success.

peasant farmers which can better be described as half starved and half clothed in the midst of pitifully unhygienic surroundings.

We have made the above observations with the full knowledge of the existence here of a number of so-called "Cooperative Credit Banks" but taking into consideration their present organisational set-up and the insignificant amount of business they do with the community, we do not regard them from a practical view point as a source of agricultural credit.

We are of the opinion that as these self-same people contribute substantially to the working machinery of Government and the treasurer they are therefore entitled to ask Government to create adequate credit facilities for them so as to enable them to really improve their present standard of living.

We believe that a Central Agricultural Bank should be created with subsidiaries and that it should have a capital of five to ten millions Dollars. It should be the main source for lending money for all agricultural purposes and should provide facilities for long, intermediate and short terms credit. All local cooperative societies should be financed by the central Bank.

We strongly feel that an Agricultural Bank as envisaged would contribute substantially to the agricultural prosperity of the country and that it is the responsibility of both this and the Imperial Government to undertake its creation.

READ THE  
**Indian Opinion**

**The New Town Clerk's Career**

Mr. Edgar Adolphus Adams, who assumed duty as Town Clerk of the City of Georgetown, on Monday, 5th November, was born in Georgetown fifty three years ago. He was educated at the Catholic School here and the Metropolitan College, London.

He was Assistant Accountant for four years and Chief Accountant for ten years with Messrs. S Davson, and Co. Ltd., of Berbice.

Mr. Adams is a Fellow of the London Association of Certified Accountants being the first Indian, outside India to be admitted to membership of that body. Mr. Adams was also the first Indian to be admitted locally as a Company Auditor.

He has been a member of the Indian Publicity Committee since its inception and was thrice elected its Chairman. He was a Government Nominee on the Georgetown Town Council until his appointment as Town Clerk, and is a Governor of the Carnegie Trade Centre for Women.

Mr. Adams became a benedict in 1914 when he married Miss Amy Eliza Luckhoo, and to them four sons have been born, the eldest Mr. E.W. is now a practising barrister, another son is studying law, and the other two are working in the Civil Service.

Indian Opinion wishes Mr. Adams every success in the sphere of his new office.

**Mazuras Ali**

Mr. Mazuras Ali who left these shores a week ago for Dutch Guiana, gave two successful song recitals in the Dutch Colony on November 3rd and 4th.

This Renowned baritone hopes to return to Trinidad shortly after to spend a few weeks with his parents before resuming his tour of South America, and Europe.

# ASSOCIATION'S FAIR

## "An Evening In India" A Success

### ATTRACTIVE DISPLAY IN PROMENADE GARDENS

*Under the Patronage of Mr. Boodhoo.*

The Fair and Fete representing "An Evening in India,"—which was held on Saturday, November 3, in the Promenade Gardens Georgetown, under the auspices of the British Guiana East Indian Association, was attended with considerable success.

The opening ceremony was performed by Mr. Boodhoo, of Windsor Forest, West Coast Demerara, an Honorary and Life Member of the Executive of the Association.

#### THOSE WHO ATTENDED

Among those who attended during the afternoon, were: The Hon. and Mrs. C. R. Jacobs and Mr. Frank R. Jacob L. L. B., The Hon. Dr. J. B. Singh O.B.E. (Hon. president of the Association) and Mrs. Singh, Mr. A. W. Steward, Representative of the British Council, and Mrs. Steward, the Hon. Vincent Roth, Messrs Jenarine Singh (President of the Association) and Mrs. Singh, Abdool Rayman, J. P., D. P. Debidin, Amos A. Rangela (Vice-president of the Association), Harry Barron (Secretary), Sugrim Singh Chairman of the Fair Committee, J. C. Kerry, J. Ramprashad, R. B. G. G. Raj, A. G. G. G. Misir, T. Ramlogan, Paltoo Ram, Boodhram Marsj. T. Naraine, Akbar Khan, Mr. Azeez, Bhoop Singh, and O. Hanoman (Treasurer of the Association).

The stalls were all fittingly decorated to meet the occasion and among these was the Ladies fancy dress stall which bore a very unique appearance with Indian costumes of various designs. On the whole the handicraft work exhibited reflected deep credit to those responsible for its production.

#### BEST DRESSED LADY

Miss B. S. Kalloo was awarded the prize as the best dressed lady.

The Judges were, Mr. J. A. Veerawamy [Retired Magistrate] Mr. J. Parasram and Mrs. Saubkar.

The stall put up by the Agriculture Department afforded many lessons to the visitors. The various grades, varieties of rice were seen and how the rice caterpillar and weevils can be controlled by the application of the D. D. T.

#### GEOLOGICAL SURVEY STALL

The Geological Department's stall, which was under the supervision of Mr. A. J. Gaskin [Jnr.], was no less interesting. It brought home the fact that within the interior of the colony of British Guiana could be found some valuable minerals other than gold and diamonds.

Also on display was a map, showing Baramita on the left bank of the Barama River, and which is the proposed site of a landing-pool for sea-planes journeying to the interior. Another of the locations seen was Bon Success, Rupununi District. Under the charge of Messrs. C. S. Cole and F. O. H. Pollard, the Lands and Mines Department exhibited a most comprehensive Map of British Guiana, with marked traces of the interior, and in accordance with Schomburgk's account of his travels.

The refreshment stalls were well patronized; the merry go-round, games, of chance and other such amusements added to the enjoyment of the occasion.

#### WHOLE HEARTED CO OPERATION URGED

In declaring the event open at the request of Mr. Sugrim Singh, Mr. Boodhoo

#### Mr. G. S. Kolassar Graduates with Diploma From U.S. Collège

Mr. Goordeen S. Kolassar of Rosignol, West Coast, Berbice, has received from the L.L. Cook School of Electricity U.S.A. a diploma for Theoretical and Applied Electricity. In a testimonial sent Mr. Kolassar the following appears: "Mr. Goordeen did very satisfactory work throughout his training applying himself conscientiously and we were exceedingly pleased with the grades that he earned. He completed his studies in 1940 and should have a very complete knowledge of the subject of electricity and its practical application."

thanked the Committee and the members of the East Indian community for having conferred upon him such an honour, and he was indeed very pleased to do so. He traced the History of the B. G. East Indian Association from its inception, and urged all the members of his race to give their whole-hearted co-operation. Mr. Jenarine Singh, President of the Association next spoke congratulating the committee, Mr. Ramprashad [Junior Vice-President of the Association] moved a vote of thanks to Mr. Boodhoo and others for their kind support, and Mr. D. P. Debidin seconded.

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# Indian National Army

JAWAHAR LAL NEHRU AND TEJ BAHADUR SAPRU  
AMONG DEFENCE COUNCILS

RIOTS IN MADRAS IN CONNECTION WITH INDIAN  
NATIONAL ARMY TRIALS

When the trial of three officers of the Japanese sponsored "Indian National Army" who are facing charges which include waging war against the King, murder and abetting murder, was resumed to-day, Lieut B.R. Naz, described as the former Deputy Adjutant General of the I.N.A. said the organization had a strength of about forty thousands.

Lieut. Naz who is the chief prosecution witness told Sir. N.J. Engineer, Advocate General for India, that he could give this figure from his own knowledge as he had been responsible for administration which he took over in Rangoon.

Naz said that the "Indian National Army" included Subhas Bose and Gandhi and Nehru regiments. Guerrilla troops were detailed for duty on the Burma border. In April, 1945, the military situation became desperate as British troops advanced towards Rangoon.

Lieut. Naz said at that time there were about six thousands troops of I.N.A. in Rangoon, about half of them armed. Two divisions had been "cut up" in the previous month. Subhas Chandra Bose leader of the "free" Indian movement, left Rangoon on April 24, six days before British troops entered the city.

Naz read an order signed by Subhas Chandra Bose leader of "Indian National Government" saying "having beaten the enemy in several sectors of the front our faith in final victory and the destruction of the Anglo-American forces of aggression has increased tenfold."

## PANDIT NEHRU FOR DEFENCE

The order was signed by Bose who promised awards for capturing or killing enemies and threatened that cowardice would be punished by death. After hearing Naz's evidence the court adjourned for lunch.

Among the twenty defence Counsel were the Congress leader Pandit Nehru wearing his barrister's robes for the first time in 22 years. Sir Tej Bahadur Sapru, a former member of the Viceroy's Council.

## RIOT IN MADRAS

Two persons were killed and one injured in Madras when the police opened fire on a crowd demonstrating in connection with the Indian National Army trial.

## B.G.E.I.A. Fair

The British Guiana East Indian Association wishes to express its gratitude to all those who assisted and attended the recent fair at the Promenade Gardens entitled An Evening In India which it sponsored.

The show has been a success and we hope every one enjoyed themselves thoroughly.

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## Mr. ESMAIL Pays Second Visit To B.G.

Mr. AHMAD ESMAIL, Dry-goods merchant and Indian film distributor, arrived yesterday from Trinidad by B.W.I. Airways Ltd. plane.

Mr. Esmail who was born in Hong Kong, China, and resides there with his family, had been in Trinidad since 1941 due to the war and the difficulties of transportation.

His firm is represented in the Colony by Dallas V. Kidman, Agents.

Mr. Esmail will remain in British Guiana about 6 or 8 months, after which he will return to China to his family whom he has not seen since 1941. As far as he knows, however, they are all safe as they escaped Japanese cruelties.

This is Mr. Esmail's second visit to British Guiana.

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