

ALL YOU NEED — TUNING FORK, COMPOSER...

A pan symphony?

By ERIC ROACH

According to Professor Russell who adjudicated the Steelband Festival, these are what the steelbands need now.

He said the tuning fork would enable all tuners to tune pans at the same pitch so that pansides can play together in a single orchestra. And the composer would write tunes for the pans as Elgar and others did for the brass in Britain earlier this century.

In other words Professor Russell foresees an extending future for the pans. He visualises them in terms of great orchestras with music specially composed for them. Besides, Mr. Russell said something more ambitious still.

He prophesied that if pans were tuned true, they could be led as other orchestras are by piano or violin. And they could form sections to proper classical orchestras. Another family of instruments as it were.

This is a conception far

beyond the hopes of the average pan aficionado and I believe even beyond the imagination of the average pan man himself.

Though no one can tell what dreams a deep quiet man like the North Stars leader Tony Williams may be nurturing.

In 1962, he said it was his

who have followed the whole career of the steelbands to remember their first primitive sound.

Needless to say, pan is the only native artistic success we have. Needless to say too it is a folk art. The young men who happened on it had not to deter them any of those jejune considerations

simple calypso ditties that they regard them with disdain. Yet, by the very nature of their instruments they require native music to perform. Only accomplished musicians in this country can now write music worthy of the pans. And none are to be found.

'NO ONE CAN BE FOUND TO WRITE THEIR MUSIC'

ambition to put all the notes of a piano on his tenor pans. Who knows whether Professor Russell's words in Queen's Hall on Sunday night were not an expression of Tony's present thought?

Pan has certainly come of age thanks to the devotion of the association's officials, the pan captains, arrangers, tuners and rank and file pan men themselves. No stranger at Queen's Hall this past fortnight could imagine how crude the bands were 20 years ago.

It is even difficult for people

which come between the middle classes and creative work.

The panmen worked diligently to perfect their form regardless of the way society regarded them. Now they are the pride of the country and a great joy to much of the world outside.

As it is, they have far outstripped the attainments of their betters, the middle classes. No one can be found (Inspector Prospect notwithstanding) to write a single piece of music for them.

They are so far beyond the

Naturally, the panmen are forced to play almost entirely the music of other countries. Look what the North Stars have done to the century-old Austrian work Poets and Peasants. Look what Guinness Cavaliers did to the air from the opera "Carmen."

Oh, for some Trinidad music. Oh for a Trinidad composer. But it is not as easy to find one as Professor Russell thinks.

The middle classes are not involved, except with their own appearance. Except with keeping up with the Joneses. Except with mauvais langue and bacchanal and comesse.

But perhaps that sort of thing is regarded by some as a form of folk art.



ANTHONY WILLIAMS what thoughts?



PROF. RUSSEL... bright future