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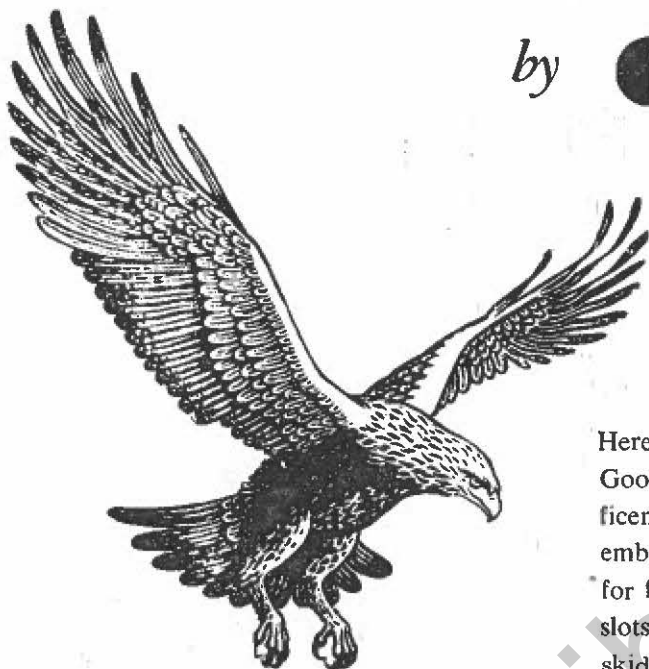
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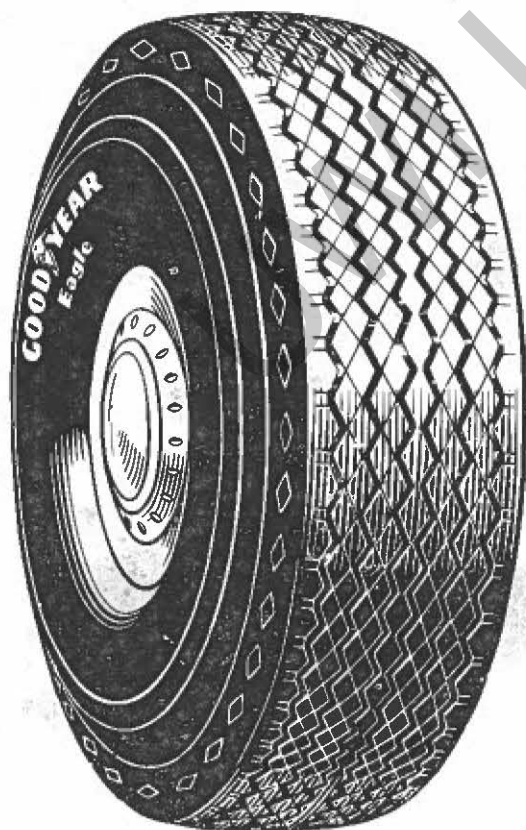
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BACKGROUND TO
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EDITORIAL.

PLAYING DUCKS & DRAKES

IT is extremely difficult to understand what kind of game is being played by the Secretary of State for the Colonies Mr. Lennox-Boyd and the Governor of British Guiana, Sir Patrick Renison in this bizarre situation with respect to the British Guiana constitution.

Last June the Legislature dominated as it were by the P.P.P. majority, side-stepped the federation issue and virtually railroaded a motion by Mr. Jainarine Singh "Calling upon the Secretary of State to receive an all-party delegation to discuss this country acquiring the status of a fully self-governing territory".

In reply the Secretary of State called upon the Governor to appoint a committee to recommend "what form constitutional advances from the present interim arrangements should take, and thereafter he is willing to receive a delegation to discuss the recommendations".

But when the Governor appointed the entire Legislature into the committee with Speaker Sir Donald Jackson as chairman without a vote and the three officials as voteless advisers did he not know it would be a colossal farce? That it was much better to ask the P.P.P. crowd to form their own recommendations on behalf of the inhabitants?

The fact that they refused point-blank to entertain any memorandum or opinion from the public as was suggested, indicated what they wanted. And what does the P.P.P. want? A self-governing constitution with an all-elected one-house parliament like Ghana—conducive to one-party boss rule, the Governor himself once denounced. We await the outcome with interest.

Guiana Times

NEWS MAGAZINE FOR BRITISH GUIANA & WEST INDIES

Imperial Affairs

Who's the most civilized?

NO one appears to know how to define the term Civilisation: Chamber's dictionary describes the meaning as cultural condition or complex. They describe the word 'civilise' as to reclaim from barbarism, to instruct in arts and refinement. But then, is it wrong, rude or just plain unethical to say that this particular individual or group of individuals, is more civilised than that

class in the infinite concept of group categorising. This claim to first place is reflected in their jurisprudence, their almost incorruptible system of handling of public life. The smooth change over of respective governments, an opposition largely consisting of idealists, who oppose most things merely on the idealistic merits, than on practical politics; their official dealings with people of territories dependent on them for their existence; and their solemn right to their citizens to grumble at anything they dislike.

BRITISH TROOPS IN CYPRUS



They get cashiered and imprisoned, if they take drastic retaliatory measures against shooting-in-the back terrorists, while captured killers are acquitted under British Jurisprudence

individual or group of individuals? Is a white Englishman more civilised than a non-white West Indian, and is a West Indian more civilised than an African from East or West Africa? Are the Chinese more civilised than the Europeans, or for that matter is a town bred citizen more civilised than his country cousin? Are the seven wonders of the Ancient world, which could hardly be duplicated today, evidences of a greater civilisation than does a modern battleship, the acme of human co-ordination when in action, or an ICBM?

Whatever the standards of judgement or the definition of terms, the British people appear to take top place in the

THE French, nearest surviving colonial power after Britain, make great play of their *liberte, egalite, fraternite*. But while showing a great deal of equality and tolerance to non-white people from their once vast overseas dependencies, they make no bones about the use of the firing squad to any native who may yell too loudly about independence. They lost Indochina simply because, a half-hearted punitive expedition, directed by an irresolute government at home, was no match for rebels with an enormous reservoir and supply system based in China, and the great subversion of international communism that

IMPERIAL AFFAIRS

nearly crippled the home government. But when Algerian rebels taking their cue from the Indochina success tried to do like Ho Chi Minh, the French woke up and moved half a million troops into North Africa and matched terror with terror.

The French army authorities weren't too fussy about prisoners, as are the British in Cyprus. Many a terrorist caught, was given every chance to stage a getaway then efficiently mowed down as they sought safety in flight. Trials were few, for politicians to make politics out of. Prison torture became the order of the day. Inside a year they had Algeria under control. Terrorists had to move their headquarters out of Algeria into Cairo with a few die-hards. At the same time in French jurisprudence any man arrested by the state is presumed guilty until he can prove his innocence.

In vivid contrast the British seem almost ready to give up any colony that yells too hard for independence. They would have certainly done so to Cyprus had not their withdrawal much greater implication than sticking around in the murder-ridden island. British soldiers are bombed out in ambush, shot down in cold blood, booby-trapped in their vehicles. But any retaliatory measure that breeds the slightest form of cruelty is subjected to idealistic, socialistic labour party protest at home, as they did when Mau Mau broke loose in Kenya. At that time it was British troops who were supposed to be cruel — not the Mau Mau, even though the bulk of Mau Mau vengeance was wrought on their own people.

The French.

IN Cyprus when terrorists are grabbed almost red-handed, unless prosecution could produce sufficiently concrete evidence, the political murderers go scot free before a Civil Judge. Even his confessions are rejected as having been obtained under torture. When hundreds of potential terrorists are detained under emergency regulations for safe keeping, great pressure at home seeks to obtain their release, while petitions reach the U.N. of the great British "reign of terror". So terrorism goes on apace in Cyprus with British troops under pain of drastic penalties—from cashiering officers to imprisonment of privates—imposing intolerable restraint.

Needless to say, the Germans or the Russians in similar situations as Cyprus, would have solved the problem by the simple expediency of forfeiting several young civilian lives for every one occupying soldier as they did in Hungary. No amount of technological advancement by the Germans could erase the sadism of German concentration camps of pre-war days. Was that civilisation? Nothing about the Russians appear to connote anything relating to civilisation. They have brought refinement to barbarism, that beggars description or definition. National morality is reflected in the use of terms that mean exactly the opposite: "Peoples Republic", "Liberation", peace loving, etc.

The Americans on the other hand thrive on their display of extreme frugality and pin great faith in the wonders of the almighty dollar. But the national character suggests over emphasis of freedom, for the outlet of all the inclinations of the human animal—good and bad alike.



GUNS OVER CYPRUS

Which of the world's leading nations could suppress terrorism fastest in Cyprus, Russians, Germans, Americans or British? That depends on who is the least "civilised."

Thus, unlike the British, their record of scandal in their public life is far too high, while in their jurisprudence there is no place for the British coined phrase 'justice must appear to be done'. Freedom of the Press can convict or acquit an accused. Lacking colonial territories, their national behaviour resembles the *nouveau riche*, they are pathologically afraid to lose friends. But the case of Arkansas and other Southern State officials in their attitude in race relations, such as in the Little Rock issue, show an overwhelming contrast to the official attitude in Britain in the Nottingham race riots.

So liberal is the British approach to the thorny colour problem and in dealing with colonials that they virtually welcome any anti-British colonial radical (like the famed Nkruma and B.G.'s Jagan) who can attract a sizeable following with the cry for independence. While Ghana was piloted to much yelled for Independence, the only reason why Dr. Jagan never scored Independence, is that an independent little country like British Guiana at the present stage is a pathetic apology for nationhood and a sure invitation for the Soviets to set up Latin American base under Dr. Jagan. But recently when they invited Dr. Jagan to London for financial talks, in London one day Jagan hobnobbed with pro-Communist Paul Robeson sending messages to his friend Krushchev and denouncing the British at public meetings, yet he is invited up to garden party at Buckingham Palace and invited by Lennox Boyd to talk money needs.

SINCE the war, with the heavy flow—first of Nazi and later Soviet sugar-coated propaganda—to the

colonies, every two-by-three little dependent territory controlled and maintained by a metropolitan country—particularly British—suddenly became bitten by the Independence bug. And since large sums had to be laid out in national budgets for social development in overseas territories, owning of colonies became the greatest post-war liabilities to big nations. The British were first to hit upon a compromise plan "By all means," they said "If the little blighters want to run their own country, let them. They must want some big brother or father whose pocket book they could tap for the free where-withals of modern civilisation, or they'll have to buy it all for cash, and that's where we'll come in. We'd supply them with all their needs. So the smart thing is to make it easier for them." This concept paid high dividends. And independent India bought more British goods and services than all the years it was under British domination. Newly Independent Ghana is racing to out-do other West African countries in the purchase of British manufactured goods. Better still, the flow of cash to Britain for goods and services is no longer described by demagogues as 'Exploitation' but "pride of Independence."

But what happens when the civilising over-lording nation clears out of the dependent territories, and leaves the local boys to take care of their own people and affairs? The record is stinking.

LATIN DEMOCRACY

LATIN Nations, who won independence in the 1800's from Spain, appeared to have acquired little political experience as did the colonies established in North



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SPROSTONS

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IMPERIAL AFFAIRS

America in the 1600s. After Independence, they tried modelling their constitutions on those of the United States and France with a semblance of too much democracy and freedom. But then, the machinery of government in those latin ex-colonies became highly conducive to the left-over absolutism of the old Kings. A strong chief of state who replaced the old time kings had the power to make state governors, over-rule them, ignore congress, deny civil rights and constitutions and rule by decree. The presidency was grandest political prize of any politician. No trick was too mean to secure the prize. Today, Latin America with all its enormous natural resources is still counted as one of the most undeveloped areas of the world. Politics have sapped the national vitality of each nation. Since 1945 there have been 27 upheavals of Governments. Six of the ex-dictators, or ousted presidents—Arbenz of Guatemala; Socaris of Cuba, Magloire of Haiti, Peron of Argentine, Rojas Pinilla of Columbia, Jimenez of Venezuela and their hirelings — must have escaped with at least one billion dollars. Instability of Governments in the area, has produced conflicts that drain away the nations economic strength and sample of civilisation was reflected in the type of welcome given to American Vice-President Nixon earlier this year.

BRITISH INDIA vs. REPUBLIC INDIA.

IN prewar British India, the civilising, overlording nation—to wit the British—discovered ironically that when their ancestors were living in caves, or were slaves to Roman masters, the Indians had a grand civilisation all their own. Yet the British learnt nothing from their Eastern Civilisation with its inhuman caste system brutal feudalism, poverty and starvation as an accepted way of life. They suppressed the absolutism and soon found an enormous appetite by those of the old civilisation for the new western Anglo-Saxon Civilisation. They developed a policy of building their own standards—of education of judiciary, of civil service and public service, and when they departed in 1947 they left behind in India a concept of democratic Government, the rule of law, and an efficient Governmental machinery.

But a new system developed within the frame work. In Universities, it was a yielding temptation for Indian professors, who replaced the British, to dole out degrees for a fee. B.A.'s in India became dime a dozen. The judiciary that replaced the British were not immune, from selling justice to the highest bidder. Politicians grew fat living off the state or manipulating public funds to their own benefit. It got so bad that Indian socialist-inspired five-year plan, designed for the sole effect of giving India the semblance of the Western civilisation with its advanced technology, got into trouble. Foreign exchange ran out because of private hoardings and malpractices.

COLONIALISM vs. INDEPENDENCE

ODDLY enough in almost all British-controlled territories with leaders seeking independence, great play is made of what they call with impassioned negativism democratic freedoms and so-called "British Justices", Dr. Nkruma of Ghana and Dr. Jagan of British Guiana typify the radical extremists which the British have come to

like and regard in their changing concept of colonialism to 'commonwealthism'; The idea being to saddle them with the responsibility of Government as the British withdrew. Radicals got surprisingly co-operative. But what happens to their own people is another matter.

In their climb to political power under British official colonial persecution, it is fashionable for radicals to parade as victims of local infringement of the much vaunted British freedom and democracy and British justice. This was the theme of the defence of the famous leftist Barrister Dennis Pritt in his defence of Nkruma, during the sedition trials in 1948, and even in the Jaganite Nazru-deen trial in British Guiana in 1953.

When the British sought to instal Ghana in West Africa as the first independent African state in order to counteract propaganda about Imperialism, they pulled Nkruma out of jail (for sedition) and gave him the entire run of the country. In response to popular demand, led by marxist-inspired Dr. Nkruma, the British set up an all-elected one-house constitution in which the vote of the majority in the house becomes law immediately, without any checks or balances, irrespective of the effect on the minority.

ONE-HOUSE ALL-ELECTED CONSTITUTION

WHEN the country became independent, the parliamentary opposition, so indispensable under British democratic concept, soon became completely demoralised by Premier Dr. Nkruma. The fastest route to jail for an opposition member was to criticise the Government. When tribal chieftains through whom the British extended their rule over the country, now oppose the central government in thought, word or deed, they soon find themselves without stools. And no public opinion cries out. But when the British removed Seretse Khama and the Kabaka of Bugunda, the colonial world exploded in disgust. In Ghana today whole villages are told that if they voted against the Government party all their water and other services would be promptly cut off. Ghana is well on the road to one-party rule.

In British Guiana Marxist Dr. Jagan is also a great advocate of the all-elected one-house constitution (as an improvement of anglosaxon civilised concept!). While in power in 1953, he initiated the famous "patriotic appeal" whereby the Waddington liberal constitution with its checks and balances, was to be replaced by this all-elected one-house constitution like Gold Coast. With such a council flooded with Majority party members, it is woe to the minorities. But when the troops, who landed for the suspension surrounded his house, Jagan looked at them in contempt and exclaimed "Is this British Democracy."

Later he represented himself as having been deposed for trying to introduce "democracy" into British Guiana as against the previous British tyranny. Later in the party resistance to restrictions, colleague Barrister Burnham, using the courts to rail at British Imperialism had a barrel of fun baiting that "decadent much vaunted British democracy" and talked about their much-vaunted "British Justice". But after Independence what follows? Today there are more civil liberties and extreme freedom (to cuss the rulers) in British Colonies than in all the free independent little countries in the Caribbean and Latin America. The same prescription awaits all "liberated" colonies.

FACTS OF NOTTINGHILL RIOTS

By KEN MONTANO.

REPORTS of the Nottingham riots, sent by European reporters to the far corners of the world, are regarded by honest investigators, Welfare workers, and impartial observers as downright "rubbish". The riots began in the early hours of the morning. The sky was covered, as it were by a black cloth. There were no stars to illumine the blackened canopy above, and no one could have discerned who were white or black in the terrific, maddening scene, in which hundreds of Europeans maltreated, and beat up a few dozens of West Indians. In desperation our people took anything their hands fell upon. And in their struggle they saw their own houses on fire, their cars badly damaged, and their wives — most of whom were pregnant — roughly handled by giant-size policemen, with absolutely no regard for the dignity and biological changes in womanhood.

In Nottingham today, life has apparently returned to normal. People walk the streets and attend to their everyday business without fear or misgivings. The one exception is, that whilst previously the average pale-face European appeared to have grown familiar with black faces around, now he looks at the West Indian with a vengeful unfriendliness and the bitter memory of another occasion gleaming out of his blue eyes. This may seem incredible to readers 4,000 miles or so, away from Britain. Nevertheless, the fact is incontrovertible. It must be borne in mind that most Europeans who reside at Nottingham — an extremely poor area, if ever there was one — are equally poor in intelligence. And when compared with the average West Indian worker here, in attire, decorum, and ordinary common-sense, they fall extremely short indeed.

COOLING OFF

HOWEVER, the 'whites' once again have business dealings with our folk; and the notion that disturbances may recur at any unspecified moment has given place to a certain optimism—a sense of security—mainly because nine of their most cultured citizens are now undergoing four years in the "Cooler". You would undoubtedly note the words **most cultured citizens**. The reason for this (though absolutely accurate) is to attempt to dispel the belief that Britain's Teddy Boys were mainly responsible for the riots both at Nottingham and Nottingham. For this belief was maliciously engendered in the hearts of our people in the Caribbean through one-sided and partial reports from Agencies in Britain. West Indians who live here are well

aware of this fact, for when a bit of news breaks out in Britain they read on the Caribbean press the other side of the story, particularly when it affects coloured people. But the fact remains that a cross section of the population joined forces and attacked helpless and unarmed West Indians, who normally would not impede a fly on its mission. Perhaps this organ is the first to point out this evil propaganda which has misled millions of people in the civilised world.

What were the reasons at the back of the minds of those who fostered this malicious propaganda? The foremost is to make Britain's Teddy Boys the scapegoat, coupled with a gallant effort to cover up the anti-patries—admitted and unadmitted—of Europeans towards peoples of colour. Lord Home, Secretary of State for Commonwealth Relations, according to reports appearing in the Trinidad Press, said that the "race riots had been very much exaggerated, and had received more attention than they warranted." The question one must ask Lord Home is: Where were you on that dark and eventful night when the riots took place? If the great Lord can say that he was at Latimer Road having a birds-eye view of the horror, then his remarks can be taken for consideration. If not, the best thing to do is to completely ignore his views. This writer can afford to make this sweeping statement that Lord Home has never been to Nottingham in his life. It is akin to some people who live all their lives in Main Street, Georgetown, and never found the opportunity to go to the 'quiet' of the Mazaruni district.

COMPLEX SITUATION

THE situation which arose at Nottingham, following disturbances at Nottingham, is indeed a complex one. For no one can state with a great degree of accuracy the immediate causes of the ghastly crimes committed at Nottingham—an area which any town in the West Indies surpasses both in morals and architecture. The remote causes are a different matter. The various reasons given so far are symptomatic of the difficulties, discriminations, and prejudices suffered by West Indians and Guianese who live in the area. The case of this single locality is worth dissecting as a demonstration in the anatomy of resentment.

The magnitude of the situation which had been unfolded to the ton bracket of European society, provoked none of the conventional explosions

of incredulity; it was only on the same plane with what they had come to expect from their own kit and kin, fighting their way to obliterate any coloured being in sight with the mocking light of irresistible dare-devilry on their white reckless faces. And it is doubtful whether the morality of their attitude ever troubled them at all. It was not as the Press of the world tried, and perhaps succeeded in convincing our peoples at home, that the Teddy Boys were mainly responsible for the riots. But it was, to state categorically, white people—Europeans—who savagely tramped upon our own flesh and blood from the West Indies and Guiana.

It was undoubtedly the token of the spirit of Europeans which no passage of time or outside associations could alter, which sent them on their way to Nottingham which quickened strides and feelings of invincible faith. And they poured into "coloured areas" like some mighty wave overlapping the banks of a river and destroying everything in its path.

JEALOUSY

ONE of the main causes of the riots (quite apart from the colour question) is sexual jealousy. The West Indian's relationships with white women, not necessarily prostitutes, create an ebullition of feelings on the part of Englishmen, which even spiritual influences cannot subside. The women as a rule regard their coloured partner as "a novelty", and more often than not, as men worthy of admiration and love, "for good or for evil in the sublimest degree of comparison only."

When white women begin to enjoy the company of our folk, they find it difficult to return in the manner of the prodigal son. And if it were left to the women alone, the chances are that discrimination and acute prejudice would have been reduced to something more or less unknown in Britain.

The West Indian who lives in England knows beyond doubt that he represents a minority group, and such groups usually suffer in any community, irrespective of colour. Thus his one desire after touching soil is to obtain work, save as much as he can with a strange currency, and return home a better citizen, despite discrimination from the natives in Britain. Usually when his savings grow appreciably large, he invests in property, television sets, radios and other paraphernalia which he can dispose of before his departure. These gadgets are "necessities" which debar him from utter loneliness in the midst of an extremely unfriendly people.

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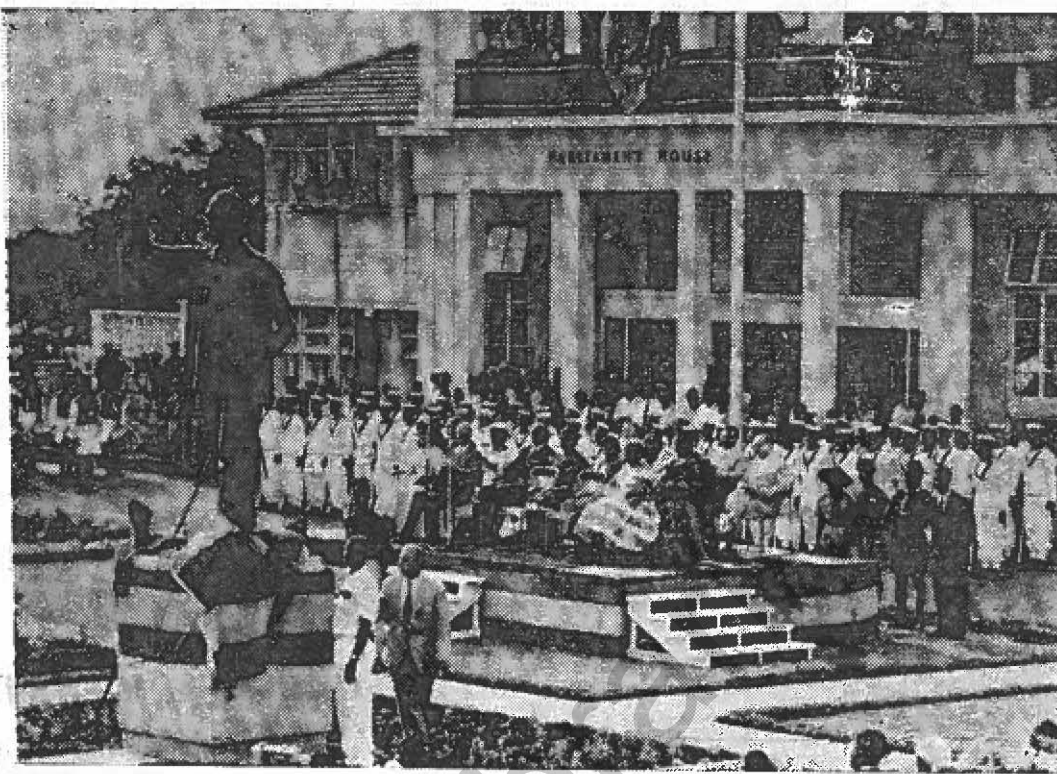
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Dr. Nkrumah unveils his own statue in Accra
"Tommy rot!"—Tsiboe

Ghana

FREEDOM UNDER INDEPENDENCE

LATE one night in September, a Ghana Police Officer tapped at the door of a little white cottage in down town Accra. It was the home of R. R. Amponsah, General Secretary of the United Party, only parliamentary opposition in the Government of Newly Independent State of Ghana. "Mr. Amponsah, you're under arrest for sedition", said the officer as the door opened and the heavy thick set legislator appeared.

A few nights before, Amponsah addressing a rally of the United Party, had made the cardinal mistake of criticising the Government. He had declared that the Ghana Police were conniving in, and condoning the printing of extra ballot papers by the Government, in order to obtain one-party dictatorship in Ghana. It was that harangue which led to his arrest that evening. Next morning they put him on a £500 bail, but, a few weeks later, Interior Minister Edusie, CCP hatchet man, climaxed a reign of official terror by ordering the arrest of 43 members of the opposition on charges of alleged plot to kill the Premier.

Sometime before, United Party had announced a boycott of Ghana's "Founder's Day" celebration, in honour of the birthday of Dr. Kwame Nkrumah, Prime Minister of Ghana, and leader of the ruling Convention Peoples Party. Amponsah was formerly a member of the CPP, when it brought Nkrumah into prominence. In 1955 he broke away with Joseph Appiah, son-in-law of the late Sir Stafford Cripps, former British Chancellor of the Exchequer, in Britain's post war Labour Government. As leader of the National Liberation Movement, largest of six opposition groups opposed to Dr. Nkrumah's dictatorial policies, he was instrumental in promoting a merger of all parties into one opposition group. But in the Ghana Parliament Nkrumah's CPP can muster 80 votes against the United Party's 24.

Under the all-elected one-house constitution of Ghana, a bill becomes law, without any checks and balances as soon as it gets a majority vote in the House. As such, CPP railroaded a bill, permitting Government to jail, without legal recourse, for a period of five years all those who criticise the Government. Since then, one, after the other of Ghana's 24-man opposition, has had the jail gate

opened wide to them as soon as they try to oppose the Government.

Climax came in the wee hours one November morning, when lorry loads of police, rumbled through Accra streets stopping at various homes. By dawn they had collected 43 members of the Opposition Party in and out of the Council, and lorried them off to jail. The Charge: Plotting to assassinate Prime Minister and overthrow the government.

Explained Nkrumah's hatchetman Interior Minister Krobro (crowbar) Edusie "The job of a politician is to uproot enemies. Those in jail will be kept for five years. Anyone visiting them more than four times will end in prison too". Lawyers are now

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The refreshment of friendship

IMPERIAL AFFAIRS

resorting to the British-made **Hebeas corpus** act to get them out.

Although some of them hold the title of SPG (society of prison graduates) for going to jail with Nkruma during his rebellious days, now on the Opposition bench, the smartest way to keep out of jail is not to say a critical word about the Ghana Government.

Dr. Nkruma

MEANWHILE, from his balconied mansion in a lofty hill 22 miles from Accra, Prime Minister Nkruma last September watched the city light up in celebration of "Founder's Day", in honour of his 49th birthday. The town was agog with thanksgiving services, garden parties, gala balls and free medical services for expectant mothers, during the period.

Accra "Evening News" published a special issue featuring large-sized picture marked "Our Indomitable Prime Minister" and Founder of the New Nation of Ghana. Such words as **Osagyefo** (defendant) **oyeadicie** (does-all-well), **kantomanto** (never-failing), **tukuhene okyeade** (ever-giving leader) **kukudrufo** (Brave) Kwame Nkruma.

But late last October at San Juan in Puerto Rico on the other side of the Atlantic, Ghana newspaper publisher John Wallace Tsiboe arrived on a U.S. State Department tour of America, and had a lot to say. Ironically enough, he was the first to push Dr. Nkruma into prominence during his agitational days when the British administration picked him up for their brand of sedition.

Today his paper, the Ashanti "Pioneer" is the only opposition paper in existence in Ghana. As publisher of same, he was arraigned last year before a Supreme Court with an English newspaper reporter named Ian Colvin on some charge of contempt, when his paper reprinted an article from the London "Daily Express" about goings-on in Ghana.

Tsiboe had to wait until he was miles away from Nkruma's heavy fingered cops, before belching off what was on his mind. Said he, "At birth of Ghana, March 6, 1956, Nkruma had pledged freedom for all the African people, but since then he has jailed the top opposition leaders particularly those from Togoland, who like him in the old days wanted to set up their own independent state. What bothered Tsiboe most of all was Nkruma's display for the outward signs of dictatorship—lifesize statues, titles, etc. "Tommy rot"—sniffed

Tsiboe, remembering others like Nkruma who fought for independence. He added, "He is often being compared favourably in the local press with Christ".

Chieftains

ONLY remaining threat to Nkruma was the powerful tribal chieftains, whose emblems of authority are stools and through whom the British had exercised the indirect

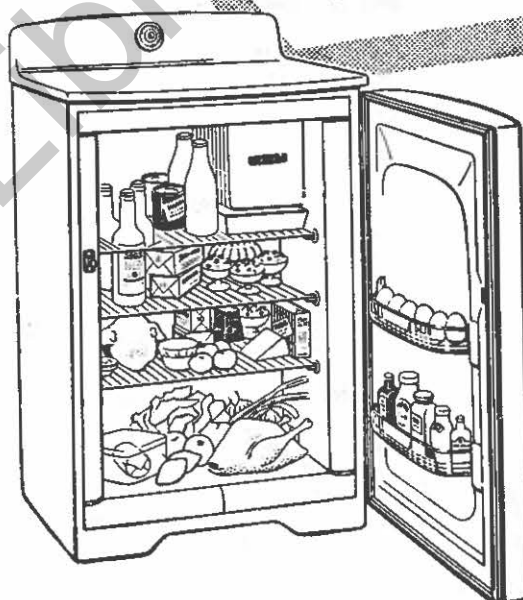
rule over the whole Gold Coast. Although he moved rather cautiously the Prime Minister dropped his heavy fist down in characteristic fashion.

Early this year, Chief Nana Ofori Atta, paramount chief of Akim Abuakwa, the second most powerful chieftain, was declared destooled in favour of one youngster favourably

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disposed to CPP. Since Nana refused to budge from his Palace, Nkruma's police cracked down on him in the village of Kibi and surrounded his 52-roomed palace. When they took him into custody with his four wives they charged him with "Failing to leave his Palace".

His arrest proved a grim warning to the biggest of them all, Chief Otumfuo Sir Osei Agyeman Prempeh II Asantehene, or King of Ashanti. Ashanti is a rich cocoa-growing, gold-mining area, that furnishes the bulk of Ghana's revenue. From the Asantehene's bulging treasury, huge funds were poured into the political opposition party against Nkruma. Naturally enough, Ashanti became the hot bed of resistance to Nkruma.

But at the last elections, CPP swept the area by the simple expedient of sending agents ahead through villages, with a warning that if they voted against the Government Party, water and other services would be forthwith cut off. At the same time, many of the younger men in the Ashanti region showed strong preference to the modern style political-eering, as against ancient tribal loyalties, and deserted the Asantehene. To save his skin, the great Prempeh of Ashanti found himself bowing and scraping to a greater power than himself. Recently he received Nkruma at his capital in Kumasi with a great tasselled umbrella and warm embrace.

REST OF AFRICA

WITH GHANA now conquered, Dr. Nkruma's now dedicated mission is "Liberation of all Africa". Soon after declaring Ghana's independence last year, he toured neighbouring territory of Guinea, French West Africa, where Premier Seakou Toure was the biggest noise in the area.

A former Marxist, like Nkruma, Toure was dedicated to the expulsion of the French 'imperialist' and established an independent socialist African state, with his 2,000,000 population still closely integrated in tribalism. Soon after Nkruma's tour, the spirit of independence was fanned to fever heat.

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IMPERIAL AFFAIRS

Earlier this year when France's General DeGaulle arrived in the Capital Conakry to sell his new constitution for France and overseas territories, Guinean firebrand Toure orating before a crowd in presence of the General, bellowed "We prefer poverty in independence to riches in slavery". What puzzled the tall general in his tour of French African colonies, was that although he tried to emphasise that the choice of independence was theirs and that all they had to do was vote 'No' to his Constitution, and Independence was theirs for the asking, still they were yelling for this Independence. Explained one African politician, "The General misunderstands us. He wants to give us independence, but we want to wrest it ourselves".

Although British Guiana's Jaganite 'Thunder' and all other communist publications screamed that the

French Referendum was carried out under duress from the French army, French Guinea under Toure's direction turned out to be the only overseas territory to give a flat 'no' to the General's constitution proposals, thereby meaning they wanted complete independence.

REACTION

UNLIKE most British colonies, where trade and other 'relationship' could easily develop with countries outside the commonwealth, most French territories are inexorably dependent on the motherland, where all their exports are bought at higher prices than anywhere else, and Guinea sends sixty percent of their export to France. French reaction to the Guinea vote was swift. Special envoy raced down from Paris and told Toure what the score was: all French public servants, technicians and

army units would leave within three months; financial aid would cease; Guinea exports (coffee, bananas, bauxite) would be subject to same taxes as foreign goods.

Normally the British could do exactly the same thing to little British Honduras with its stinking 78,000 population, and British Guiana with its 500,000, bellowing for independence with Charity aid. But they are less precipitate than the French.

No sooner the French tricolour vanished from the land, Toure began to have second thoughts about his independence. As crowds gathered outside his house in Conakry to serenade him for his independence, he snapped impatiently, "This is no time for dancing", and banned all demonstrations. In an effort to coax the French back, he hailed them as "A friend and generous brother", and called for economic negotiations with France. Later he appealed to his

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A Governor's home-coming

SATURDAY afternoon July 28, as the Pan American Airways strato-clipper swept into Atkinson Field British Guiana, a handful of high ranking government officials standing nearby, quickly alerted themselves and quietly moved on to the tarmac to welcome an important arrival. Sir Patrick Renison, Governor of British Guiana was returning home from the big London money talks. He had headed the Country's delegation against crack British financial experts to make out a case for more British funds for the hard-pressed colony's incomplete D-programme.

tough world with no desire to pool resources in a federal West Indian set-up.

They were told to go back home and replan their programme and come back next year to talk things over. Of the rest of the delegation, Financial Secretary, Francis Essex had resumed his holiday in Britain. B.G. leftist P.P.P. leader Dr. Cheddi Jagan and his Minister for Natural Resources Edward Beharry, while telling pressmen they planned resigning, had trotted off to once-condemned U.S. to seek loans from various lending organisations like the World Bank. Thus the Governor had to return home *solitaire*.

ALL down the official line, instructions appeared to have been passed out to make the Governor's reception as



Governor Sir Patrick Renison returning home to B.G. after heading a 'loans delegation' in London.

Despite dramatic overplay by P.P.P. politicians, selling the sob-story about poverty and unemployment, while demanding \$200,000,000 loan-grant with advanced constitution, the delegation only managed to squeeze a direct British Exchequer Loan for \$26,400,000 out of sheer sympathy. The British Government experts had realised that no financial organisation would risk money without adequate guarantee on a little colony, hardly able to take care of itself but whose politicians want to go it alone in a

quiet as ever. In the new concept of colonial administration, born of the famous Governors' Conference in Barbados in 1952, the tendency of Administrators is to stay in the background and push peoples representatives in the forefront and limelight to take blame or praise for anything done or misdome. In order not to steal any thunder out of the politicians due to return home soon for their boisterous welcome etc., the Governor's arrival was to be played down considerably.

B.G. AFFAIRS

After lunch that day acting topman Derek Jakeway, serving his last few hours as head of state, joined Lady Renison aboard the great state car — a sleek, black, air-conditioned, bullet-proof, Austin Princess, used for the Royal tour last May with its liveried chauffeur and gold crown, and sped up to Atkinson Field, while his private car followed close behind. At the airport were Acting Civil Aviation Director Hutton Griffith, Police Commissioner, Don Matheson and Chief Information Officer Arthur Seymour.

Even as the plane landed at 3.20 the afternoon and passengers for British Guiana disembarked, Governor Sir Patrick Renison, looking a bit more bulky than usual, emerged with an obvious limp. Tenderly he kissed his wife and daughter Ann, shook hands all around and acting Governor Jakeway, automatically slipped back to his official position as Chief Secretary. Before long, headed by the state car with the golden crown, the tiny 3-car official cavalcade raced out of the Base for the city. It proved an overwhelming contrast to the 50-car cavalcade that raced out with the P.P.P. big boys when they arrived a few weeks later.

But with a public anxious to know the real behind-the-talks story, the question arose as to whether, as delegation head the Governor should make a statement. And press men began harrasing Government for a statement. Naturally Jagan and Beharry would be due back soon to thicken the air with propaganda about their great efforts to get money to relieve the poor people's distresses. As an expert on Public Relations, the Governor hit upon a bright idea to make a broadcast in question and answer form. Information Officer, Arthur Seymour, got instructions to collect a number of questions that bothered the public. In particular why was it the British Government picked on the figure £5.5 million for a loan instead of £5.9 million needed to complete the estimates for D-programme? When the questions, couched in typical Seymourian language popped in to him the Governor took care to frame his answers. Then he took the added precaution of farming them out to existing Exco. members.

"It looks good to me" commented Janet Jagan when she saw nothing in the answers that showed up husband Cheddi Jagan for all the nonsense he spilled to press men in London. Then with all the details finalised, the broadcast was ready for public consumption.

BEDSIDE BROADCAST

ON July 31, five days after the Governor's arrival, Radio Demerara's acting manager Ulric Gouveia, programme director Rafiq Khan turned up at Government House with recording and broadcasting impedimenta, and accompanied by G.I.S. broadcasting man Lloyd Searwar and Senior Information man Seymour, they were all ushered into a big air conditioned bedroom only to find His Excellency propped up in bed with one foot all bandaged up and suspended in sling. Explained he, with smug humour, to wild eyed onlookers as they entered. "The pavements of London are a bit hard you know".

They switched off the air conditioning unit as the recording apparatus went into action, and the room became stifling hot as question and answer dialogue between the Information man Seymour and the Governor began at his bedside.

MANY hours later that evening, the recorded broadcast of that bedroom dialogue flowed to several thousand receiving sets all over the country. Opening his interview G.I.S. Seymour declared that everybody had followed the London talks with interest and began by asking "Are you convinced that Colonial Office spokesmen were sympathetic with British Guiana problems and that they were anxious to do as much as they could to help us?"

Replied the Governor "The Colonial Office were most certainly sympathetic at all levels. They have a wealth of experience which they put at our disposal, but they have to be realistic. They are dealing with all the territories. We only had to see the number of governors and delegations, while we were in London to realise their viewpoint cannot be the same as ours".

He explained further how the delegation discussed things with the West Indian department of the Colonial Office then finance department, which deals with financial problems of all territories, rather than of one region. Next the treasury and the CDC or other money agencies, then with Minister Lord Perth and Under Secretary John Profumo, and finally with the Secretary of State Lennox Boyd himself. It did seem that the Governor as delegation head, after opening the discussions had passed most of the talking on to both Financial Secretary Francis Essex and Government leader Dr. Jagan. While H.M.G. representatives put their side of the picture. What took place can only be gleaned from the Governor's comment about U.K. experts "They also brought home to me" he declared, "The need for detailed planning and documentation for every item for which money is required". Then, what appeared to be an implied crack at the Jagan \$200,000,000 demand, gabbed out to pressmen all down the line, he added "With so many customers to be satisfied they could not deal with demands or with what is known as 'Guesstimates', anyone who is going to find development capital in the modern world must have detailed plans and priorities".

THEN Seymour asked about the British Treasury loan being an unusual transaction. H.E. replied "So far as I know this is the first time that the U.K. has given a direct Exchequer loan to a non-grant-aided colonial territory. Indeed since it is the first, the actual terms of the loan are not well known. Whether it will set a pattern I do not know."

EXPLANATIONS

PERHAPS having regard to some of the wild Jagan statements in London about Independence, poverty and funds in one breath, the Governor added "We have got to face the fact that the public (British) are no longer showing any inclination to invest in the gilt-edge colonial market. Whether this has anything to do with the more rapid transition of self-government and with the wild statements and behaviour of nationalists in various parts of the world is not for me to say. But it is a major headache for Great Britain at a time when so many Commonwealth countries have large development ambitions. It would not make things any easier for Great Britain, if governmental capital is to be found from the United Kingdom government's funds, instead of through public investments".

He warned "There had been no colonial loans in the London market since the spring of 1957, until the Jamaican loan offered two or three weeks ago while we were in London. The failure of that loan whereby sixty percent was not taken up by the public was a shock to everyone concerned in these matters."

Then Seymour asked the big question why the figure £5.5 million was stated as the amount to be loaned instead of £5.9 million needed to conclude D-programme, having regard to the grave unemployment figures. The Governor replied that the delegation after it had worked out details of the amount likely to be spent in 1958, was disappointed but he further declared that the colonial office chaps made reference to one African territory which had been instructed to cut down previously approved programme by 20 per cent.

QUERIED about the possibility of obtaining funds from other sources such as the World Bank, the C.D.C., and the British Government's attitude to the much-talked about Swiss loan the Governor declared "Borrowing money is all a question of creditworthiness. People lend their money to countries and undertakings where they think expect on their money will be assured. If they are not sure, they go elsewhere. The melancholy failure of the recent Jamaican loan shows that H.M.G. is right in its opinion that B.G. would have no hope in raising such a loan at present". Continuing he spoke of the help the British government gave in documenting applications for capital from other sources such as World Bank, the United States Development Loan Funds; the Export-Import Bank etc. where P.P.P.'s Dr. Jagan and Edward Beharry were at that moment tackling, in the U.S.A. He also revealed that while in London, the Colonial Office people had introduced them to Western German and Japanese embassies to see whether there were possibilities. Then he referred to the Swiss Banking Corporation which Jagan had approached through friends. They were willing to lend any amount, provided of course the British Government guarantee same.

DR. JAGAN had made a big howl over the British Government's refusal, to guarantee this £10 million loan. In one breath he had said it was virtually spitefulness and in another breath he had said that if B.G. had independence they would get any amount of money to borrow. But the Governor explained that such a loan to Dr. Jagan would have cost British Guiana about \$4.5 million each year. "Her Majesty's Government", declared the Governor "had no objection to British Guiana accepting such a loan if they wished to, on their own credit worthiness. But he pointed out "if HMG guarantee the loan, money would have to be committed just as if HMG had lent the loan itself." He made the moot suggestion of what would become of such a loan if British Guiana obtains self-government and the British Government had no control whatsoever on the repayment but had a big baby to carry.

"Self-government" said the Governor "could hardly be based on financial blank cheques from others. The Swiss he continued "would not make the loan on British Guiana's credit worthiness alone, and the only external loans which H.M.G. are prepared to guarantee are from the "World Bank."

Local Resources.

THE rest of the Governor's interview was devoted to an explanation of the phrase 'Local Resources' appearing in the official British Government communique on the talks. Declared he "The local resources of British Guiana certainly include loans, which we are able to raise in this

country. If local people would not invest in the development of their own country they could not expect people in Great Britain or elsewhere to do so. He added "Local resources also include the surplus balances which we set aside from the current budget for development and in the last three years we have contributed \$11.8 million in this way to the development programme".

He insisted that the main thing about the London talks was that the present development plan started by the Interim Government would be completed. He revealed that Dr. Jagan hoped to arrange for a team of well known economists and writers who are interested in developing territories to look into our intentions and priorities. "We know," said he, "we cannot have money for this expansion of our own development now, but we have the promise that full consideration will be given to the proposals next year when it is expected that a new Colonial and Development Welfare Act will be passed, and that some help for the development of countries such as ours may result from the Commonwealth Economic Conference.

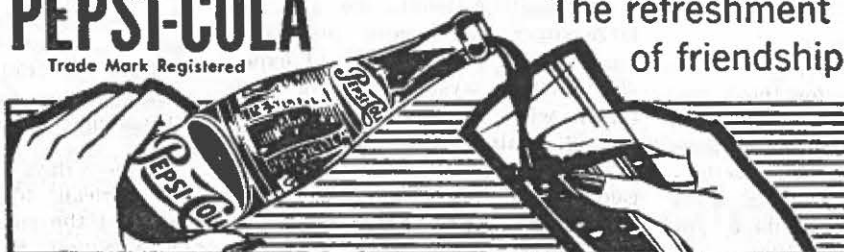
Demerara Electric Company.

When quizzed about his Montreal trip for the talks with the parent body of the Demerara Electric Company and their attitude to the great rural electrification scheme conceived by the Interim Government, Governor Renison declared "In view of the difficulties in finding development capital government cannot at present find the 6 or 7 million dollars required to purchase the Demerara Electric Company". He revealed that in Montreal, the talks centred around conditions under which the Company would supply increasing amount of current for Georgetown and an additional bulk for the Rural scheme which necessarily required great capital. The company had put up proposals for consideration which are being studied in London. He added "We shall try to find sound ways of ensuring an adequate supply of electrical current".

Constitution.

He ended his interview with a number of references to the great Lennox Boyd's palliative about receiving a delegation to discuss constitutional matters, and added enthusiastically "now we are really back on the road to self-government for which I have been working and this is another case where detailed preparatory work is necessary before we can go further". But he warned, however, that before receiving a delegation the Secretary of State for the Colonies wants the people of British Guiana to work out locally for themselves the precise details of a constitution which they think will suit the present circumstances of their country.

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Marshall Report

Local Government Row

VILLAGE fathers, representing some 94 Local Authorities in British Guiana, met in angry conclave last October to voice vigorous disapproval of the new government plans for sweeping re-organisation of Local Government. With re-organisation designed on a highly technical basis for greater efficiency, the spectre of racialism reared its ugly head so high, that the monstrous ogre scared the ragged pants off the seats of smug conservative village fathers bitterly resisting the change.

First thing that worried them all, was the watering down of the

used in villages since emancipation days, with the new over-populated government-sponsored Indian land settlements and fast developing sugar estates extra nuclear villages.

These extra-nuclear settlements, constructed on free lands given up by sugar estates, are being built from Sugar Welfare funds loaned interest-free to sugar workers (mostly Indians). Although badly designed by untechnical sugar estate managers, they will later bound to yield high land values as soon as roads and water services are installed, thus putting to great disadvantages African communities developed in delapidated villages with their low valuation.

Wismar District Councils across the river, created considerable trepidation among big business circles. Hence, when Minister of Community Development and Local Government, Brindley Benn tabled his White paper on Government's proposal for implementation of the Marshall Plan, the controversy took on a three-cornered contest, with Government, village chairmen and vested interests slugging away at each other, on the question of details.

REACTION

EVER since 1953 when the Jagan party, then a closelyknit bi-racial political party, was swept into power, with a truly red-blooded communist programme for British



British Guiana's Village fathers in committee protesting Local Government reforms. At table is chairman (PPP) Gladstone Wilson and Secretary (PNC) Sydney King.

94 Local Authorities into a paltry sixteen larger administrative units, each run by an all-elected 24-seat council, with greater responsibilities, to be handled by a trained high-level administrative personnel. Next, the Minister of Local Government who would be responsible for the whole show, was being given the sole right to fix ward boundaries which gave him scope for gerrymandering elections for his party's interest. Worst of all, the new move would combine the dwindling African communities, organ-

These old-time African-dominated villages constituted the bulk of the 94 Village Authorities.

On the other hand, the spectre of large sugar estates with their paternal working populations and expensive drainage systems, being combined with villages under an all-elected administration run mostly by peasant farmers, and the well organised mining settlement of Mackenzie on the Demerara River, combining with and controlled by Christianburg-

Guiana, among the plans for 'socialising B.G. was one to introduce Universal Adult Suffrage into all the 94 Village and Country Authorities with of course, a party cell complete with an arm of the 'People's Police' controlling each Council. Like a gale of wind as soon as they took office, PPP sought to implement the scheme.

In those days Indian idol Dr. Jagan, and African idol, Forbes Burnham sounded the same tune. While Jainarine Singh as party Minister of

Local Government enunciated party programme, Minister of Communications, Sydney King, also village chairman, became the driving force behind the UAS scheme. There was then no spectre of racialism. Said Minister King addressing one Village Chairman's Conference in those days. "I am not here to force Universal Adult Suffrage down your throats but to ask you as reasonable men to consider it": Amidst a rain of boos and noos, he made the good point that UAS released in some villages a good deal of latent leadership talent that would otherwise have been kept out. He cited his own case where there was a make shift arrangement of his mother's village property in order to give him the necessary qualifications for village elections, and inside one year he was Minister of the Government. Nevertheless, his speech set off a revolution against UAS in villages.

Equally, like a hurricane, came resistance from all villages from Charity on the Essequibo coast to Crabwood Creek on the Corentyne. In those days village fathers, led by Methodist preacher Rev. Douglas Bobb, contended that at all times those who bore the greatest portion of the rates (i.e. property-owners) must at all times carry the burden of the Administration. And that introduction of UAS would automatically flood Councils with irresponsible people who had nothing to lose.

SOON after constitution suspension that year, the British Government realising something was radically wrong sent down to B.G. a Local Government expert, Dr. Marshall, Treasurer of Coventry City Council. First thing that Dr. Marshall discovered was the odd multiplicity of Local Government in so small a population. Some had Village Authority status with partly elected and partly nominated councils. Others, as Country Authorities were wholly nominated. Their responsibility hardly exceeded need for keeping trenches clean and collecting rates on the lowest valuation. They were all responsible to a snooty Civil Servant Commissioner of Local Government, usually with a staff of city-bred youngsters out of high school and out of touch with rural affairs, but who had to approve any expenditure above \$100. Moreover,

sugar estates with their extensive cultivations and resident workers were like ancient baronial estates, while some private land owners nearby had large estates that owed allegiance to no one.

Urban Areas

In Georgetown Urban area, while the Council was elected by rate-payers and tenants with \$10 per month voter qualification, the Council itself elected its Mayor. In May 1955 Dr. Marshall made his great recommendations to the Interim Government. Specifically they included "A single tier system of Local Government" and that "The whole of the

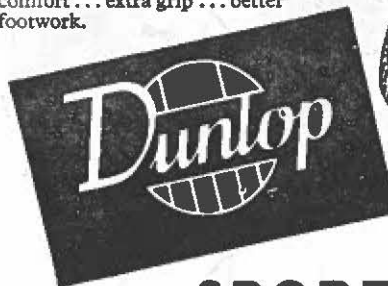
coastlands including unorganised areas and sugar estates should be parcelled out into not more than 18 Authorities to be called "Rural District Councils"; that "Wismar-Christianburg-Mackenzie area (sprawled on both sides of the upper Demerara River) should be under one Authority", that "Bartica and Morawhanna should be retained as Local Authorities" that "Elections of these Rural District Councils should be based on UAS", and that the Chairman of these Authorities should be elected by the Councils from among themselves.

So sweeping were the recommendations that Sugar Producers' Associa-

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B.G. AFFAIRS

tion at once brought down their own expert on Local Government. Sir Harwood Roberts, to report on the 'Implications of the Marshall Report'. While Demba began accelerating plans for development programme of the Mackenzie area, to fit into what appeared to be inevitable. But they all reasoned that by the time the scheme is implemented many of their Company Directors will have been long dead or gone into retirement.

Reaction

But soon after, the British Government dispatched brilliant, energetic, Dr. L. C. Hill with two assistants Corney and Waddle with Local District Commissioner J. Sholto Douglas to implement the Marshall Plan. First he declared that the Marshall Plan could only be implemented in stages. Then he took the urban approach to the situation. His point was that many of the little Authorities, in the combining process, could move a step further towards township. He envisaged B.G. with at least five towns. Skeldon, Port Mourant, New Amsterdam, Georgetown and Mackenzie.

With Skeldon on the Corentyne river a possible Berbice port, he figured for example, that the area on the Corentyne coast between No. 71 village and Crabwood Creek, taking in Skeldon port facilities, could be centralised under an Urban Authority and be given urban status. And with its proximity to Dutch Guiana, before long will become an international river port.

In New Amsterdam area, no one could tell the exact boundary line of the town proper. The same type of houses existed past the Canje Bridge. But the hint of urbanisation gave energetic New Amsterdam Town Clerk Duncan Dow his cue. At once he made plans for expanding his water and electrical services for such time as Canje and the rest of the area become urbanised under one authority.

DR. L. C. HILL

IN GEORGETOWN itself, expanding at an enormous rate, by flow of rural population into city, a total of 193,000 people in Georgetown pro-

per and the suburbs were organised under one big and about 10 Local Authorities and estates. His point was that the greater the urbanisation, the greater the demand for electrical, water and other services, the more the combined taxpayer and the greater efficiency towards progress.

But before long little village and suburban Authorities were swarming out on Dr. Hill like hornets from a nest. Soon he packed up his hearing-aid equipment and chucked in his thankless job and departed from B.G.

Meanwhile the elections under the Renison Constitution swept back into power the Jagan Indianised wing of the now split P.P.P., based on the Indian rural population. Since the Jaganites were dedicated to a temporary programme of co-operating with the 'Imperialists', their new approach to Local Government re-organisation was cautious. Then at the first session of the new Council, new Minister of Community Development Brindley Benn 'By command of His Excellency the Governor' tabled the Government's proposal for the re-organisation of Local Government based on the Marshall Report and

suspended Municipal Elections for this year in preparation for implementation.

Promptly the rural councils blew up in disgust. Focal point of the abuse came on majority leader Dr. Jagan as a move to Indianise the Councils. Some contended that the combination of New Amsterdam with surrounding districts of Cumberland, Sheet Anchor and such suburbs, was a move to put all-African New Amsterdam under his control via East Indian dominated districts, in order to wipe out all anti-Jagan resistance in the area. And that this area was being gerymandered for Minister Benn in the next elections. Oddly enough, all the rural suburbs rejected the new proposals on the grounds that joining up with New Amsterdam meant increased taxes and rates.

GEORGETOWN

THE incorporation of the Georgetown suburbs in the Greater Georgetown Planning area met with even greater resistance from the suburbs. At the 42nd quarterly meeting of the Union of Local Authorities held in Plaisance, presided over by rugged C. P. Melbourne, M.B.E., Vil-



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lage Fathers spewed out all on their minds. They took care, however, to centre their criticisms not on the race issue, but on the age old theme that it was unfair to people who paid rates and taxes in villages, to compete with those who did not on the same basis for elections. Therefore UAS was wrong. Said Chairman Melbourne, "The Union and Villages are faced with a terrible issue". He observed that the report made no reference to the B.G. Village Chairmen's Conference or the Union (of Local Authority) which had been doing such splendid work for all these years.

Suggested Conference Secretary S. A. Shultz "UAS should be introduced, provided the Central Government which collects tax from everybody, contribute 50 per cent, to the running cost of any district".

Suburban Kitty—Alexander Village Overseer Ulric Ince, declared that an extended franchise was a thing for which generations had fought, but he observed the proposals in the White Paper about UAS in villages were evasive, particularly with regards to grants to Local Authorities. "It seems to me" said he, "the grants would be made at Government's

decided it wasn't his baby. After all, the inhabitants were clamouring for right to look after their own affairs. That's why they had elected ministers. He suggested they form a committee and discuss matters with Minister Benn. But Minister Benn was having a hot time. He had just finished the Federation debate—demanding plebiscite decision, when he had all of it thrown back at him. In Berbice area where he went to feel out the villagers, he found village fathers from outlying districts near New Amsterdam bitter about joining up with N/A. Bellowed one "Talking about plebiscite for federation. Why



11-man Village Chairmen's delegation to Minister Local Government, Brindley Benn with memorandum protesting Marshall report recommendations for universal adult suffrage and single tier system of government. Said Minister Benn "We aren't budging an inch..."

(Evening Post Photo)

WHAT was more irksome, under UAS, a rate-paying councillor could be disqualified if his rates were in arrears. This meant that non-rate-paying councillors always had the edge on those who contributed to village up-keep. Said elderly ex-Village chairman H. L. Palmer, "We should accept adult suffrage, but with a head tax on all non-rate paying councillors".

Last Quarter, 1958.

choice". Victoria Village's Ralph Moore added he was against the whole proposals altogether. While school teacher L. D. Ainsworth remarked "If the villages should accept the particular proposal (UAS) I am of the opinion they are heading for trouble".

At length they decided to carry a high powered delegation to Governor Renison. But His Excellency shrewdly

don't you put this matter (of joining up with N/A) to a plebiscite and see the result. We Don't want to join up with bankrupt town like New Amsterdam".

Finally, they formed the committee suggested by H.E., chaired by PPPite schoolmaster Gladstone Wilson and secretaried by PNC Sydney King and met at St. Andrews School hall to draft up a memorandum to the Minister.

Dr. Jagan's Shadow

IS Dr. Jagan still under the thumb of International Communist Movement? Is the great capitalistic approach by the marxist-lined People's Progressive Party now running the Government, a sign of reform? Are the plans for a one-party controlled "People's democracy of great Guiana", so rudely interrupted by the 1953 suspension, still being actively pursued by organising genius secretary Janet Jagan? Will financial help to British Guiana operating on its own with a self-governing constitution clamouring for independence, help to cement communist control of the country for operations to Latin America? These are some of the big questions before the Anglo-American high level reformers, concerning the little tiny out-post of British Guiana on the South American mainland. Here the elected P.P.P. Government, desperately in need of financial help to solve great economic problems, has resolutely decided against dovetailing its economy with the growing W.I. Federation in order to get blanket international help.

Early this year when Dr. Jagan announced that he was going to tour the world's capitals seeking money to help his "down trodden" followers or resign from the government, he was acting under direct orders from the Communist hierarchy in Britain. He had intended making the tour alone to consult in highlevel talks with Red bosses in London and elsewhere. But a volcano began to erupt in the ranks of his own party and sparked by rising dynamic slightly-stooped broad-shouldered, ambitious Edward Beharry, member for Natural Resources.

Minister Beharry had nothing actively to do with the 1953 P.P.P. radicals with the famous bi-racial combination of Jagan and Burnham. In a revolutionary campaign. But he became a staunch admirer of Dr. Jagan after his brilliantly planned and executed prison term in 1954. Dr. Jagan's 1954 prison term so expertly engineered for propaganda purposes, had won for him considerable admiration not only from the fast multiplying East Indian population with growing voting strength but, from African admirers in the West

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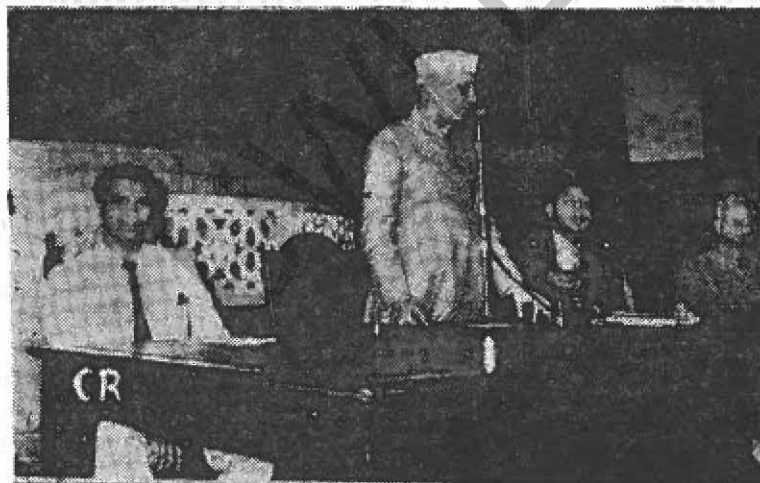
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PHONE : C. 664

Indies. And when the P.P.P. split came along on racial lines it left Barrister Burnham only idol for the slowing being out-vamped and confused African masses out on a limb. It was Burnham's brilliant mob oratory rather than Jagan's lefticism that sparked the party's success in 1953 power climb and catapulted Dr. Jagan into top position for focusing of international attention. Since family pressure and sentimental opinion had prevented both Burnham and Ashton Chase from going to prison in 1954 like Cheddi and Janet Jagan, they suffered an immense drop in popularity and political prestige.

HIGH LEVEL STRATEGY

THE party split along racial lines was a source of profound regret to communist hierarchy abroad who have no proper formula for dealing with race problems. On the other hand it fitted nicely into Indian official plans. Since Jagan became the veritable idol of the multiplying Indian fold, he became of special interest to the Indian Commissioner in Trinidad and through him to Premier Pandit Nehru in India. The latter had directed Indian Commissioner Dr. Rajkumari in Trinidad to give Jagan every ounce of moral advice and help needed, and reportedly to wean him away from Federation.



Pandit Nehru with Dr. Jagan and Barrister Burnham in 1953

India's role in international politics is perhaps the most intriguing ever invented in the World's history:—doing everything possible to irritate the West to protect themselves from the Reds, but depending on the West for any material help needed. They snubbed U.S. Secretary of State, Dulles when he landed in India

a few years ago, but when their socialist-inspired five-year programme broke down they were quick to seek U.S. financial aid to save them from economic chaos.

There is nothing therefore to prevent the interpretation of their interest in British controlled Indian populated territories, in terms of their own national problem of overpopulation. An Indian-controlled British Guiana with its empty land space and strong Indian bias, is an ideal dumping ground for excess Indians not only from Mother India but from overpopulated places like Mauritius. Hence Dr. Jagan is of great interest to both the Indian Foreign Office, as well as the Soviet Foreign Office whose aim is one day to make a socialist independent "Indian controlled" Guiana the base of operations to Latin America.

Minister Beharry

AS one Indian to another, Edward Beharry became a staunch admirer of Dr. Jagan partly for his self-engineered martyrdom and partly because he considered the authorities unfair to depose him, and later imprison him. In consequence he contributed a sizable portion of his surplus cash to help the Jaganites in their great "struggle" after Jagan's prison

any religion. Nevertheless, when election came along last year in gratitude for his support the Jagans gave him a high office in the party's executive and persuaded him to stand for election on the party's ticket. But when he discovered the communist intrigue in the party circles he was amazed. At the same time who won't want a ride on a popular bandwagon to be Minister of the government?

In his political campaign his pioneering speeches were perhaps the soundest and most realistic of all the politicians, left and right, who faced the electorate. He knew the World Bank report on British Guiana almost by heart and made their findings the principal theme of his campaign speeches. Often contrary to the anti-British, anti-Imperialist, pro-Soviet doctrinaire propaganda talk of his chief Jagan, and impassioned demands by rival Burnham for "absolute Independence", his speeches rang out in the night air over the mike like an economic expert.

After elections with his sweeping victory, the Jagans picked him for the key portfolio of Natural Resources. This portfolio, under the title of forests, lands and mines, was held by Dr. Jagan himself in the 1953 P.P.P. government, with considerable power under the Waddington Constitution. As such Jagan was dedicated to squeezing the American and British interests—notably Bauxite and Bookers sugar estates—out of the country creating a revolution with unemployed and calling for independence. After which they would convert sugar estates into collectivist farms, with technicians from "socialist" countries helping workers.

IN this existing "Renison" constitution, which came into being with last year's election, Edward Beharry as Minister of Natural Resources, became obsessed with one thing:—the age old belief of British Guiana's "vast potentialities". All previous Governments had failed to tap same. Well, why can't this Government be the first? Unlike the Jagan 1953 plan to keep out and squeeze out foreign capitalists, Beharry's natural approach was to encourage them. And his first big move was to make big capital of the granting of application for \$16,000,000 wood-pulp scheme in the Bartica district, proposed by American capitalists (Columbian Corporation). His other alternative was to borrow money from Britain for Government itself to bust open the country. And to this end he made a quick dash to the Rupununi district. His next pet idea was Government's ac-

B.G. AFFAIRS

quisition of land not gainfully employed, and redistribution on a freehold basis to the land-hungry. This was contrary to Jagan's idea of leasehold land to farmers in order to maintain a grip on tenants by the ruling party.

Back in Government as the country's political boss with restricted but effective powers, Dr. Jagan had instructions from the comrades up aloft to work along with the 'Imperialist' bosses in order to win confidence and get self-government with maximum speed. Thus, as a one-time profound critic of the Savage D-programme before elections, he now found himself stringing along with Governor Renison on a substantial part. But they ran into the first snag. All funds secured by previous Governor Savage in 1954 after suspension had run out. There was no way or means of introducing even a crash programme to keep his badals hypnotised with the belief that only Cheddi Jagan could save the country from ruin.

MINISTER JAGAN

LIKE a true Marxist, therefore, Cheddi resorted to the most deadly and effective weapon of any Communist—propaganda. His first big move was to neutralise his ideological enemies the capitalists, by the simple expedient in organising all the big businessmen (both local and foreign) into a much-vaunted Industrial Development Advisory Committee to his ministry, to put up recommendations, (like tourism, etc.) he had no intention or means of carry-out. Next, was to launch a mighty campaign in the districts demanding that the British Government must give him money as well as independence to develop the country, or else he'd resign and precipitate a political crisis to embarrass them.

The British took him so seriously, that to forestall him on another propaganda tour, not unlike his 1953-54 India trip, they issued soon after Princess Margaret's visit, an invitation to B.G. Government to send a delegation up to London for money talks. Such a delegation could not exclude party leader Jagan.

At the same time Minister Beharry, working through the Government Information Services and Ministerial handouts to pressmen, flooded the Press with reports beginning with "I have decided to do....." or "I am now exploring the possibilities of", rather than as chief Jagan would have liked it or was being

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done by other ministers—"The Government has decided to....." or "the P.P.P. is making every effort to....."

It got so bad, that one day when the Press headlined "Beharry's Hopes" in respect to development plans for Rupununi, Minister Benn at once picked up the phone and called Janet. "Have you seen Beharry's hopes?" he cracked. "Wonder how he is going to do these things. Ha... ha....." Soon again Janet called a ministerial confab and slated Beharry for his anti-party line. But Beharry exploded on them "You all can put me out of the party if you like".

Then one day the Press carried the report, "Mr. Beharry will accompany Dr. Jagan on his money mission". Cheddi was furious. "Where did that report come from?" he demanded, when Pressmen quizzed him on the matter. Then he added "No decision has been taken that Mr. Beharry will accompany me". At once it precipitated another big party row. The row reached the Executive Council with Governor Renison presiding. Although head of the Government, Sir Pat was still technically Prime Minister with the right to choose his officials as he felt like doing. Thereat, he decided on the composition of the delegation. Minister of Natural Resources Edward Beharry will accompany Dr. Jagan to London, while he as Governor, will head the delegation, and pick up Financial Secretary Francis Essex, then on leave in England, and together they'd form one big Guiana family party to discuss money with Lennox Boyd and his financial experts.

PARTY CAUCUS

BUT later in party caucus, Chairman Brindley Benn took off on Chief Jagan for allowing Beharry and not him to go. "How would it look" contended Brindley, "for two Indians to represent the country of several races, in a London delegation"?

But Dr. Jagan had no choice in the matter. The Governor had ruled it to be so.

PROPAGANDA TOUR

JUNE 17, the day Ministers Jagan and Beharry pulled out of B.G., the great Jagan propaganda machine went into high gear. Cheddi climbed aboard the Air France "Tropical Islander" with a book entitled "Must men starve"? He had quoted it ad lib on capitalist-run Guiana. Graphic reporter, declaring he would demand \$200,000,000 for B.G. At Piarco airfield he told Pressmen that he would use \$200,000,000 to provide

agricultural credits for farmers, and to take care of the vast unemployment, and that he would stop off at Puerto Rico and get an idea of industrialisation methods and apply same to B.G.

But Trinidad Pressmen were more interested in how and when he would get B.G. into the Federation. In reply he spilled the same familiar line that not unless and until West Indies get Dominion status with internal self-Government for units and internal self-government for B.G., will any decision be made, and that by plebiscite. It was known that during his Trinidad visit last April, as Federation guest at the inauguration ceremonies, he discussed with the late Quintin O'Connor and John La Rose, plans for resurrecting the now defunct pro-communist West Indian Independence Party, to get in stride in time for future elections, when P.P.P. will make affiliations in order to get into Federation on a Socialist ticket.

But his friends in the D.L.P., like Badase Maraj and Asford Sinnanan, had been trying to coax him to join up with them now, and overthrow Grantley Adams and his crowd. In a prodigious move to please him, D.L.P., soon after he left, introduced a resolution in the Federal House of Representatives calling upon the West Indies to give support to constitutional advances for British Guiana, which would put it in a position not inferior to that of Singapore. But smartly enough, Sir Grantley headed it off with a kind of nebulous amendment.

London Rows

FROM the moment Dr. Jagan and Edward Beharry arrived in London, the difference in concept of the two became apparent with head on clashes. Minister Beharry's one obsession was to find funds. Dr. Jagan's one obsession was to find anti-British propaganda. The day before, Governor Sir Patrick Renison had deplaned at London airport and explained British Guiana's financial position. When the P.P.P. pair arrived by the Sunday plane, apart from the usual press and official receptionists the Red-sponsored Guianese Freedom movement boys with Buxton born Johnny James, Rolly Simms and others of the W. I. Committee of the Communist party were there to give a real royal red welcome.

Cheddi was in his element spewing the familiar line about poverty in British Guiana and demanding

Imperialist money for him to clean up their mess, or else he'd go home and resign.

Later that day, at a West End hotel where they were installed they had lunch in one room with Labour Party secretary John Hatch, discussing plans for the Opposition to harrass the Conservative government about B.G.; while in another room of the same hotel sat Governor Renison and Financial Secretary Francis Essex, discussing the issues to be put before the Colonial Office experts regarding financing of B.G. development programme.

It was while waiting for the big sessions with the experts to begin, that Cheddi learnt from his Red friends that famed Commie sympathiser Paul Robeson was arriving from the United States in London on his way to Moscow. Cheddi literally dropped everything he was doing and hotfooted it down to be on the red reception committee at London airport to receive Paul. It was a great show.

STORY OF SWISS LOAN

Later he and Paul were seated on a park bench discussing plans how to raise money or Jagan's propaganda sheet Thunder at home, and was sending messages to comrade-in-chief Nikita Khrushchev. At the same time however, a Polish Doctor they had met introduced Edward Beharry to a young Anglo-Indian financial agent Americk Sandhu. Sandhu became so impressed with Beharry and his eagerness to find money for development programme at home that he offered to negotiate a £10 million loan from a Swiss Banking Corporation.

Americk Sandhu explained that all that was needed was that the B.G. Government, perhaps through the entire delegation, give an undertaking that there would be no future nationalisation of their investments. In the absence of such an undertaking, the British Government will have to guarantee the loan. But when the matter was put to Dr Jagan later, he refused to give any undertaking, and insisted the British Government must guarantee the loans. This brought the first ding-dong row between himself and his colleague Beharry. Nevertheless, Dr. Jagan reasoned that with a Swiss loan there could be no control on the spending as was the case with a British loan, and decided to raise the issue at the financial talks.

Thus when the Treasury experts began the talks under colsec. Lennox Boyd he put the suggestion of British guarantee of the loan of £10,000,000.

B.G. AFFAIRS

FIRST thing Colsec. Lennox Boyd wanted to know was whether the colony's economy could withstand an annual interest rate of some \$2½ million on such a loan. If and when B.G. gets the independence they were demanding, in its present position, who should carry such a baby? They declared they would prefer to lend their own Treasury money, rather than guarantee a loan for other people to profit on. They would of course, guarantee loans from the World Bank in which they had a considerable stake, or other organizations that examined projects first, then lent after. But what Dr. Jagan wanted was the mere refusal to make good propaganda.

go behind the iron curtain to get the money. This opened the breach wider between he and his colleague Beharry with financier Sandhu sometimes playing the role of peace-maker.

PROFESSOR MAHALANOBIS

THEN some high level bigwigs at India House introduced them to Professor Mahalanobis, President of the Indian Council of Sciences. As a key figure in the India five-year development programme (based on Soviet socialistic principles and financed by the West) the professor had his leftist leanings, and perhaps out of courtesy, he hinted he'd like to come to B.G. and advise the Jagan Gov-

later forbade the professor's departure).

In New York, while Edward Beharry went to work on the World Bank officials and other American money agencies recommended by the Colonial Office, Cheddi took time off to hobnob with members of the Afro-Asian delegations at the U.N., and sought to have them bring up the B.G. issue before the Assembly like the Cyprus question. When they left New York for home, they were loaded with big promises, usually accorded all 'help seeking' visitors to the U.S.A., and huge stacks of fine suits bought cheaply in capitalist country from off the pegs.

In Trinidad where they overnighted, Dr. Jagan realised the real big



Industrialist Sandhu and Minister Beharry ...

"... \$15 million Nuclear electricity plant for B.G."

Although the Treasury agreed to grant £5.5 million to finish off the D-programme and to discuss more finance at a later stage, at his various red sponsored lecture tours, Jagan pounded on the mere refusal to guarantee the Swiss loan, and in a radio and television interview took time to warn that he would

ernment on socialist economic planning. That proved another excellent propaganda theme. The idea of a top flight Indian Professor who planned the five-year programme for Mother India coming to do the same for little Guiana, heading for self-government, was an impressive whopper for all Guianese of Indian descent. (Nehru

promises of economic aid from Britain, America, and Canada went to the new Federation. So he dropped the hint to news men, that he planned calling "a conference of West Indian leaders of all parties, to work out a common programme into which the West Indies and British Guiana could be integrated". Exclaimed one

Trinidad politician. "Jagan wants to share profits of Federation without making any investment in the deal."

HOME COMING

BACK home, the Party organised with characteristic efficiency the familiar 'welcome parade'. Special buses and cars chartered by the Party collected cell-leaders from the rural areas and went around town offering free excursion to the Base for all who wanted to see 'Comrade Leader'. And on August 6, when the Pan American flight swept into Atkinson Field with the two missionaries, the welcome party with placards and garlands, etc. touched off the new home theme of the propaganda tour. Said the placards, "\$26,000.00 not enough". "We want Independence."

Climax of the bizarre welcome was the great speech outside the Albouystown market. Opening the session Minister Beharry declared it was only the party's militancy that secured such a loan. Then on came the inimitable Doctor before the mike. After flaying daylight out of Lennox Boyd for only giving the paltry \$26 million, he flaunted all the big promises made to him—an increase in the Farm labour to U.S. (which he and his party vigorously opposed in 1951) food supply from the U.S. surplus, on-the-spot advice of a great Indian Professor. All he needed was the cooperation from all parties to pull the country out of the great economic crisis it was now in.

A few days later he stood like a veteran batsman at a press conference, before a withering attack of questionnaires. After releasing the statement about Professor Mahalanobis, he revealed that both America and Czechoslovakia had promised to help B.G. in the form of ready made factories, as they had done in Puerto Rico and Cuba. They would look into the matter of planned immigration from Mauritius and Puerto Rico. Then he made the announcement that the country was facing a grim economic crisis, and asked all political parties to join him in a coalition government. He ended by saying that he wanted a Constitution for B.G. like Ghana (all-elected one House). Said he, "What's good enough for Ghana is good enough for us."

REACTION

REACTON from all sources the next week was swift. All parties except Jainarine Singh's party rejected any talk about coalition. Inside party revolution started. Minister Benn and the rest of them wanted to know what would happen to their sweet living, while Minister Beharry in a counter speech at Enmore railway line, dramatically contradicted his chief by declaring he could see no economic crisis facing the country. That nearly spelled doom for him in the party.

At a special party Exco. meeting, the heat turned from leader Cheddi and his resignation talk to Beharry for his anti-party line. They called Beharry all sorts of names like 'upstart', and decided to boycott all his public meetings. At one planned Cane Grove rally for him, Barristers Rai and Red Miles Fitzpatrick picked to be on the speaking team, boycotted him and went instead to Mahaica where Cheddi was having a rough time with heckling and brickbats.

The crisis was brewing so high in the party, that Secretary Janet called a special party Exco. On the agenda was a motion to expel Minister Beharry. But Beharry heard all about it, and before they could reach the motion he rose and moved a special resolution praising the leadership of Comrade leader Jagan, and flabbergasted him with so much praise that they withdrew the motion, and decided to live once more like a happy family.

A few weeks later Beharry, still obsessed with economic plans, dropped an invitation to Americk Sandhu in London, to come down to B.G. and see things himself. But when he showed the Jagans the letter that Sandhu was on his way to B.G. they became furious. They had no more use for him or any capitalist funds, and Beharry had no right to bring him down. They declared they were going off to the Rupununi and won't be around to meet him.

Minister Beharry had to make Sandhu his personal guest and when the Jagans returned from their Rupununi tour early November they had a special meeting again slating Beharry for acting against party orders and gave the visitor such a cold shouldering (with a few casual

courtesy meetings) that despite Sandhu's talk about securing "\$15 million Nuclear electricity plant", both he and Beharry were in the doghouse when he left B.G. December 4.

Constitution Committee

IN the meantime another big crisis was blowing up. In the Legco the Party had twisted an opposition motion by Burnham about immediate joining of federation, to the party line one of postponing federation until achievement of dominion status and internal self-government. Soon after Col. Sec. Lennox-Boyd dispatched a memorandum to Governor Sir Patrick Renison calling upon him to set up a Committee "to recommend what form constitutional advances from the present interim arrangements should take." Thereafter he would be willing to receive a representative delegation to discuss the recommendations. He further expressed the hope that "The committee will begin by inviting representations from the public and thereafter will consider revision of the constitution point by point."

When all parties and other organisations were keyed up to have at least equitable representation on the Committee, Governor Renison in a move to bend right over backwards to the P.P.P. at once appointed the entire P.P.P. dominated Legislature to be the COMMITTEE with the three Officials as 'advisers' without a vote, and Speaker Sir Donald Jackson as Chairman without any vote. Curious thing about the Committee is that it could not be called the Jackson Committee, since the Chairman Sir Donald had no voice, other than to keep order at meetings. With nine elected P.P.P. men holding block votes five other elected men representing four other parties in a scattered opposition, with nominated holding separate view points, no one quite knew who was the boss of the committee other than Jagan.

Crisis began at the first session when using their block votes P.P.P. boys decided they wanted no public memorandum, but they would prepare their own memorandum for constitutional reform for the Col. Sec. and merely demand immediate self government. If Lennox Boyd refuses, that would be good propaganda against him. If he accepts, then the credit goes their way. By December five members announced they would resign from the farcical committee.

Farley on Unionism

THE news swept like wild fire through B.G. Uniondom. Barrister-at-law Linden Forbes Sampson Burnham, top ranking intellectual trade unionist and leader of opposition People's National Congress was defeated at election for post of vice-president, in the B.G. Labour Union where he was always president by waterfront worker Samuel Walker. Although rival Dr. Jagan missed the same fate a few years ago in the Sawmill Workers' Union when he resigned as president in time, his Thunder crowed in extreme jubilation "It means Mr. Burnham is automatically out of the TUC also."

While the backward-bending capitalist Guiana Graphic pontifically remarked "(it is) yet another sign that Trade Union movement in British Guiana is growing up;" It contended "the best guarantee for workers that neither their unions nor they can be used by other people, is when workers' organisations are officered by workers."

But from the pen of B.G. born U.C.W.I. staff-tutor in industrial relations Dr. Rawle Farley, there was a lot to say in his latest book "the Caribbean Trade Unionist". Farley discusses the intellectual's place in the Trade Union Movement and shows how in the long history of the movement the intellectuals have helped it along.

But wouldn't it be true to say that unionism is the creature of intellectuals? Wasn't William Morris an intellectual and weren't the Webbs? Though this may be a debatable point we can settle down to examining what Farley says about the test for the Intellectual's entry into the unions.

THE INTELLECTUAL

SAID he "the test for both the intellectual and the working man aspiring to union office must be the same. Is he eligible, according to union rules for election? Is he honest? Is he intelligent? Is he likely to work sincerely with the others for the good of the union? and so on. This seems to be a commonsense

approach to the matter. Commonsense, too would suggest that there be no valid objections to the intellectuals serving as civil servants of the union —if they can be attracted by the terms the union can offer."

Farley has made a number of challenging statements, which may stimulate discussion wherever his little green book is read. He discusses the attitude of management towards unions and the intellectual's place in the unions. With the optimistic blandness of the academician living his sheltered life in the University class room, Farley has taken much for granted. How much is seen when he says that wise management today welcomes a high degree of unionisation and actually encourages the workers to join unions."

How much is there of wise management, particularly in B.G. Of course, to say that wise management welcomes strong trade unions, could mean that if management were wise it would welcome strong unions; or it might mean that when management gets wise it will welcome strong unions. It is a statement open to various constructions. But it does not mean that all management are wise and therefore welcome strong unions.

WISE MANAGEMENT

THERE is a quantitative difference in the existence of wise management in its attitude towards unions. There is indeed, management in this country who are enlightened and prudent and who welcome strong unions as an integral part of the industrial society.

But there are also unwise management whose attitude towards strong unions is expressed in the many protest strikes which unions undertake for recognition. The Doctor is optimistic in his basic assumptions. But after all, Dr. Farley is an academician; and the difference between an academician's world and a realist's world is the difference between theory and practice. The university theoretician become disillusioned when he is face to face with hard facts of industrial society.

The practising unionist will tell Dr. Farley that the battle for recog-

nition is hard, that the academicians notion of bargaining is not one where management is wise and co-operative but conflicts with the ordinary unionist's who for the first time in his life, may find himself face to face with management across the conference table.

The Doctor says "The reasons for the changing attitude are quite simple. Management has learnt its lesson. The Trade Union movement is inevitable.....History shows this. Why waste time to oppose an inevitable development?" Why waste time indeed? Why did Canute waste time? For precisely the same reason many employers are wasting time. The Doctor's book shows haste both in construction and conclusions, but his advisory writing grows out of his knowledge of industrial relations. If that knowledge is oftentimes more academic than practical there is time for maturing and time for acquiring a spaciousness of vision rooted in the realities of industrial cut and thrust.

MOREOVER, if all management were wise enough to welcome unions as an integral part of industrial organisation, would there be much need for the organisational strength of the unions which Dr. Farley stridently urges? The thing seems contradictory.

The author says:

The second observation is that wise management today welcomes a high degree of unionisation and actually encourages workers to join unions. The reasons for this changing attitude are quite simple. Management has learnt its lesson. The trade union movement is inevitable.....management enjoys a dominant authoritative position but it is dependent upon the spontaneous collaboration of the men who work below. Management cannot get its results except through the people. Management sees the wisdom then of having good relations with the trade union and making the trade union part of the communications structure of the firm. This is commonsense....."

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Delightful Rogue

WHEN the tall, slim, aristocratic, scholarly-looking, bespectacled young Hindu entered the small tailor shop in Lombard Street, Georgetown, one morning in March last, he had every air of a foreigner. Tailor shop proprietor lifted his head from his running sewing machine, and surveyed him with interest. "I'm Dr. Prakash — Dr. Krishna Jai Prakash" said the stranger introducing himself in characteristic foreign accent of any Indian from India. "I arrived from Calcutta only yesterday to take up an appointment at the Public Hospital".

The very idea of meeting a stranger and the Doctor from India, speedily switched on an electric current of emotion in the tailor. His face lighted up with pleasure and he rose quickly from his machine to shake hands.

"Glad to meet you Dr. Prakash. I'm Gobin Singh", said he, "and this is my humble little tailor shop here. Can I do anything to help you?"

"Well", said the Doctor in his foreign accent, "I'm just trying to know your country". They chatted briefly about places and things and people in British Guiana, and how the country compared with Mother India. The Doctor wanted to know about the various Indian organisations in town and country and how he could lecture to some of them on Indian culture, etc. When he took his departure, Gobin felt a bond of friendship springing up between his native B.G. and his ancestral home in India.

NEXT day Gobin was again pleased to see Dr. Krishna Jai Prakash appear at his tailor shop, rather early that morning. Once again he dropped his half-finished garment to give the Doctor his undivided attention, for sure enough, he was in need of help. He displayed what appeared to be a bank draft for \$6,000 and explained he had difficulty in getting it cashed until word came from Calcutta. In the meantime he was a bit short of ready cash. "And I have some things" said he "in the Customs, and they're calling upon me to pay \$35, which I haven't got. Can you loan me a small sum until I get things fixed up".

"Sure", said Gobin in all eagerness to serve, and before long he produced a few ten and five dollar bills and passed them over to the Doctor in exchange for profuse thanks.

A few days later, the same tall Indian stranger entered the editorial office of the "Daily Chronicle" newspaper. "My name is Prakash", said he, "Krishna Jai Prakash, I'm staying at the Park Hotel, and I want to have a talk with the Editor." Just then, freelance reporter Trenton Paul on the verge of going out on his news hunt, found a ready-made story in the tall stranger, and promptly took him over. He learnt the stranger was from Delhi University and doing research for a thesis. The stranger declared how he had given some lectures at youth centres on the Corentyne, and some philosophical treatise at Enmore Community centre. Then pulling out an official government file with the words 'Queen's College' marked in ink in the margin, the stranger flaunted it before newsman Paul and remarked with professional modesty, "I've been greatly helped by the staff of Queen's College." That clinched the situation.

NEXT day "Daily Chronicle" headlined "Indian scholar doing research for thesis." Said the paragraph "Mr. Krishna Jai Prakash, B.Sc., B.A., arrived in the colony recently from India where he is a research scholar at the Delhi University. He is preparing a thesis on western methods of education for his doctorate.

Mr. Prakash said that the educational system in the colony is rather classical as compared with that of India. He is expected to be in the Colony for the next four months. He has lectured at Enmore community centre and on the Corentyne on

Hindu philosophy and the importance of education.

Mr. Prakash said that he is grateful for the assistance given by the Principal and staff of the Queen's College. Mr. Prakash is a guest of the Park Hotel".

This was the biggest build-up. That day armed with a copy of the Daily Chronicle he entered Central Garage on High Street, where he began a good look over at the various auto models, first the Opel, then a beautiful Velox. Soon he was attracting attention of an energetic garage agent sensing a new client. At once he introduced himself as Dr. Prakash and wanted to have a try out of the Opel car.

"Sure" said the agent. "Let's have a spin".

SOON after the busy lunch hour the shiny Opel car appeared outside the humble tailor shop of Gobin Singh in Lombard Street, with a liveried chauffeur. And out popped his friend the Doctor from India.

"I just took this car out. It cost \$5,300, how do you like it?"

"Fine" said Gobin.

"But I got to get out the licence today and I need \$140 loan for the time being. How about it? Can you manage it?"

GOBIN hesitated. But he remembered some friends nearby. He was so impressed that he told Dr. Prakash to hold on a while, he'll be back soon. He skipped across next door to his good friend and explained the need to be hospitable to a stranger from Mother India. In a while he was back with the cash, and stood by to watch the Opel with the liveried chauffeur glide off with

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friendship



Dr. Prakash smiling happily in the rear seat. But it went straight back to the Central Garage, where the Doctor promised to call the next day and make the down payment.

But next day he had found a new friend, Oudit Persaud, at a Kitty Drug Store.

At first he told Drug Store proprietor Persaud that he was a Master at Queen's College, but returned next day and announced that he wasn't really a Q.C. Master, but a Doctor attached to the Public Hospital, and he wanted to buy out the entire stock of drugs in Persaud's store.

Persaud was elated. But the Doctor started off with a demand for about \$30 in credit of drugs until he got things started.

In Persaud's home the Doctor talked so glibly about Hindu religion and philosophy, that Persaud lent him and 'Elementary Trigonometry'. Next two books 'Philosophy and the Quoran' he went into Bookers Sports Department and announced he was from Queen's College. After flaunting Chronicle clipping to Acting Manager, he asked that a Hermes portable type-writer be sent to the College Laboratory, and waited there to collect same.

Meanwhile Gobin Singh became a bit anxious about his \$140 and his \$35, and set out to look for the Doctor. To his surprise he found him installed in a boarding house not far from his tailor shop in Lombard Street.

But the Doctor had seen Gobin coming in, and when he entered the room he had a stethoscope around his neck and was in deep conversation with another man in a strange dialect. At once Gobin became suspicious and before the Doctor could finish what appeared to be a private conversation with a patient, Gobin took his departure. First he went up to the Public Hospital to make enquiries — was a Dr. Prakash there on the medical staff. No there wasn't any.

EXTREMELY disconsolate, Tailor Gobin held himself to the Brickdam Police Station to lodge the report "Ah wuz rabbed."

When Cops cracked down on his Lombard Street rooming house, "Doctor Prakash" was living in the most undoctory surroundings. First they quizzed him on his arrival in British Guiana, then they knifed through his belongings and found a document purported to be from the Ministry of Transport—Great Britain—designed for suckers, it read, "I the undersigned, Commander and Chief Officer for the migration of foreign citizens within the territory of the British Commonwealth of Nations do hereby permit and authorise, the bearer, Shri Khrisna Jai Prakash B.Sc. B.A., Flight Major Co-Pilot from the crew of the All India International Lines, to land on any shore that is ruled and governed by Our Sovereign Lady, Queen Elizabeth II, and further declare that he be subject to the Laws and Ordinances of the said Colony".

The document bore finger prints and a photograph with the interesting description—Place of Birth, Murap Pathi, Benares, India. Caste: Brahmin; Education: University Poone (B.Sc., India) University McGills (B.A., Canada); Flight Training College, Hyderabad. Dialects: Spanish, German, Urgan, Hindustani, Gujrathi, French, Tamil, Bengali, English, Teutonic Accent.

Immigration checks revealed he had landed from a schooner at John Fernandes' wharf that afternoon before he visited Gobin's tailor shop. He told Police his real name was Stanley Latchmansingh.

Said Magistrate Jailal, 'I didn't know that people could be so gullible. The minute they hear you are from India and a Brahmin, they give all. At once he dished out a six-month prison sentence on the bogus 'Doctor', and signed an order for his deportation after serving time.

Last October Prakash came out of Jail with new ideas. A schooner took him to Barbados. On shore he posed as a Professor from Codrington College, just long enough to relieve a few suckers of 'loans' and slipped off to St. Vincent. This time he posed as an Insurance Executive from Trinidad. He sold Insurance so rapidly

that Police began to take an interest. They enquired about his *bona fides* for landing in St. Vincent, and found it was faulty. Then they cabled Trinidad for details. Trinidad Police wanted him for inquiries. At once a St. Vincent Magistrate ordered his deportation and sent him home as a prohibited immigrant with Police escort. At a St. Vincent Jetty, Port-of-Spain a squad of marine Police awaited him. Sure enough he was the Jai Praksah, alias "Kenneth Ramesar," alias "Stanley Lachmansingh" of Chaguanas, Trinidad, who came out of prison in 1955 and had instructions to report regularly to the Police. Since he had failed to report for some time they wanted to see him badly. So they charged him for 'failing to report while under Police supervision, and the "Flight Major" "Co-Pilot", "Linguist", "Scientist", "Research Worker", "Lecturer", "Doctor", "Professor", "Insurance Executive" got another 28 days in the "cooler".

Ritfeld Murder

The Visitors

WHEN the Dutch motor vessel "Willemstaad" docked at Sandbach, Parker's wharf in Port Georgetown on the evening of May 18, 1958, there were scores of intransit passengers for Paramaribo and elsewhere preparing for a sight-seeing tour of Georgetown.

Bright and early next morning, tall, broad shouldered, coloured Physician, Dr. Servirius Sykora Ritfeld, intransit passenger from Holland on his way to Surinam, drew his attractive 25-year-old white wife Albertine to his side, and decided to go ashore and examine places of interest. In high spirits he and Tina boarded a taxi in Water Street with no real programme in mind. But as a medical man, his first interests were in other medical men and medical centres. Thus his natural request to the chauffeur was to drop them off at the Public Hospital. At the hospital gate however, Tina armed with her camera and handbag, told her young husband to go and have his chat with his medical acquaintances while she go sight-seeing and shop

CRIME

ping all by herself. The idea appealed to him. He bid her a fond farewell, told her to care herself and bring back some good snap shots and souvenirs, and before long he was taken in toe by the chief medical supervisor for a tour around the Public Hospital.

LIKE any person in a strange country Mrs. Albertine Marie Henriette Cornelia Ritfeld, a bride of only six weeks, picked her way about town hesitantly. As she walked, she gazed from building to building, and studied the racial composition of every passerby with curious interest—Africans, Indians the sprinkling of Chinese, and the general atmosphere of the place. She wended her way along Middle Street pavement on her way back to shopping centres and reached the Parade ground area, near the Promenade Gardens. Soon the smell and sight of a variety of flowers in the public gardens attracted her. Almost automatically she turned curiously inside the main gate way and moved towards the bandstand. She paused to take in the sight and aroma of the beds of roses, the gardenias, the geraniums, and the like. But so taken up was she picking a sight for a picture, that she hardly noticed a khaki-clad young man approaching from a side-path.

The gardens were a natural loafing-place for bums, not-workers, frustrated people with problems on their minds, etc. They usually sat around in cribs, dozed in the sun, argued in little groups about the latest political news, or just sat and inhaled the aroma of flowers in their bloom. The approaching young man appeared no different from the lot. Of typical Guianese African stock, he was just another one with some problem on his mind, that found his way to the gardens that hour of the morning for some kind of consolation. In unhurried steps he approached, then quivered at the sight of the white woman. He watched her finger, her camera and pause to pick a position; then without the slightest ceremony he moved up to her from behind, grabbed her left shoulder with his left hand and exclaimed in familiar Guianese expression "Wha' appenin Lady". As he spoke his hand ripped out of his pocket a gleaming "Eddie Polo" knife and

before the lady could catch her breath at the rude interruption, he had buried the knife in her neck.

Just at that moment school-boy Lennox-Haynes — evidently playing truant from school, was entering the garden gate in time to see the man grab the woman and ram what was certainly a knife in her neck. For a while he thought he was on the scene of a real robbery with violence act. He saw the man withdraw his knife but make no attempt to seize the dangling handbag. Instead he looked across at him with a self satisfied grin and turned away as if he had just done a good deed for the day. At the same time, the wounded woman completely bewildered, swung around holding her neck. She moved helplessly towards the schoolboy who stood equally dazed. Just then Rural Constable Rupert Prince, wheeling his cycle, entered the gate and saw a strange, excited, bewildered woman stagger forward with blood gushing from her neck. Haynes yelled to him, "a man just stabbed her." The wounded lady approached and held on to Prince's cycle with hardly a word, but appeared eloquently imploring for some help.

For a brief moment, Rural Constable Prince was torn between two duties as Constable to arrest the offender now moving away and his training as a first-aid man, to render assistance to the injured woman. He made a quick dash off to apprehend the man, still brandishing his bloody weapon. But the man broke into a run, towards the Carmichael street gate. Mrs. Ritfeld staggered helplessly out of the Garden gate bleeding through her mouth and neck. With no immediate assistance at hand, she lay down on the grass nearby bleeding profusely.

Down Carmichael Street, a race began with Prince in hot pursuit of the attacker and bellowing for murder. In a while other pursuers joined in. Soon the cornered assailant dashed into a nearby yard. As he raced in brandishing his weapon, yard tenant Joe Case realised something was wrong, and called out to the knife-wielder. "Hi man, you leave all the other yards and come in this one" Replied the knifer in dire confusion. "Man you don't know what's in here. You don't know what I feeling. Where

I'm standing here, my corpse has to be removed from here" With those remarks he began hacking away at his entrials, and cutting his wrist with the "Eddie Polo" knife.

Said Joe as he looked on surprisingly "Man you gwine kill yourself!" As the man saw his own blood, he dropped his knife and allowed himself to be held by Joe. Just then his pursuers dashed up.

MEANWHILE at the Public Hospital, Georgetown, Dr. Ritfeld was being shown around various departments. He took a great interest in the new X-Ray equipment, then moved over to the Operating Theatre which was his special interest. He discussed various points with the several Doctors he met. His guide moved him over to the children's ward then as he approached the Casualty a nurse came over to him. "You're Dr. Ritfeld" "Why? yes", said he in English.

"Could you come over to the casualty ward?" was the polite request.

Over in the Causalty Department was a hub-bub of excitement. The Ambulance had just screamed into the yard with some emergency case and was racing back for another. Then Dr. Ritfeld had a shock of his life. On a stationary trolley was the familiar figure of his wife lying still in death, blood all over her bright cotton dress, the camera and the handbag still hanging quietly by her side. "But that's Tina!" he exclaimed in surprised bewilderment. Only about thirty minutes before she had waved him a cheery good-bye and now she was back a corpse. In anguish, the tears burst out of his eyes. A grown man convulsed in grievous sobs, was no pleasant sight. He collapsed in a nearby seat.



The clanging of the ambulance bell indicated another emergency arrival. It was the attacker with his self-inflicted wounds. In a while Doctors and Nurses were at work on him and found the wounds to be superficial. He proved to be a 32-year-old carpenter from the country in town looking for work.

Later that day a distraught young Doctor broke the news of his wife's sad death to the Captain of the Willemstaad and in distressed tones put through a long distance call to Katwat, a province in Holland, and made the dramatic announcement in Dutch to relatives in the area—"Tina is dead". Next day the Willemstaad sailed out of port Georgetown, with an almost inconsolable young man who had left his wife's dead body in the cold fridge of a funeral parlour in a strange country.

TRIAL

LAST October before Justice Stoby, Dublin took the familiar "insanity line". Defence Counsel Carlton Weithers, just back from law school in Britain, thought it a great case to steal the limelight for his career. After careful briefing of his client, Barrister Weithers staged an interesting insanity defence plea. Dublin entered the courtroom flicking his tongue at the Judge, interrupting the proceedings, giggling and making odd sounds. When called upon for statement in his defence, meekly he rose and delivered a long, senseless oration, that seemed to convey he had some long standing grievance against white people. His mother testified that at five years of age he had a fall, and at nine years of age he used "to catch fits", and cried out for pains in the head when a school boy. How "one night he change his clothes and run out of the house, heading for Georgetown. The next day I came to town and found him at Bourda market". How "whenever there is full moon or new moon periods he would begin to behave strangely."

PARANOIA SCHIZOPHRENIA

POLICE testimony also disclosed that frequent reports had been made about Dublin's threatening behaviour. In one instance a European Police Superintendent from Trinidad on a visit to British Guiana, was without any apparent rhyme or reason attacked and cut by the accused. Since there was no reasonable explanation for Dublin's behaviour he was sent for medical observation. At this point medical testimony clashed.

Dr. Paul T. D'Orban attached to the Georgetown Hospital, said that when Dublin came in for observation after that incident, he had given a reasonable explanation why he was sent to the observation ward. In his opinion Dublin was quite conscious of his behaviour. He had no delusions then.

Dr. J. Ferdinand of the Mental

Hospital, testified that he heard the rambling statement of the accused and felt he was quite composed, had a fair grasp of the English language, kept in touch with his surroundings, but exhibited incoherence. He added, "In my opinion the statement was just malingering".

On the other hand Dr. G. A. Grand-soult, acting Superintendent of the Mental Hospital, who sat in Court, declared that Dublin's mental condition was unstable. In his opinion Dublin was not only a **paranoia schizophrenia**, but it was proven that he was an epileptic, if his mother's statements were true. Dr. Grand-soult declared "paranoia schizophrenia usually begins with melancholia and goes on to dimensions, and one gets

delusions as to persecutions. **Paranoia schizophrenia** is usually accompanied by homicidal and suicidal tendencies".

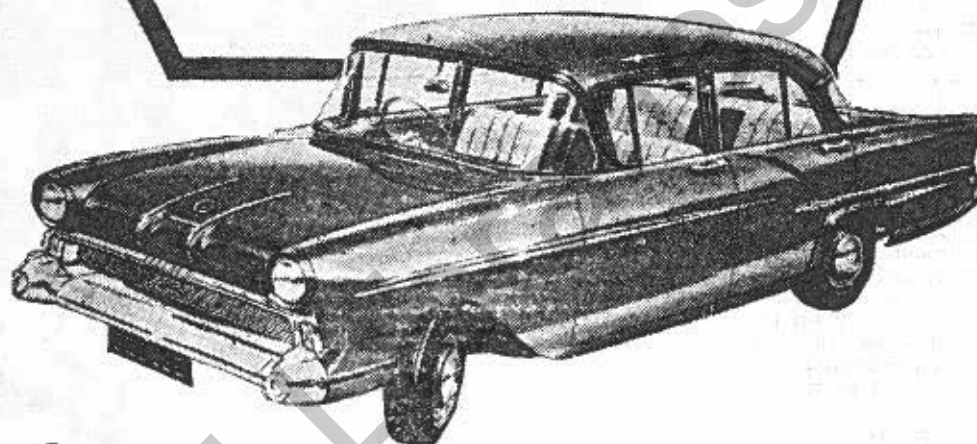
After a lengthy summing-up by Justice Kenneth Stoby, a 12-man Jury returned a verdict of 'Guilty but insane'. Sentence: Accused to be remanded into custody and await the Queen's pleasure.

At the Mental Hospital, Dublin is confined to an open ward. And when letters of protest reached the Medical Superintendent about his close connection with other patients, the Doctor's verdict was: epileptics cannot be confined to cells, lest they be stricken with a seizure which might prove fatal. A doctor's duty is to preserve life.



Paranoia Schizophrenia DUBLIN (left)

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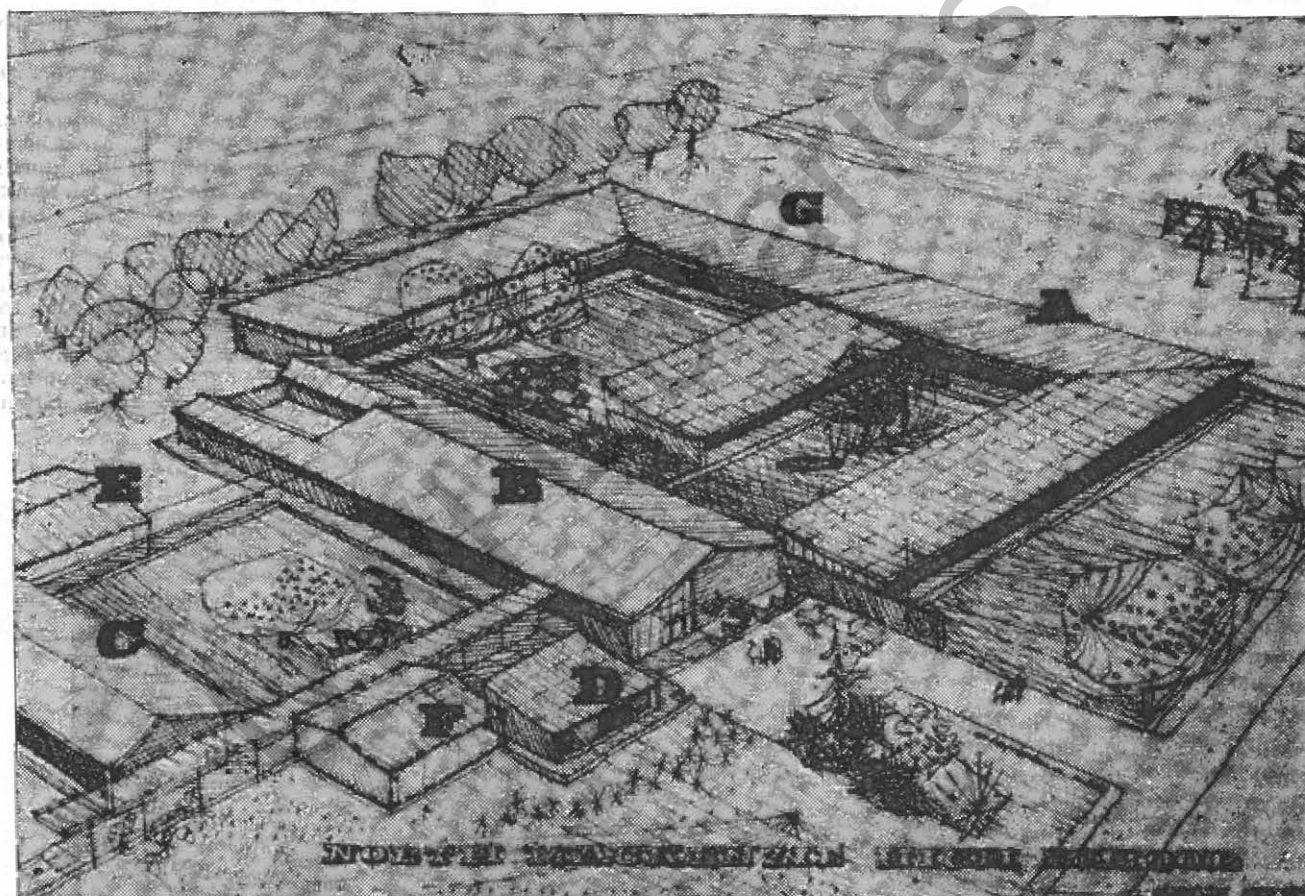
THE manufacture of aluminium products in British Guiana is expected to commence early next year. This will be undertaken by Aluminium Manufacturing Co., Ltd., a locally owned Company, one of whose Directors, Mr. Kenneth R. Lam, recently returned from a tour of aluminium fabricating plants in Canada, the United States and Europe. Visits to many of these plants were made possible by the Demerara

Limited Group's researches into the specialised field of aluminium consumer goods manufacture.

Mr. J. T. Hyland, Demba's Public Relations Officer further disclosed that Sproston Ltd., in association with Demba have arranged for an expert in the spinning of aluminium hollow ware to visit British Guiana and train local technicians and craftsmen in the art of aluminium spinning. Also through the auspices of Sproston Ltd. and Demba, local

struction of a \$165,000 high school at Mackenzie. Construction work is being undertaken by Sproston Ltd., from the design by Mence & Moore. The entire structure is expected to be completed by June 1959, and teaching to commence in the new school in the Christmas term of that year.

Among the facilities planned for this modern school will be a well equipped Science laboratory and airy class rooms, fitted with tubular aluminium desks and chairs to accommodate thirty students in comfort. There will also be a large as-



PLAN OF DEMBA'S NEW \$165,000 HIGH SCHOOL

Bauxite Co., Ltd., and Sproston Ltd.

Fostered by the two Guianese members of the Aluminium Limited Group of Companies, this new Company has so far got much technical advice from Sproston Ltd., and non-technical advice from Demba; all with no financial object in view, but just the desire to promote its development. It will also have available to it all the results of the Aluminium

technicians may later visit Jamaica or Canada to undergo practical training along lines in which this new Company is interested.

Demba

IN keeping with their policy to contribute to the furtherance of education for Guianese, Demerara Bauxite Co., Ltd., has commenced the con-

sembly hall and vestibule at the entrance of the building. Apart from catering for school assemblies, this hall will serve as a gymnasium with portable gymnasium equipment and as a music room. It will also be used for community activities by residents in Mackenzie, after school hours.

The entire lay-out provides an atmosphere of quiet and seclusion, yet

IN THE NEWS

it will be within the reach of the residential housing areas. Full use will be made of local materials, and plans are prepared to harmonise with the housing areas in the new aluminium plant site. When completed this school will be of immense benefit to children in the Mackenzie/Christianburg/Wismar district.

Demba has already done much educationally for Guianese by virtue of scholarships to students throughout the Colony. At its own expense Demba has erected and equipped the Mackenzie Primary School, the Handicraft Centre, the Domestic Science Centre and existing High School, and just a few months ago, the \$100,000

Scholarships have been granted to the University College of the West Indies, and a further post-graduate scholarship has been awarded in the field of engineering at one of the United Kingdom Universities. The Aluminium Limited Group of Companies in the Caribbean area, of which Demba is a Guianese representative, has contributed \$216,000 to the University College of the West Indies.

Rice

EARLY last October, British Guiana's rice subsidy of \$190,000 which the Government has been paying for more than a year was withdrawn. This has caused consumers to pay 1c. more per pint for the popular Grade A rice, and sent the cost of living up .02 per cent in the rural and urban areas.

Disclosing the reason for the withdrawal of this subsidy, Dr. Cheddi Jagan, Minister of Trade and Industry said it was in keeping with Government's policy to protect by subsidies perishable crops such as ground provisions, rather than semi-perishable crops.

It was further pointed out that at the last rice conference agreement was reached that the local price paid for rice must be the same as that paid by West Indian consumers, and this price increase on the Grade A rice, brings the cost per pint nearer that paid in the West Indies. Prices of other grades of rice remain unchanged.

Banks!

BANK BREWERIES LTD., British Guiana's first \$1½ million publicly subscribed Company, has had a successful first year of operation, and early in 1959 dividends will be paid to its numerous shareholders.

At a recent Press interview, Managing Director Peter D'Aguiar gave a review of the progress of the Company and told of future plans. He disclosed that more and more Guianese were drinking Banks Beer, expertly brewed by the Company. Already ninety percent of the local beer market had been captured and consumption was still on the up grade. New fields, he said, were being sought to export Banks Beer and plans were underway to start the manufacture of Stout in the near future.

To maintain a high standard of the Beer, both in quality and production, \$70,000 had been further spent in acquiring new equipment, Manager D'Aguiar explained. This included an electric generator and grain dryer for \$25,000. Previously the residue of the grains for brewing the Beer was sold to farmers who used the wet material to feed their stocks. This new dryer will enable the residue of the grains to be safely stored for untold periods instead of for only twenty-four hours.

Credit Corporation

INTEREST rates on loans by the British Guiana Credit Corporation went up by 1½ per cent per annum as from September last. This increase General Manager W. G. Carmichael said, would partly off-set what tax-

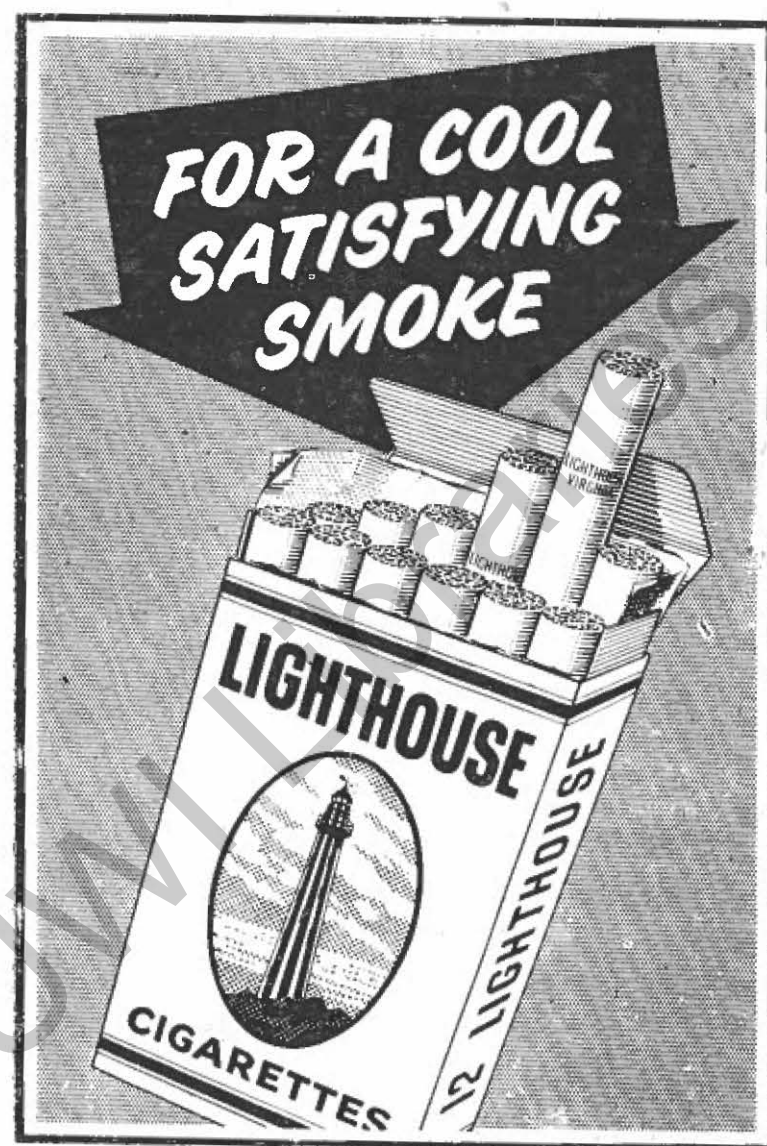
payers were paying in the form of Government subsidy. "Indeed" Mr. Carmichael said, "if the Corporation were to get rid of this subsidy entirely, it would require to charge an annual rate of 7½ percent. It is hoped, however, that by ancillary forms of earning and other means to stabilise the rate at 6½ percent for at least the next three years".

He added that no part of the income derived from the increased rate of interest will be used for administration costs, as within the last two years these costs were reduced by sixteen percent, and are now at a minimum compatible with efficiency.

At a subsequent meeting of the Legislative Council, further explanation for the increased interest rate by the Corporation was requested by opposition leader L. F. S. Burnham. Replying, Hon. F. W. Essex, Financial Secretary, explained that there had been a general rise in interest rates since the Corporation begun operating, and so it was decided to bring its lending rates in line with those of other lending organisations. It was also designed to enable the gap to be reduced between the rate at which Government had to pay for money borrowed for the Corporation and that at which the Corporation lent.



Recruiting U.S. farm labour in British Guiana began early in October.



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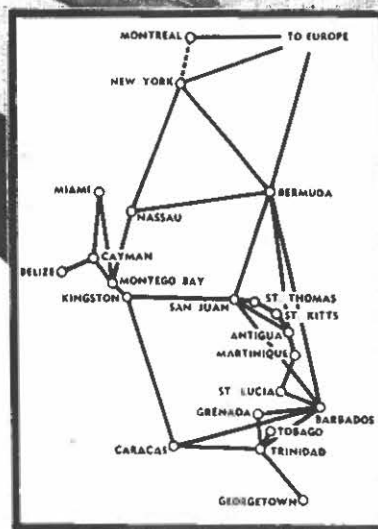


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