

BARBADOS ADVOCATE

Printed by the Advocate Co., Ltd., Broad St., Bridgetown. Friday, September 26, 1952

Training For Tourists

THE increasing attention which is being paid to hotels, government and communication companies to advertising Barbados in world outside is praiseworthy.

With the Bahamas, Bermuda and Jamaica spending very large sums of money every year, Barbados cannot sit back and hope to receive without spending something.

Yet there is a danger of Barbados spending all its money on outside advertising when some of it could profitably be spent locally.

Tourism is Barbados' biggest industry after sugar, but because its connection with the Barbadian economy has never been adequately emphasized by government spokesmen, some Barbadians still oppose tourism as something inimical to their interests.

Until every Barbadian is educated to understand that tourism is the greatest friend to the Barbadian economy after sugar there will always be an active fifth column here to sabotage the efforts which the Publicity Committee, the hotel proprietors, the Hotel Association and the Barbados Publicity Committee cooperate in a planned campaign to sell tourism to Barbadians as well as to visitors from abroad?

The people of Barbados must understand that unless tourists prefer Barbados to other West Indian islands living standards here will drop. Only tourism offers substantial long term sources of revenue and employment.

A newspaper advertising campaign to convince every Barbadian that tourism affects everyone individually could be followed by a list of "dos" and "dons" for the tourist-minded.

Boy Scouts and Girl Guides have an invaluable role to play in assisting the tourist development of Barbados and it is surprising that their help has not yet been asked. Who better than Boy Scouts or Girl Guides to persuade the residents of the districts in which they live to keep streets tidy, open lands free from litter and beaches spotless?

A clean and tidy Barbados, an island of neatly painted houses and well-kept gardens is worth thousands of dollars of advertising, because every tourist who comes to the island will be pro or anti-Barbados on their return home. We should study to make them praise us.

Only an immature mind could suggest that the ugliness of Barbadian huts and hovels could be transformed overnight even within a decade. It is going to be an uphill task to keep Barbadian homes up to the standards already achieved in the difficult years ahead. But much more could be done to make the island more attractive to visitors. More flowering shrubs could be planted along highways for instance. The oleanders which run for a few hundred yards along the road near Gibbs' Beach offer an example of how several stretches of Barbados' road might be transformed to look beautiful.

Country shops ought to offer some facilities to tourists driving around the countryside. Two or three large umbrellas, sanded floors and half a dozen chairs and a few tables might be provided by the manufacturers of beverages to country shopkeepers to help them entice the tourist to stop for refreshment. Needless to say the presence of new paint and cleanliness would also be required.

These and other suggestions have been made almost unceasingly in the columns of this newspaper, yet the organisations most nearly interested in the tourist trade seem either incapable of adopting some or all of them or are reluctant to break new ground. Their slowness to act in no way lessens the greatness of the educational task which has to be tackled before all Barbadians give tourism their whole-hearted support.

Meanwhile hotels and residential clubs and all the shops of Bridgetown ought to waste no more time, but should arrange courses for shop assistants, telephone operators, receptionists, waiters, bell boys etc.

The lack of enterprise shown by the average shop assistant of Bridgetown or the inexperience of hotel telephone operators is not due to any mental or other deficiencies but directly traceable to lack of proper training for such service.

Since the government of Barbados has not yet considered such training to be desirable subjects for study in certain schools the shops and hotels which seek the patronage of tourists ought to arrange courses for their own employees. If this island gets a reputation for politeness and cheerfulness of service and if tourists are welcomed by everyone of us, most of our urgent problems will have disappeared. Tourism is one of the world's most valuable industries.

It must be recognised and encouraged by all Barbadians.

Prescription Charge Makes Britain's Medicine Swillers Think Twice

LONDON. On June 3rd last, two days after Britain began paying a nominal shilling charge for medicine prescribed under the National Health Service, a London newspaper columnist composed a neat piece of verse which practically summed up the psychology of the day. It said:

How true, in numerical numbers, I found this you can't endure; He chemist's, 'body is just the job To prove, my friends, a sovereign cure.

How true. And how right of the British Government to make no national medicine swillers think twice before running off for a prescription at the slightest sniff, the smallest ache.

That was happening. Only too nearly. In just four years of free medicine, prescription figures jumped from 170 million to staggering 223 million. Every man, woman and child in Britain was drinking down an average of four and a half bottles of ure-alol annually.

Then the shilling charge went in—and the Ministry of Health estimates to save £12 million in the first year. The system is working smoothly after inevitable early grumblings. Britons have accepted the charge almost unreservedly for what it is—a deterrent to over-claiming and an effort to reduce the health service bill a little.

Available returns since introduction of the charge show, however, that something more than a shilling could have been imposed. The decrease in the number of prescriptions dispensed is not so great as the Ministry of Health would like and it is believed the shilling is not deterring it who made a habit out of entirely free medicine.

Overall Decline The first month, June, showed an overall decline for England and Wales of 15.57 per cent. in the number of prescriptions filled out. But in July, which provides the latest figures available, the decrease was only 5.5 per cent.

There is a partial explanation for this. Patients know the shilling charge was coming and it is thought many stocked up on medicine at the last minute. July found them back at the doctor's rooms again.

However, even a reduction of five per cent. would save 11 million prescriptions annually. The Ministry of Health expects the saving to be far more, though they admit it is still too early for accurate predictions. It has been established that more prescriptions are being entered on a chargeable prescription form now than before the levy was introduced. The billing charge is made for each prescription form, irrespective of the number of items prescribed on it. It is therefore profitable to the patient to have as many items on one form as he can persuade the doctor to prescribe.

The average number of items prescribed on each form in June was 1.69 compared with 1.57 in June last year. In July, the ratio dropped a point to 1.68, against 1.57 in July, 1951. Some areas, for no

By Brett Oliver

special local arrangements under which the payment is made to the chemist or doctor with a shilling stamp. Some people do not have to pay the shilling at all. People getting national assistance are refunded their shilling when they draw their assistance money, having been given a special receipt by the chemist or doctor.

War pensioners also get a refund in the same way, when the prescription is needed because of accepted war disabilities. Other people can claim hardship but must convince the National Assistance Board of a genuine inability to pay before getting their shilling back.

Out-patients at hospitals are charged each time medicines or drugs are dispensed to them but do not pay for those administered at the hospital. Nor do out-patients receiving national assistance or war pensions or patients attending V.D. clinics. No in-patient of a hospital has to pay.

Appliances supplied through the health service are charged for thus: Elastic hose, 5/- or 10/- each; surgical abdominal supports, £1 each; surgical footwear, £3 a pair; and wigs, £2. 10. 0. each.

No Charge There is no charge where the appliance is supplied by the hospital or a child under 16 or attending school full-time, to national assistance and war pension recipients or to in-patients at the time the appliance is supplied.

The history of prescription charges really goes back to 1949 when the Socialist Government took powers under an Amendment Act to introduce charges. It never used them. At the time, Mr. Attlee said there had been evidence of an unnecessary recourse to doctors, and that the fee should be used as a deterrent and economy measure. The then Minister of Health, Mr. Aneurin Bevan, resisted the move strongly, and it was left to the Tory Government to take the step.

At the time of Mr. Attlee's proposals there was a definite awareness that the national health service expenditure was getting out of hand. Sir Stafford Cripps, in his 1949 Budget, advocated a ceiling on expenditure and one of £400 million was in fact imposed in the 1950 Budget of Mr. Hugh Gaitskell. Since then, actual expenditure on the health service has been kept below the ceiling—though the £40 million promised as a back pay to doctors under a new salary revision will, with other increased costs, take the bill next year to more than £400 million.

The present Government has sought to recoup some of the outlay by introducing charges for both dental treatment and supply of spectacles. It has also levied on prescriptions. Since the national health service started on July 5th, 1948, the actual cost to the Exchequer has risen from £305,300,000, in the first full year, to £358,202,000, the estimate for 1952-3.

except maybe in thought. This is to be expected because the average local musician is prejudiced and very fond of petty jealousies and added to these, he only gives his shilling to give any competition to these are, namely, the Percy Green orchestra once led by Mr. Maggie Goodridge, popular pianist (I don't know the present leader if there is one) and this orchestra certainly has a ground for complaint first from this angle. The popular seasonal and other much looked toward for dances at the Marine Hotel, Paradise Club and the Y.M.F.C. just to mention a few, plus those functions held annually by certain local organisations, formed a main part of work done by the Percy Green orchestra. Secondly one of the said orchestra's 'key men' is virtually the leader of the Police Dance Orchestra.

The next orchestra is Mr. Clivie Gittens' and I don't honestly think that this orchestra has suffered much or can suffer much due to the existence of the Police Dance Orchestra. I certainly do agree that they should not be allowed to compete with the Police Orchestra. I do also subscribe to the idea that they should be allowed to continue in existence until the local musicians decide among themselves to form a leadership. The choice of many, but it just does not fit any. Also, that every existing body works under a proper system of control, those that do not soon disintegrate and become extinct. Also, that every minute part of the machinery of any existing body is just as important as the other. This last point is worthy of note to local musicians and this is the reason.

In a dance orchestra as in any other work combine, one will find men of different social standing as well as moral outlook, but there is a tendency among handmen to snub the guy who happens to be less fortunate financially or socially than himself, and then at the same time to expect his full cooperation and spiritiveness. This is asking the impossible, 'Mr. Big' just greases the 'stiff neck' you carry so as to allow it to turn just a little to meet the craning neck of the little guy whose neck certainly aches in trying to meet your stiff gaze. When this has been accomplished, form among yourselves, four or five good orchestras and a musicians union with a thorough understanding among yourselves and with a determination to adhere to whatever principles you lay down.

BRUCE HUSBANDS.

NEGROES PUT A SQUEEZE ON ADLAI AND IKE

(By NEWELL ROGERS)

GIVE us our full freedom. This call, from America's Negroes, sounds louder and louder through the land today. They mean the freedom to vote, to work, and enjoy education on equal terms with whites.

Negroes in northern cities have already obtained so fully the right to vote that they have become a power in November's presidential election.

And now Congressman Adam Clayton Powell jun., a Democratic leader in Harlem New York's half-million strong Negro quarter, proposes to use this power to get similar freedom for Negroes in the South.

He wants the Government to force the southern whites to give it to them. He threatens to withdraw Negro voting support from Democratic candidate Adlai Stevenson in four great northern cities, New York, Detroit, Chicago and Pittsburgh.

Powell is going to see Stevenson and demand that he shall promise to work for a civil rights law.

Republican leaders tell the Negroes that the way to get full freedom is to vote for Eisenhower. But Powell claims that Eisenhower is opposed to whites and Negroes in the same military units.

So Powell threatens a Negro boycott of both parties.

HOME NOTE. Powell is married to Hazel Scott, composer, pianist and singer who appeared on the London stage last year. She plays boogie woogie—and classical stuff like Bach.

CLARE BOOTHE LUCE, wife of magazine publisher Henry Luce, served two years in the House of Representatives. Now she announces she is available if Connecticut voters want to elect her to the Senate in place of the late Senator Brien McMahon. She is at present in Hollywood writing a screen play from her story "Pilate's Wife."

FOOD PRICES in America have jumped so high that it may be necessary to recall Congress to control them, said a report to President Truman from his price stabiliser, Ellis Arnall.

YES, said Wilbur Hicks to his wife in a public house at Owensboro, Kentucky you can have a divorce. Then he exploded killing himself and injuring her. He had hidden half a stick of dynamite under his shirt.

MR. CHARM is the nickname of Stuart Symington, former U.S. Air Secretary, because he could sell doubters an idea in 30 seconds. Today he sold the voters of Missouri, home State of his ex-boss Harry Truman, the idea of nominating him as Democratic candidate for the Senate.

FLYING SAUCER pyjamas have luminous discs which glow at night.

IN Tanjung, California, seven-year-old Leonard Ross, who has passed his radio operator's examination for a Government licence, reads encyclopedias, has memorised the names of the kings of England for fun, adds fractions in his head and argues with his parents over the presidential candidates. Horrors!

YOU probably never heard of Charles Scully, an ex-Government agent, who died in Brooklyn at the age of 68. But you have heard of the man he shadowed as a spy in World War I—Franz von Papen, then German Embassy attaché in Washington and Hitler's ambassador to Turkey in World War II.

AH, the trials of a price controller! Tige Woods, the new price boss, announced on taking office that he is ready to scrap controls if the people wish it.

He decided to go out, meet housewives, and find out what they want.

His first stop was Fresno California (Population: 91,000).

And what did he find? Half of the housewives want controls because prices are high. The others do not want them because they have not kept prices from rising.

The bewildered Mr. Woods is going to try six more towns across the land before returning to his office in Washington to think things over.

Food prices remained stationary in the last ten days recorded in the Government price index. It stands at 235.6 per cent. of the 1935-9 average.

THE Republicans and Democrats are estimated to be raising 30,000,000 dollars (more than £10,700,000) to help finance Eisenhower and Stevenson in their election campaign.

IN New York City, 1,200,000 pupils went to school as Dr. Bella Dodd, an ex-Communist teacher, testified before the Senate Internal Security Sub-Committee. In 1944, she said, at least 1,000 of the children's teachers were in the Communist Party.

WILLIAM FREDERICK LAMB'S favourite relaxation was to go to the top of the 102-storey Empire State Building at dusk and look out over New York. And no wonder, for he helped to design the building. Recently, after a brief illness he died at the age of 63.

AT LEAST five versions of "Robinson Crusoe" are on Hollywood's production schedule for the next few months.

POCKET CARTOON

by OSBERT LANCASTER



Honourable Lord was all fixed up for honourable Coronation—Yes?

Our Readers Say:

W.I. Culture

To the Editor, the Advocate, SIR,—please permit me space to congratulate Herr Hopkinson on the candid autobiography he published in his letter to you last Saturday. It is, alas, all too true that the vulgarisation of education is producing numbers of "learned fools" and "incapable thinkers" who hasten to reveal their obtuseness with an equally extensive eloquence. But in how few of these do we find the self-revelation shown by Herr Hopkinson!

To me, of course, it was already evident that he was merely wishing for a West Indian culture which would not belittle him by assessing alien standards of civility. But now that he has confessed his own inadequacies his position can be readily understood by everybody. I have only one suggestion to make. He will find names for those unfortunate habits of mind he lists in any good text book of Logic—a thing which, as far as I know, West Indian culture has not yet produced.

I am, SIR, DR. JUNG.

God Save The Queen

To the Editor, the Advocate, SIR,—Quite recently I heard a party of visitors discussing the much vaunted attachment of Barbadians to the Crown, of which they had heard and read so much. They seemed to be puzzled over this, as from their personal observation no more than 20% of most gatherings paid any attention to the playing of the National Anthem. I had nothing to contribute to the discussion, but hold the private opinion that 20% is an over-estimate.

May I venture to suggest that the Coronation Committee endeavour to correct this unsatisfactory state of affairs by persuading the population to stand quietly, men uncovered, during "God Save The Queen"?

BIRNAM WOOD

Class Differences

To the Editor, the Advocate: SIR—Grudgingly Christian admits (1) that there are different classes in this island, (2) that there is unnecessary suffering and (3) that human beings should not be denied their rights. He still thinks, however, that MUM should be the word. Since apparently, his brain-box is still buried in the sand, permit me to tell the world that it was CHRISTIAN who all this while was trying, quite disgustingly, to raise the CLASS question. Is it that he does not know the difference between "different classes" and "class differences"?

Income Tax

To the Editor, the Advocate SIR,—The public heartily agree with your comments on the latest news item regarding the rate of Income Tax, as the Legislature in dealing with the Estimates in March have before them the amount that Government has decided to levy under the head, so that the Income Tax Office would appear to be at fault in not furnishing the requisite figures or perhaps it is the failure of the general public to send their returns in time. If rumours are correct the latter condition seems more to blame than the former, it is rumoured that the Income Tax Commissioner has not been able up to the present to get in all of the returns for the year before.

It should be clear that the tax cannot be fixed in March or April when all the returns are not furnished. The public fully realize that if Government did not fix a penalty for non payments the tax would never be paid. You suggest that there is a possibility of the Company tax being increased next year, it makes one wonder if Government realizes that the Companies are at present paying 7/6 income tax and 2/7 in trade tax (apart from Police and Highway taxes) that is 10/1 in the £ over half their profit.

The solution to the whole matter is an amendment to the Income Tax Act providing for payment as you go, then at the end of the year those who have over paid would be refunded and those who have underpaid would be required to pay the additional amount.

This would make it easier for the salaried clerk and the pensioner and would also ensure a more correct return being made.

Yours, CLERK.

Musicians' Pledge

To the Editor, the Advocate SIR,—I certainly do get some amusement at times when I read "Nobody's Diary" written by somebody, whom I often consider crazy, but in the issue of Sept. 20th, I certainly had to take notice of that section which touched on the Police Band. Firstly, there was never in existence a local musician's union

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