Adult Suffrage

DURING the week the House of Assembly passed a Bill making provision for the introduction of Adult Suffrage in Barbados. The Bill had the support of all parties and has thus enabled the Government with those countries which are prepared to try parliamentary democracy.

The present qualifications cannot be fully remedied by Adult Suffrage for anyone in the island today who does not work for two dollars a week must be in the ranks of the unemployed. The present Bill does however give the vote to the domestics who do not have a private income.

The greater change which has been effected is that qualification for membership of the House of Assembly has been abolished. At present for anyone to be a member of the General Assembly or to be in receipt of a salary of eighty dollars a month it does seem that the people are to be given the right to vote once they have passed the age of twenty, membership of the House of Assembly not be made subject to an income qualification.

Great changes in the political life of this colony have taken place within the last ten years and the manner in which these changes have been accepted and the ease with which the people have shown in adapting themselves justifies the Assembly in granting Adult Suffrage. The people of Barbados have a greater political opinion than any other West Indian colony. Even if the strike of party politicians sometimes gives the occasion for the expression of hysterical controversy and the airing of quibbles, politicians and electors have shown that partiality for righteous is such an unfavourable aspect of the Jamaican people.

The greater favourable change is to be found and it is one of self-respecting leadership. The leaders in Barbadian politics in extending the franchise and assumed greater responsibilities. It is their task to explain to the electors the problems that confront the island. They know that the Barbadian problems are likely to be quickly or slowly solved. Politicians should therefore refrain from making grudging which they know cannot keep and above all they should influence the people with a slogan which merely seeks a useful purpose and constitutes a reproach to the people of Barbados, one which has thus reached the age of twenty. This slogan is one of self-respecting leadership.

Further important changes in the political institutions and economy of the island will probably be forthcoming in the near future. The future of local government, the granting of Ministerial responsibility and the prospects of Federation are to be considered.

Fancy Molasses

CONSIDERABLE criticism has been directed to the practice of shipping molasses to bulk in Canada. The criticism is apparently based on the idea that shipping in bulk will replace the production of puncheons altogether. It is essential to note that the shipment is proposed as it is understood that thepuncheons are only used in bulk in addition to the amount which would be shipped in puncheons. The shipment of molasses in bulk is not an alternative to the present system by which molasses are shipped in bulk to Canada. The criticism that this is a new departure is therefore a non-sequitur.

An amount of money equivalent to that which is saved on the importation of molasses by puncheon will be saved on the importation of molasses by the use of bag. The criticism that this is a new departure is therefore a non-sequitur.

The continued shipment of molasses in bulk to Canada is therefore occasioned by the situation. It is for the sugar landlord and the public that the Government are not going to take a short cut. The labour and materials used in such a method must in time to come be made available to reduce the cost of production.

The continued shipment of molasses to Canada means the continuation of that form of transport which is in itself a waste of time and energy. The cost of production is in itself a waste of time and energy. The continued shipment of molasses in bulk to Canada means the continuation of that form of transport which is in itself a waste of time and energy. The cost of production is in time to come be made available to reduce the cost of production.

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