PARTY

This frequency with which meetings of the House of Assembly have had to be adjourned in recent months for the want of a quorum does not speak well for the efficiency of party politics in Barbados or for the zeal with which members of the House pursue their Legislative duties. The charge has been made that the lack of a quorum is due to the fact that the members of the opposition do not turn up but that it would indeed be strange if members of the opposition were to form a quorum for the sake of an administration to their advantage in which they may not approve.

Those who sing the praises of party government must make it work. It is their duty to provide a quorum. If a quorum is not provided it is the fault of the majority party. It is they who are failing in their duty to the community. The frequency with which this happens is evidence that the system requires reconsideration.

In these days it is not popular to have party politics to no place in the progressive and conservative development of the island, and yet that fact becomes more apparent in every day pass. The fact of small counties which try to follow exactly the example of large communities is that the small countries becomes entangled in circumstances from which they find it very difficult to extricate themselves.

In a consideration of the work of the House of Assembly there are many things which would strike the observer. The House has always been very jealous of its privileges should remain constant and as far as it is for the freedom of debate the privileges should be safeguarded.

The public will be justified in demanding that their representatives know of their dissatisfaction with certain aspects of their work.

A new paper has been left on the table to the lack of a proper question time and the want of opportunity in which to conduct private business. The House of Assembly is that it should act as the "Grand Committee" of the country. To perform that function it is necessary that there should be time to discuss matters of interest to the general public. With the increasing tempo of life it is all the more time for members to exercise initiative and to construct measures that would not affect the attention of government, the Legislative Council being able to perform its most important function.

Among the matters which should have been debated were such things as the oil prospects and the question of the purchase of oil for the development of the oil industry in Barbados. The prospects of stagnation have not engaged the attention of the House for a long time, although that is a matter of vital importance to the future of the country.

Other matters are rushed through without the necessary time for debate. The House of Assembly should be able to conduct its business in a way that is convenient and logical.

The time is long overdue when political parties in Barbados have been recognized that party politics have severe limitations when applied to a small country. It is also time that the rules of procedure of the House of Assembly be revised and to bring them into conformity with changes which have taken place in the law and custom of the constitution. Without such changes the future of the House of Assembly will continue to be unsatisfactory to those who place the management of the government in the hands where they control the destinies of their fellow Barbadians.

Cricket

The West Indies cricket team is considered to be one of the best in the world and has been touring England in recent months. The team has been well received by the English public and has played several matches against English teams.

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Tennis

The Barbados Tennis Association held a special gala evening to commemorate the visit of the West Indies cricket team to Barbados. The event was attended by the Governor General and the Secretary of State for the British West Indies.

The Association has been active in promoting the game of tennis in Barbados and has organized several tournaments and events. The Association has also been successful in attracting both local and international players to the country.