

# Golf Club To Be Converted Into

## Public Recreational Park For City's Young People

What used to be a sports reserve for a tiny element of the city's population will soon be thrown open to thousands of young people of Georgetown for recreational purposes. In reply to a question at the Dec. 23rd. Press Conference, the Hon. Dr Cheddi Jagan disclosed that the Golf Club which covers 57 acres was not given a renewal of its lease because Government had to consider its responsibility to provide free recreational facilities to a large number of the young people of the city who now have no free recreational park.

Asked—Is it true that Government has refused to renew the lease of the Golf Club at Thomas Lands? If so why?— the Minister of Trade and Industry answered.

“The golf club at Thomas Lands occupies about 57 acres of Colony land which was originally leased to the Georgetown Golf Club in 1936. The lease expired in 1950 and a new lease was granted in 1951 for a period of five years with a right of renewal for a further period of 10 years; subject to the condition that the lease could be terminated on six

months' notice if the land was required for a public purpose.

When the lease expired at the end of 1955 it was not renewed, as the Government felt that the time had come to consider the conversion of the area into a public recreational park in view of the increasing need for additional playing space in Greater Georgetown.

### More Pressing

No positive action was taken on the proposal, however, before the previous Government went out of office in 1957. Since then,

the need for recreational space in Greater Georgetown became more pressing and recently two Ministers of the Government and their advisers arranged a meeting with representatives of the Golf Club and expressed Government's desires that the Golf course should be converted into a public recreational park.

It was explained to the representatives of the Golf Club that the Government recognised that any decision taken to terminate their lease would inflict a temporary inconvenience to the Club but Government had a responsibility to provide free recreational facilities to a large number of the young people of the city of Georgetown who have no free recreational park. The Government also was very concerned over the high rate of delinquency and felt that the provision of free recreational park for these young people is necessary.

### Few Against Thousands

The representatives of the Georgetown Golf Club were asked to consider their needs for a limited few against the needs of thousands of people in the city who have no free recreational facilities.

### Ideal Spot

The Planning Officer in-

formed the meeting that within the Urban area there are only 213 acres of open land which could be considered for the purpose of a recreational park and of this acreage, 165 areas are occupied by the Botanic Gardens so that there are only 48 acres scattered throughout the area. The scattered open areas are unsuitable for the park envisaged by the Government but the site occupied by the Club will provide an ideal spot for the proposed park.

The Ministers readily agreed to make available to the Club the services of the Planning Officer in selecting an alternative site for a golf course outside of Georgetown.

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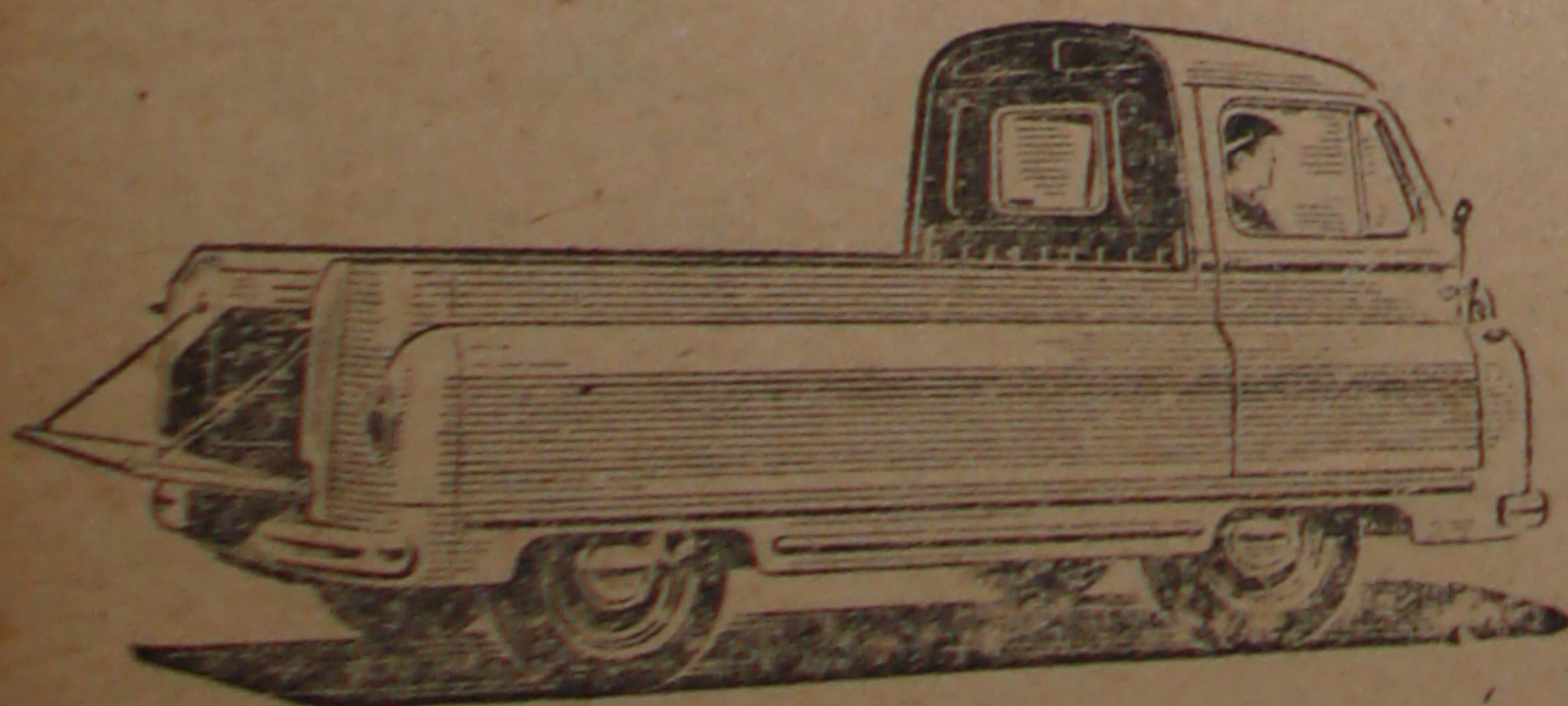
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