

types of consumer

Editor  
Daily Chronicle  
Georgetown

69 Main Street  
Georgetown  
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Dear Sir;

The working class will greatly appreciate the fact that you "deplore the low state of living among estate workers". I doubt very much, however, whether it will accept your very novel way of solving this problem. You are of the opinion that the estate labourer does not have a great desire for material wants and therefore works only two or three days per week. You would stimulate this desire by introducing in the country districts flashy shop windows with various types of consumer goods with the hope that the labourers will work more days and produce more sugar, and therefore, more wealth for British Guiana.

Let us look at the facts. The majority of sugar estate workers earn between 48¢ to \$1.00 per day. With this low earning power and the present high cost of imported consumer goods, the average worker will never have the buying power even though he worked 16 hours per day and 7 days per week. Telling him to think in terms of radios, motor cars, electric lights, decent houses is only a mockery. His buying power can not even acquire adequate foods, clothing, pencil, slate and books for his large number of school age children. Can the buying power of domestic servants, Water Street clerks, shirt and tobacco factory workers, and bakery hands ever acquire for them all their necessary wants displayed in the Water Street shop windows? Are they not working 40 to 60 hours per week? Why is it said that

- many Water Street clerks are living above their means and at the mercy of money lenders? In all these cases it is the same answer: small wages - no buying power.

Internationally, under the capitalistic mode of production and distribution, it is the same lack of buying power which intermittently produces a condition of so called "over production" and resultant depression and chaos.

The present relationship of wages, profits and obsolete ~~method~~ method of production will never be able to satisfy the minimal normal wants of the estate labourer. Increased production will not be brought about under the existing wage-slave labour conditions. As long as ~~this~~ the labour force is cheaper than modern machinery, our obsolete capitalists will continue to use it, and the conditions of the worker will remain the same. Only the socialized control of the sugar industry - maximum production with the use of the most modern machinery and elimination of ~~the~~ profits to absentee capitalists - will increase the standard of living of the sugar worker.