

THUNDER

*Hark the calling of the Thunder
Lo! the sun and lo there
under
Rise! wrath, and hope and
wonder*
William Morris

ORGAN OF THE PEOPLE'S PROGRESSIVE PARTY

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P.P.P. OPPOSE FORCIBLE CLOSURE OF RICE MILLS

The years of struggle laid the foundations for the final drive to the top. The goal — National Independence.



P.P.P. GENERAL SECRETARY JANET JAGAN SAYS STRIVE FOR THE TOP

As General Secretary of the People's Progressive Party I wish to extend to all Party members and supporters fraternal greetings for the new year ahead. The year 1959 begins the tenth year of our Party and our bi-weekly newspaper Thunder.

These years have been, perhaps, the most important years in the history of our country. These have been the years during which the scattered voices demanding democratic rights for the people and the right to govern themselves have grown to a loud chorus. During this time our Party has endeavored to organize, educate and consolidate the Guianese people into a movement which could lead them from the bondage of colonialism.

Which of us will ever forget the thrill of the first congress of the Party — the eagerness, the vitality

of the members assembled at an historic meeting? We recall the first tastes of electoral victory at the municipal elections in 1950, local government elections in 1952 and the magnificent country-wide sweep of 1953, which was repeated again in 1957. Who can forget the Party Leader's valiant one-man stand in the old legislature to fight the reactionary Luchoo subversive literature bill or the Party's banner flying high at mass demonstrations and meetings? But then, which of us could fail to recall the disastrous

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HON. Dr. Cheddi Jagan and Hon. Edward Beharry did not support the recommendations made by the Governor's Rice Committee on the compulsory closing down of small mills in the zone of operations of the large Central Mills. The two PPP Ministers, who were members of the 14-man committee appointed by the Governor on November 2, 1957, reserved their position pending a full Executive Council decision on Government policy.

NEW YEAR MESSAGE FOR RICE INDUSTRY

From Dr. Cheddi B. Jagan
President, Rice Producers Association

Nineteen Fiftyeight has been a good year. In spite of a serious drought, rice production has exceeded expectations. Thanks to the timely intervention of Government and the Rice Marketing Board, what could have been a disaster was averted. This same pattern of early planning and concerted action must be zealously followed in the future.

We have had a record year. While every effort must be made to bring in new lands under cultivation, improvement must be a watchword of the industry. World rice production is increasing rapidly and improved efficiency must compensate for any possible drop in world prices.

We must take a leaf from the sugar industry. A few years ago, the

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Watch Thunder
Next Week for
MAYORAL
ELECTIONS

The Committee which signed the report on November 14, 1958, was formed to attempt to coordinate the efforts of the leaders of the Rice Industry with those of Ministers and Government officials who were closely concerned with the Industry, with the object of working out a practical policy to which all would agree for increasing the future efficiency of the Industry."

The recommendations of the Committee, with the reservation of the two Ministers mentioned above, stipulated among other things that "single stage milling of the huller type is no longer suitable and should be discontinued, if necessary through legislative action, in favour of multi-stage milling with adequate drying and storage facilities".

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Most Wonderful Xmas Gift

Elsa Harty has got a new lease on life. She was released from prison only a few days before Christmas to spend her first free Christmas in six years, with her mother.

Miss Harty was sentenced to death in 1953. Her sentence was commuted a few days before Xmas 1953 after she had spent a terrifying week in the cell next to the gallows.

The Governor signed her release in December following a petition for her release.

SECRETARY'S MESSAGE

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deposed by Burnham in 1955 and the opportunism of King, Khan, Deyoosy who left on the eve of the 1957 elections?

The burning years of struggle of 1951, 1954, 1955 and 1956, when comrades willingly took jail sentences to expose the rottenness of colonial rule, and the strength and solidarity of the rank and file can never be forgotten by the historians of the people.

These events, these years have been like the building of a solid foundation, a pyramid at the top of which is the point we are striving to reach. That goal is the achievement of the national independence of our country.

Million problems

This, above all, is the goal of our Party. For those who do not understand the frustrations and pains of being a majority party in a colonial territory under a colonial constitution, are not clearly grasped. In British Guiana today there are half a million people with a million problems. When we are unable to solve the million problems, the opposition, the press, the losers in the last elections and the opportunists start hollering.

They are the unpatriotic ones who see no colonial rule in B.G., and are unaware that the Colonial Office dictates every move made in B.G. Like ostriches they hide their heads from reality, but shake their tails and stamp their feet.

No Easy Struggle

To the many thousands of members of the Party and the many thousands of supporters I give you this message for the New Year.

The year that will come may well be a hard one. All struggles are difficult. I never heard of an easy one. In British Guiana, the struggle for a better life, for a free nation, cannot be easy. It will be won by a valiant people, a brave people, a patriotic people. And of course, British Guiana has more than its share.

Rice Mills

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The Committee recommended too that in operational zones around the central mills existing single-stage, huller-type mills will be shut down with monetary compensation and no new mills will be allowed to be established; any small multi-stage mills which were already in operation in Central Mill Zones at the date of this report should however be allowed to continue in operation.

For the "free" zones, the Committee recommends that encouragement be given to small millers to rationalize and modernise their old mills, but that after two years the position be reviewed and if the modernization was not carried out satisfactorily Govt. should consider the desirability of compulsory closures.

Since the Governor's Rice Committee's recommendations were made known rice millers and farmers have been in uproar over the proposal to compulsorily close down the single stage huller type mills in the zones of operation of the Central Mills.

Dr. Cheddi Jagan, Leader of the People's Progressive Party, in an article on page 10 of this issue makes it quite clear that he is not in favour of legislation to close the small mills, and he proposes a 5-point plan to solve the existing deadlock.

Aid To Farmers

In addition to the question of the rice mills, however, the Committee made several recommendations concerning the rice industry as a whole. These recommendations aim to benefit the industry and to assist rice farmers parti-

cularly over the difficulties sustained as a result of the severe drought of 1957.

A few of these recommendations which find support with the PPP are listed below. Indeed, some of them have already been implemented.

1. **Rent Reductions.** In May 1958 Government reduced basic rice land rentals for one year.

2. Provision has been made for paying charges incurred during the drought to be met from public funds.

3. It is recommended that Government should increase the Credit Corporation's capital as soon as conditions for borrowing were favourable, and that the possibility should be considered of the Corporation borrowing from non government agencies.

Government has already given the O.K. for this.

4. On additional credit, it was recommended that the unspent balance of the \$200,000 placed at the Corporation's disposal by the R.M.B. for 1958 Spring crop credit should be made available for the Autumn crop. \$130,000 has accordingly been provided.

U. S. sports forward in space race

The massive four-ton artificial satellite guided into orbit on Friday, December 19, by the United States, proclaimed that country's rapid advance in the past few months in the space field. Russia's largest satellite weight 15 tons.

The American satellite, weighing 8,700 pounds was in fact the entire Atlas missile. The Americans succeeded in the tricky business of getting the entire rocket into orbit—hence the huge weight of the satellite.

Instrumentation was also noteworthy being designed to relay a Christmas message from President Eisenhower.

The quick progress which the Americans are making in space science indicates that scientific ingenuity and know-how in these days are monopolised by no one nation. It points also to the need for nations on earth resolving their problems peacefully, for soon the earth will become too small to accommodate the destructive weapons created here.

New Year Message for Rice Industry

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average yield of sugar was 2 to 2½ tons per acre. Today it is 3½ tons, and in some cases more per acre. Whereas before only up to 3 to 4 ratoon crops were reaped, today as many as 7 ratoons are reaped. For Bookers Group of Sugar Estates in 1950, 40,000 acres yielded about 120,000 tons of sugar. In 1957, about 62,000 acres yielded nearly 240,000 tons. In other words, with only a 50% increase in acreage, production was doubled. All this has been achieved by intensive cultivation—use of fertilizers, applied research, etc.

two bags of padi where now only one is reaped, especially since land holdings are so small. A recent survey has disclosed that 50% of our rice farmers cultivate less than 5 acres of land. Getting more lands, properly drained and irrigated is inevitable; a slow process. We must therefore increase the yield on every acre of cultivated rice land. We have all heard about the Japanese method of cultivation. I have just read where the early 1958 rice crop in China at 45 million tons was more than double that of 1957. Both these countries make extensive use of manures, fertilizers and better and more efficient methods of organisation.

If sugar can do it, how much more it is necessary for rice to follow suit. In 1957, the sugar industry produced about 285,000 tons of sugar valued a \$58½ million with approximately 25,000 employees. In 1957, 22,000 rice farmers produced about 79,000 tons of rice valued only at about \$17 million. Rice production increased in 1958, but still there is a very wide disparity between sugar and rice. If rice farmers are to enjoy a higher standard of living as they should, our aim must be to reap

The co-operative movement can play a great role in reducing costs and maximizing. I look forward to this movement in all phases of the rice industry—production, credit marketing [selling padi, buying fertilizers, machinery and parts, consumer goods] and milling.

Let us all hope and work for a better and brighter 1959.

ALWAYS SMOKE

'LIGHTHOUSE'

THE PEOPLES' FAVOURITE CIGARETTES