

This Promise Of Self-Government.

By RAMKARRAN.

Ever since the days of slavery when the Egyptians smote the Israelites and the Roman Emperors contended over Europe, the nations in bondage have struggled unceasingly and determinedly against foreign occupation, oppression, and slavery. The early Americans (who today spend billions to enslave other nations) had to resort to open revolt, while the Indians adopted civil disobedience campaigns in order to drive out the arrogant British; and history is rich indeed with the heroic struggles and tremendous sacrifices of the nations who refuse to dwell in slavery.

After the liberation of the Americans and the bid of the Indians for independence and trouble in other parts of the world, the old approach with its out-moded system of oppression had to be recast and brought up to date. The British Empire on which the sun will soon forever set, has been re-baptised the Commonwealth of Nations; but just as how wage slavery has replaced physical slavery in the interest of the exploiters, this Commonwealth of oppressed peoples is also in their interest. The myth of self-government was, therefore created to keep colonials in their proper places. These attractively strange tidings continue to reach us from afar, from the international platforms of the United Nations we hear of these promises of aid and self-government for undeveloped territories so that it has become necessary for us to examine for ourselves this promise of self-government for our own Guiana.

GEORGE DUPRE

To begin with the recently released Waddington Commission Report, let us see how the people of this country have been duped.

overdue") this Commission has left us as we were before in the hands of the English Imperialists and their local agents. Checks and balances in the Legislature have been re-introduced in order to save us from rash and indiscrete legislation (as if the decisions we have today are ever discreet); but are we offered any protection against being supplied as cannon fodder for the fascists in England or America? The expensive top heavy legislature with its redundant upper house and ludicrous joint sessions, the odious nominated system and the monopolising of the important portfolios by the Crown, the Governor's veto and all the remnants of imperialism, we are told lead on to self-government. What a prescription!

VILLAGE GOVERNMENT.

Let us leave for a moment the Central Government and see what progress these descendants of slave dealers, have achieved in preparing us for responsible government. What then of our tiny villages and towns. Do we need checks and balances to protect us from rash legislation here? Do we need the abominable nominated system, and the veto, and do we need a limited franchise in order to perpetuate the election of members whose protection our countrymen can never count on?

ADULT SUFFRAGE A MONSTER?

Speaking against a motion urging adult suffrage for the electorate of the Georgetown Municipality, Mr. Percy Wight, O.B.E., declared it is a monstrosity. Indeed it is a Frankenstein monster for the Wights forever and a threat to British greed in our country. Adult suffrage and the democratic demands of the people in the

other titled men who have rushed to the rescue of the imperialists in the past, but the beginning of a new spirit of independence where our people can breathe the air of freedom. Non interference in their civic affairs will give them pride in their country's government and the urge to go ahead to bigger tasks.

FAKE ADMINISTRATION BY L.G.B.

The recent wave of reduction of the villages on the East Coast leaves much to be desired. Buxton's brief bastard status where it was neither a village nor country district exposes the fake administration of the Local Government Board. It was neither a village council an account of the deliberate delay of elections nor was it a country district since the members were not appointed by the Local Government Board as required by the law. The threat of disavowal of Beterverwagting when the Council urged the employment of an ex sugar employee not approved by the Local Government Board, gave us an opportunity of seeing what democracy means in Guiana and the fascist method of the disavowal and forced amalgamation of Plaisance & Sparendam probably caused the late Patrick Dargan and J. S. McArthur to turn in their graves. But the things go on for sugar is king. The right of way demanded through Buxton backlands is again to come up and the People's Progressive Party and villagers all over the country are looking on to see what fresh manoeuvres are contemplated by the lackeys of sugar and the Government.

While we are faced with the own grey headed stalwarts of yesterday proclaim from the