

# British Guiana

*East or West?*

By A. Cecil Walkes

British Guiana has a population of 600,000 living within the bounds of 83,000 square miles. Situated in the northeastern corner of South America, it is bounded by Venezuela to the north, Brazil to the west and south and Surinam to the east. It is a country which covers a variegated terrain of swamps, rivers, jungles, mountains and savannah grasslands. Its main products are sugar, rum, bauxite and gold. Recent interest in this country has been portrayed because there is the fear that, here, Communism may establish its first foothold on the American mainland.

## The Constitution suspended

The threat of Communism began in 1953 when Dr. Cheddi B. Jagan became head of the semi-autonomous government of British Guiana. Dr. Jagan, a man of 43, was born in the humble environment of a sugar plantation. He studied dentistry at Northwestern University and married leftist co-ed Janet Rosenberg. He himself had long been a convert to Marxism. On returning to his native land he formed the People's Progressive Party. Jagan won the 1953 elections, but his government lasted one day short of 200. The British governor accused the members of the P.P.P. of turning Guiana into a communist state because of their intention to abolish the Public Service Commission, their alleged support of the Mau Mau in Kenya and Communist terrorists in Malaya, and their support of strikes in the sugar industry. On these charges Britain, which had attempted to settle Guiana since the seventeenth century, and had gained absolute sovereignty over her since the early nineteenth century, claimed that Dr. Jagan was setting up a communist state. Britain therefore sent troops into the colony and forced Jagan out of office. Dr. and Mrs. Jagan were sent to jail for six months, the constitution was suspended and the British governor assumed complete power.

## Progress in the Interim

The period which elapsed between 1953 and 1961 brought to light some of the social and economic ills for which Dr. Jagan, no doubt, desired a quick remedy. Ninety per cent of Guiana's population live on a 270 mile long coastal strip which is 10 miles wide in places. It is quite flat and swampy, and offers an ideal

breeding ground for mosquitoes. The co-existence of mosquitoes and malaria was a major problem in British Guiana. During the period after 1953 great improvements in the control of mosquitoes and general sanitation were made. Improvements in the system of transportation, which had impeded the development of Guiana's rich inland mineral deposits, were also made. But these improvements still remain relatively unimportant. The members of the P.P.P. show a strong desire to industrialize the country rapidly. The days when a few men sailed up the Demerara River and sold their handfull of diamonds to British traders to be processed are over. The Aluminum Company of Canada revised its policy of shipping the raw bauxite to Canada, and built a plant which processes bauxite into aluminum oxide for export. Nevertheless, British Guiana still remains principally an agricultural country, and Dr. Jagan has often expressed the conviction that this situation must change very soon.

## The New Premier

By 1961 Britain, under pressure of anti-colonialists, had gradually granted British Guiana full self-government except for foreign affairs and defense. Under the new constitution there were thirty-five seats in the Legislative Council, of which Dr. Jagan's party won twenty seats last August.

Dr. Jagan is an ardent admirer of Cuba's Fidel Castro and his policies. Consequently, officials in Washington and Ottawa fear that Guiana may be drawn into the communist orbit. Dr. Jagan has stated that he intends to turn his country into a socialist state. What degree of socialism he can achieve without embracing Com-

# PROFESSORS AND POLITICS

By A. St. G. Abbott

Unaccountably barren of any political vignettes, I have decided this week to approach a number of subjects, their only and rather tenuous connection being a concern in the relationship between politics and university professors. Censured in the past for iconoclasm, prejudice, ignorance, deceitfulness and a generally bellicose disposition, I look forward with confidence now to a charge of vague generalizations in my comments. True, the addition of this epithet will serve to maintain the tradition of service to which your political correspondent devotes himself. But excessive generalization in this particular article is actually prompted by prudence rather than utility. The reader will appreciate how tactless specificity on the subject of professors may land the writer squarely on the Dean's mat, conspicuously plush though this furnishing happens to be.

## Wilson's Return At Paris

In general terms then, it would seem that an association between professors and active politics produces unfortunate results. On occasions when national policy has been heavily influenced from the ivory tower (President Wilson's professorial retinue at the Paris Peace Conference immediately springs to mind, the results have proved monumentally disastrous. More recently the reality of prosperity and good order in Katanga were sacrificed to the insane nostrums of an international cartel of political theorists. In this case the ultramundane vacuity of professional hypothesizing proved a poor substitute for common sense.

This is not to suggest there be anything sinister or inadequate in political theory, or in its exponents and practitioners necessarily. Yet it is important to observe that, with a few outstanding exceptions, nearly all worthwhile contributions to political thought have had a major stake in the place and time of their eschatology. Hobbes was prepared to remain and live in the England he wished to transform - indeed he was eager to do so - and the same may be said of Rousseau and France, Nietzsche and Germany, or Machiavelli and Italy.

## The Toronto "Greats"

In connection with such names, I was puzzled to learn the other day that a Dalhousie graduate of my acquaintance, furthering his

political science studies at Toronto, was reported as happy to be working among "The Greats". Discounting resurrection, I imagined him as having switched his interests to baseball - and then the meaning dawned: Perhaps you, gentle reader, are unwittingly drawing your knowledge from "The Greats", however meagre the evidence.

In contrast to the real "Greats", if I may be excused the appalling phrase, many professors of political science are today remote from the likely consequences of their nostrums. The wreck of Katanga serves as an eloquent indictment as to the unwisdom of allowing cranks and political theorists loose among politics. Utterly irresponsible in the sense of having no stake in the country nor any save the most temporary interest in its welfare, ignorant of local history, custom, and even geography, the U.N. sponsored political "experts" presented a more dangerous phenomenon than the peace-loving Indians, who were on the whole well content just to shoot up the odd ambulance.

## Need To Distinguish Functions

If I have tended thus far to identify the professor of political science with the political theorist or the professional political "expert", it is precisely because there is no clear distinction between their functions in practice. The burden of my thesis is simply that the fusion of these roles works to the detriment of the universities, the political system, and society as a whole. I have already indicated how the political system tends to suffer from the attentions of the academic caste, and I think it can be demonstrated how the university world suffers from supporting so many quasi-politicians -

our own part of it being no exception.

The function of the politician and the function of the professor are, in a well ordered community, utterly separate from each other. It may well happen that a professor has all the ingredients of a first-class politician, or even vice versa. But such a coincidence in no way excuses any departure from their chosen professions. It is a case for the individual to decide which role he intends to fulfill, and then to get on with it to the exclusion of all else. This would release the universities from serving as conveniences for buttering the bread of those whose principal interests lie elsewhere. Universities should neither be used as springboards for domestic politics nor as factories for the production of extra-mural "experts". If they do not already do so, they should set about serving their ancient and honourable purpose as repositories of wisdom, enlightenment, and true learning.

## A Return To The Ideal

I advocate a return to the ideal of academic distinction for its own sake, a revival of the dignity and integrity of scholarship as an end in itself. A return to such standards might spare us the unedifying spectacles of self-exhibitionism performed by professors who march around town with placards, circulate petitions to the citizenry, and in general act in such a manner as to subvert and usurp the functions of those elected by due democratic process to represent our will in Parliament. Indeed I submit that if professors and politicians were each to confine themselves to their respective and proper functions, both government and scholarship would benefit immeasurably.

## Gazette Celebrates 93rd Birthday

On January 25th, the Dalhousie Gazette, Canada's oldest college newspaper, will celebrate its ninety-third year of publication. To mark the occasion, the following paragraphs are reprinted from the explanatory in the first issue published in 1869.

"We will most willingly open our columns to any expression of opinion on the merits or demerits of the paper, or the manner in which it is to be conducted. We will insert all articles sent to us on this subject, provided that they are of a reasonable length, and are not characterized by personalities. We can do nothing fairer.

"Political and denominational articles will be strictly excluded from our pages, but all others . . . will be thankfully received and readily inserted. . . . Will you not join with us in striving to make the Gazette distinguished for its high and intellectual tone, and for its general as well as academic usefulness?"



Nothing  
is as important as  
**YOUR CHOICE OF A CAREER**

You know this as well as we do; but we think you will find our book on careers helpful in making a decision.

IBM has much to offer young men and women graduates. Working with IBM advanced computers is stimulating and rewarding. As an IBM Sales Representative, Applied Scientist or Systems Representative each assignment is interesting and different.

Our IBM book covers the many career opportunities in this ever-growing organization; and also tells something about our company and our philosophy.

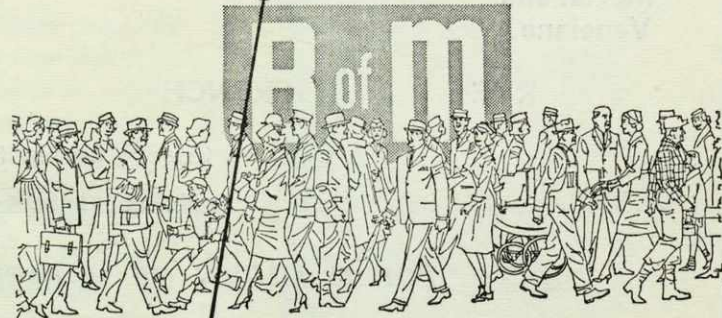
Arts, Commerce or Business  
and Engineering graduates  
should find this book helpful.  
Write for a copy.



INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS MACHINES COMPANY LIMITED  
Sun Life Building, Montreal, Quebec, UN. 6-3051  
Eastern District Manager—J. E. Tapsell

**IBM**

**"MY BANK"**  
TO 2 MILLION CANADIANS



NOW **3** BANK OF MONTREAL  
Canada's First Bank

WORKING WITH CANADIANS IN EVERY WALK OF LIFE  
SINCE 1817