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The Dominica Chronicle

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ROSEAU, SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 1953.

Budget Speech.

THE Administrator's Address delivered to the Legislative Council at the opening of its 1953 session on the 16th December, last, is a masterly production. In its printed form, as circulated in the *Dominica Official Gazette* of January 26, there is revealed a beauty of language, a grasp of the problems and needs of the Colony, and a juridical evaluation of *essentials* and *desirables* that arrest attention. No less compelling in it is the display of positive erudition, always a helpful aid to sound reasoning and logical deductions, but indispensable to a stranger, who, with short acquaintance with a country and its people is required to accurately portray the needs of the former and interpret the aspiration of the latter. This Mr. LINDO has done with remarkable success.

His Honour gave many homely truths and struck on a singularly right cord when he told all within hearing that, "in themselves political constitutions do not provide ourselves and our children with food, or work or material benefits." He indicated that he values the substance of development more than the shadow of constitutional forms. In keeping with this attitude, His Honour saw, among other needs, that of increasing the production of both export crops and food crops in order to balance our trade; measures for ensuring that the best use is made of our land and population resources; improvement in the operation of price control measures and systems; encouragement to increased production of local food supplies, including animal products; steps to combat the incidence of malnutrition, especially among children; better housing conditions in all areas where this is clearly necessary; etc., etc.

Winding up a review of the financial position of the Colony, as pictured by the Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure for the year (1953), His Honour remarked—

> ....."In the difficult times of today you will readily appreciate that there has been no parsimony about the extent of the assistance provided, which will ensure, quite apart from development work, a basic minimum standard of administrative and social services. I am sure that you will agree that we should not expect assistance on this or any comparable scale indefinitely. Precisely because it is clear that with the best will, and the best luck, it will be some years before we can expect to stand more clearly on our own feet we must attempt urgently to improve our own earnings by all legitimate means. It is a task that will make heavy demands, of more than one kind on all of us; I suggest that it is also a task which our manhood will not permit us to shirk."

The Address concludes with this charge:—

> "Finally, as my predecessor said last year, there are difficult years ahead of us. But, if we will, we can find them also exciting and challenging. Few things can be so important at this stage of the development of our West Indies as that all of us, whether we are legislators, civil servants or members in other capacities of public bodies, should set ourselves the highest standards of conduct and competence. Let us resolve to show that high standards of public life, in all its aspects, need suffer no limitation by reason of any consideration of colour, or race, or limited georgraphical area. God helping us, we shall not fail."

The Address can stand some comments, and is not even above criticism in, especially, certain projected ideas of the professional official type.

CALENDAR For 1953

FEBRUARY

S	M	T	W	T	F	S	
							Moon Phases
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	☾ L.Qr. 6th
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	● N.M. 13th
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	☽ F.Qr. 20th
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	○ F.M. 28th

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