

Toppled though he has been from vice-presidential office in the Party, Glasspole's current status as a mere executive member of the People's National Party is advanced by his adherents as proof that Glasspole does not run with the hare and hunt with the hounds.

His reputation is remarkable, for any public personality in the crass opportunities bred by the take-over, the concession grant, general expansion, is exposed to conditions which an unsophisticated society has made the occasion for whispers of favours for sale in cash or convertibles; company shares for example.

Yet Glasspole's unimpeachability could make him disliked. For the quality of unreachability vexes reachers. Frustrated, they become active enemies. Such enmity has but to grow widespread to catapult Glasspole from a political ambition which though never uttered by himself, also never has he denied. For Education Minister Glasspole is a legitimate candidate for the Jamaica Premiership. That, in the regional scene makes him *de facto* a possible Federal Prime Minister.

**Modern and Mammoth.** But the future is intangible. The years which elapse between likely occupation of the highest office in the State, Glasspole occupies with a plodding, patient performance that in itself emphasises the caution with which he works towards his ultimate goal.

A symbol of the preparation of himself is the five storey Ministry of Education that dwarfs now all structures in Kingston. The defensive logic for this controversial building is that £¼-million of cement, steel and terrazzo had to be reared up to garner and contain the multiple departments of Glasspole's portfolio. Previously, the Ministry's offices had occupied a scatter of old houses,

termite-ridden and uncomfortable as well as unsatisfactory.

But only the most ardent Glasspole supporter does not retreat before the flood of counter arguments that the capital expense of his mammoth administrative office might have been shared to other over-urgencies: school buildings, low-income housing for families of schoolage children. For unestimated numbers of Jamaica's school age population have neither clothing nor transport to attend school.

The priority accorded what Jamaican double entendre terms Glasspole's Glasshouse is in rank contradiction to the plight of children in every parish of Jamaica whose three R's is the rock Glasspole must throw down. For he is the personification of his Government's education policy. In the magnitude of his task, the modernistic architecture and mammoth building are perhaps essential to the Education Minister. His own public image has come about since the "glasshouse" rose.

**A Man at Peace.** Confidence and ease are in his phrases now. His gestures are restrained. Gone are the platform antics and intemperate superlatives that once enchanted mobs. Gifted oratory, inherited from his Methodist minister father, the late Theophilus A. Glasspole, still falls from his lips; but persuasive phrases, the occasional classic quotation, the jest, are evidences of a man at peace with his world and enjoying his work. The Education Minister exudes confidence that his mission is to establish in Jamaica an education system that entitles all children to secondary education. Glasspole's task is to translate into effect his leader's declaration that "Education was once the great divider of the classes. This Government is determined to remove that division."

Glasspole himself is the product of the



**EDUCATION MINISTER FLORIZEL GLASSPOLE'**  
Preparing for the ultimate goal.

## A CHAP NAMED FLORIZEL

(see Cover)

Florizel Glasspole, the big man with the ear-to-ear grin, eyes that close when his loud, throaty laughter rings out, needs only the addition of a cigar to be mistaken for the symbol of Mr. Good Times.

Yet sound financial prosperity never crosses the path of Florizel Augustus Glasspole, Minister of Education in the Government of Jamaica. As one of the few persons in the top hierarchy of the People's National Party who is still unbesmirched by the hot scandals bandied about with cynical sneer, Glasspole is believed to be a man standing apart from big money-making opportunities available to people on the inside track. There, without possibility of successful contradiction, F. A. Glasspole is.



complete transition from primary school, to secondary school, profession, college. In his youth the job preceded college, but implicit in his work is transposing the order to college, then profession. No less than 80 University College of the West Indies scholarships came from his Ministry's largesse this year.

**The Cocked Ear.** His own experience was that from Central Branch Elementary School he went, as most lads of his class did and still do, to Wolmer's Boys' School. In 1938 he was an accountant at S. N. Shoucair Ltd., textile importers. An uneventful, placid future lay before him. Just why young Glasspole looked up from his desk to interest himself in a movement which as a professional he might justifiably have considered himself as being a cut above, is not quite clear. Perhaps his Methodist upbringing with its social emphasis could not be denied. Whatever the explanation, Glasspole was active in the formation of shop assistants into Jamaica's first trades union. He became secretary of the Jamaica United Clerks Association with a membership of 2,000.

The militancy of this middleclass group was synonymous with island-wide wage revolt by agricultural workers. The sudden foment was beyond the capacity of colonial administration. To the unexpected utterance of a barrister, Norman Manley, that what Jamaica needed was "a labour party," Glasspole cocked an ear. Manley's attraction for him, ignited in the confused, bloody working class upheaval of 1938, has deepened into a personal loyalty of Odysseusian steadfastness.

Simple courage — or braggart daring — or unquestioning trust in Manley made Glasspole a foundation member of Manley's People's National Party. That self-commitment in a day when the demand for Self Government was virtually treasonable, proved fortuitous for Glasspole. His membership and activities in trades unionism brought him to the direct notice of the Royal Commission which investigated social and political conditions in the West Indies as a result of the 1938 disturbances. The Commission's Labour members were especially impressed with the inherent leadership qualities and quick intelligence of Glasspole. He was granted one year's study at Ruskin College, the workingman's institute at Oxford.

**Cogent and Shrewd.** Upon that foundation Glasspole's native characteristics developed. He became an adroit, non-bitter trades union executive. Employers have never ceased to be surprised that during the conduct of labour negotiations their liking for Glasspole increased. Big Business grew fond of Glasspole despite the fact that he has been founder, secretary, president of probably more trades unions than any other



"GLASSPOLE'S GLASSHOUSE"  
Scholarships and the removal of division.

Errol Bowen.

West Indian, not excluding the flamboyant Bustamante.

As a negotiator on behalf of labour, as a man who is cogent, shrewd and gets things done, Glasspole commanded such respect that in the hobbled political years of World War II when Jamaica waited for the political pattern promised in the Royal Commission's recommendations, Glasspole was called to boards whose very name described the unrest of those times: Govt. Workmen's Compensation Law Revision Committee; Middleclass Unemployment Committee; Wages Board, Apprenticeship Committee; Minimum Wage for Baking, Printing, Drygoods Board. Glasspole was Jamaica correspondent to the British T.U.C. upon whose advice and sometimes financial aid the working-class movement leaned heavily in years of longdrawn buffeting by an administration that was timid to overthrow convention.

**Lean Year Sacrifices.** Glasspole's undisputed influences with all classes was bought at the price of his personal wage packet. The honoraria here-and-there from trades union organisations were slim. He had given up his weekly paid post with Shoucair's after union and party work left him no time to do a steady job. To eke out an existence even by the modest middle-class standards of those times his wife, the former Ina Kinlocke turned to dressmaking for which she had great talent. Even today, with her husband's ministerial £2,000 plus, Mrs. Glasspole's elegant wardrobe is home-sewn.

In the lean years when her husband did private accounting to supplement the precarious income from poultry-rearing to which the couple turned at the modest suburban house where they still live, Mrs. Glasspole's smart attire told no tales of the

inevitable sacrifices she too had made to building up the working-class movement.

**"Brown Bomber".** When the first elections held under adult suffrage brought Florizel Glasspole romping to the top of the polls in Eastern Kingston, his public career took final course. Glasspole was one of four successful PNP candidates in the 32 member House. He was named parliamentary secretary to the tiny Opposition, led by Dr. Ivan Lloyd, a left-of-centre physician from St. Ann. Five years later with another election, Glasspole whose election campaign earned him the sobriquet "Brown Bomber" in imitation of the then reigning Joe Louis, was back as Opposition Leader. Another five years later, after massive re-orientation of the party had plummeted the PNP into power, the "Brown Bomber" made it as Leader of the House and also got the Labour portfolio.

His record since has been efficient but undramatic, save for the brief spell in mid-1956 when a city dock strike threatened to shorten the island's food supplies. He prodded the government to bring in the soldiers to unload the ships, effectively smashed the strike that was being held by the BITU dockers.

Then in November 1957 Cabinet Government came to Jamaica. One of the changes wrought was the creation of the Ministry of Home Affairs that took charge of internal security. Ivan Lloyd who was in charge of Education and doing a sluggish job was shifted to Home Affairs and Glasspole shunted from Labour to Education. Within a year, the dull routine policy of education became a political rallying point that turned it into an election winner in the 1959 general elections. Lloyd may have laid the groundwork in his efforts (futile, as they turned out) to make educa-



# AGRICULTURE

## HEAD-COUNT ON THE FARM

What is the total acreage of all the farms in the West Indies? How is their land used? What are their main crops, livestock production, labour force, farm equipment? Answers to these questions will be elicited by a Federal-wide Agricultural Survey of Production which started last month in Jamaica, and will be completed in Trinidad next year.

Planned on a regional basis by a working party of the islands' Statistics officers, the survey will provide a meaningful comparison of agricultural practice in the West Indies.

In Jamaica alone, over 300 enumerators have been recruited island-wide, will work for at least six weeks recording answers from Jamaica's 45,000 farms of 25 acres and over.

All information gathered by the survey will be strictly confidential, handled by the Department of Statistics only, and used solely for providing general totals and averages. "In other words" emphasises V. W. Evans, who supervises the survey, "no one not on the staff of the Department of Statistics sees or handles the figures." Presumably meaning that farmers need not fear increased taxation after their disclosures.

## AQUATIC VENTURE

What the sluggish half-pounder didn't know was that the worm wriggled on a hooked line. But anyway, this fish didn't care about worms. He sidled off, circling in a school of fat fellows, their lids lazy, independent mouths tilted against all temptation except tankage; i.e. what floats in the tank from the farms of Byron Coombs. He erected the fish ponds and stocked them to dispose of offal from his poultry farms — cheaper than incineration or finding a buyer. So Coombs figured.

Coombs, a small needle-eyed, brisk brained man whose cattle and vegetable farms, chicken and egg production, dove-tail into a retail Coombs-cartel that has modernised Jamaican diet, drifted into fish rearing. He thought of it as a hobby combined with the usefulness of fish as scavengers for his farms. Now the fish, bursting with what fish find are the better things of life, despise the angler's worms. Coombs' aquatic venture has produced a breed which turns up noses at his efforts to hook even one for breakfast. The Coombs fish must be gathered in by net.

**A Cinch.** While contemplating the ways

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**MANLEY AND GLASSPOLE**  
Odysseus listens . . .

dies (if Jamaica votes to stay in). It's an open secret that Manley is heading for Port-of-Spain to take over the Prime Ministership from Sir Grantley Adams. Glasspole is likely to go along with Manley, even though the empty Premier's chair that Manley will leave behind in Jamaica may be very tempting.

But Glasspole may prefer to wait for the bigger plum. Manley, guided by the prejudices of his own vanity, may not remain in federal office for more than two years, is likely to retire to the seclusion of private life to write the autobiography (and the intertwined history of West Indian Independence) that, it is hoped, will set him alongside Nehru and Nkrumah in world eminence. In that case Manley may tip Glasspole into his place as the third Prime Minister of the West Indies.

It is all in the character of Florizel Glasspole to bide his time for that main chance.

tion a bi-partisan policy. Glasspole took hold of the policy on a frankly partisan basis, claimed exclusive PNP paternity for the policy of throwing open secondary education to the gifted sons and daughters of the poor with free places from elementary schools that rose from about 1,600 in 1959 to nearly 3,000 this year.

**Revolutionary.** Informed observers agreed that if there was any single issue that gave the PNP its tremendous election victory in 1959 (29 seats to the JLP's 16), it was the PNP's revolutionary education policy that Glasspole sold to the country in float parades, pep talks and sheer hard work at the grassroots.

The results are evident today. Children of labourers and domestic servants are rubbing shoulders with scions of the comfortable classes at schools that were once regarded as the preserves of the posh groups. The only criterion is merit — brains. It may not be an absolutely complete revolution, for too many of the free places winners were already being put through secondary school on the grim sacrifices of their parents, and the schools' curricula are still more suited to turning out citizens fitted for the industrial and commercial society of Mother Britain than the emergent, farm community that is modern Jamaica. But in spite of this dis-orientation, it is a giant step forward and the man who has taken it will live in history as a chap named Florizel Glasspole.

**New Jobs?** But what of his immediate future? At 51, Glasspole is at his prime: a federalist with new jobs to tackle. He was on the Jamaica delegation that started mapping the federal plans in 1953 when Bustamante held office; since then Glasspole has gone on every island delegation that had to do with the Federation. Now his eyes may be turning to the federal capital when independence comes to the West In-



**GLASSPOLE & OTHERS\* AT EARLY FEDERAL CONFERENCE IN LONDON.**  
... and bides his time.

\*L. to R. Ja. Financial Sec. Frank Williams; Edwin Allen, Leslie Cundall, Attorney General, Ja.; Leigh Richardson, B.H.; Glasspole; Manley; Mrs. Manley; V. Bryan, Trinidad.