

I was astonished how many publishers expressed interest

I had long considered writing

my memoirs

THE FIRST INSTALMENT of 'Memoirs 1938-1962' which the
Late Rt. Excellent N. W. MANLEY began writing in June 1969.

IT HAS BECOME almost
habit for the authors of
memoirs to begin an in-
troduction to the book
with the firm assurance
that -- 'This is not a his-
tory.' Then they go on to
explain that either they
do not have the sort of
memory that stores up per-
sonal detail or that they
do not have the depth of
knowledge or the detach-
ment required of a person
who attempts to write the
history of his own times
and of events in which he
played a leading part.
What then is this book all
about.

I plead guilty. I am saying the
same things myself but I am
anxious as well to say what the
book is all about and why I
think that it may be important
and may be some contribution
to knowledge to attempt a per-
sonal account of the growth and
development of Jamaica be-

tween 1938 when the National
movement as understood in
modern times began and 1962
when independence as a unit
Nation was achieved.

Few if any of the colonies of the
ancient British Empire have a
comparable history. In few are
found such a unique combina-
tion of factors as the story will
disclose. Is there any other
country achieving Nationhood
since World War II that had
been a British Colony for 300
years and more before it be-
came a member of the United
Nations, that launched a Na-
tional movement in the course
of World War II in spite of and
in the face of deep traditions
of friendship and loyalty to the
Imperial power; that secured
in the middle of the war a
break-through with a new
Constitution that gave it a be-
ginning of responsible Parlia-
mentary Government; that
based that Constitution on an
all-Elected Parliament the pro-
duct of free voting with Uni-
versal Adult Suffrage; that in
spite of a beginning with a
united collective team of vigor-
ous able men soon saw the
emergence of a charismatic
leader of immense personal
power and unlimited and unin-
hibited ambition whose conflict
with the existing an determin-
ed team was able to produce a
2-party system which as of this
time is as firmly rooted and
disciplined and all embracing
perhaps more so than any other
country in the world; that be-
came a member of a Federation
of 10 units based on a law of
the Imperial Parliament which
did not contemplate secession
and yet contrived a way of
breaking up the Federation and
becoming as a unit a Nation
by resort to the ballot box
and with not the smallest sign
of violence.

Racial harmony

THIS IS A remarkable blend of
historical events and to all that
there is still much to be added.
It will be claimed that when we
became a Nation with a motto
of which I am proud to be part
author "Out of many one peo-
ple" we were expressing our
faith in a future in which we
would be an example to the
world of inter-racial harmony.
It will be claimed that we have
achieved a rate of growth and
development over the past 15
years that is almost unequalled
by any other country in the
world.

It will be demonstrated that Ja-
maica is a classic example and
a vital field for study of the
problems of an undeveloped
country struggling to break
through the two tier economic
system which is growing
stronger and stronger and in
which the gap between the
mass of the poor, the small
peasant farmers and the unem-
ployed and the driving dyna-
mic and efficient middle class
is advancing at prodigious speed
and all this is because of the
basic economic factors and in
spite of the fact that there is
a positive awareness of the
problem and a growing con-
cern about the ways in which
it might be solved.

EDITOR'S NOTE: "A break
occurs here in Mr. Manley's
manuscript but then the story
continues.

Early in 1968, the House of Rep-
resentatives, the Elected branch
of our Parliament, set aside,
an afternoon for Sir Alexander
Bustamante to come to the
House when a motion of praise
for his service to the Jamaica
Parliament was moved. He had
been a Member of Parliament
from 1944 to 1967 and had be-
come our first Prime Minister
when we achieved independ-
ence in 1962. It was in that
year that he replaced me as
Premier in an election I ar-
ranged and won to power for
the second time. I spoke on the
motion and half in jest told
him then that when I came to
retire, which I explained was
not very far away I intended
to write my political memoirs.

I reminded the House that for
nearly 30 years we had been

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a people is almost unique. And the way we threw off colonialism is also unique. And the evolution of two strong parties that have dominated the

scene all the time is unique. So too is the leadership of those parties and the inter-relationship of that leadership. One leader, myself, a highly

successful Barrister, age 45 in 1938, a man of great popularity and enjoying the esteem and respect of all classes, a man who had led his own life in his own way; and the other leader, a man 10 years older, not very successful in life up to 1938, but a very remarkable man who by sheer force of personality, came to be regarded as a messiah by the masses and though entering public life late has held on and won increasing esteem and respect.

It so happens that we were cousins, and for that and other reasons, I think the best thing I can do is to begin with a very simple account of our families, as a sort of background to the story I have to tell.

Tomorrow: 'I remember Bustamante.'

responsible to a large extent, as leaders of the two parties that dominated Jamaica from 1943 to the present day for most of what had happened to this country and that it was inevitable that my memoirs would refer to Bustamante as I will call him in this book fairly extensively.

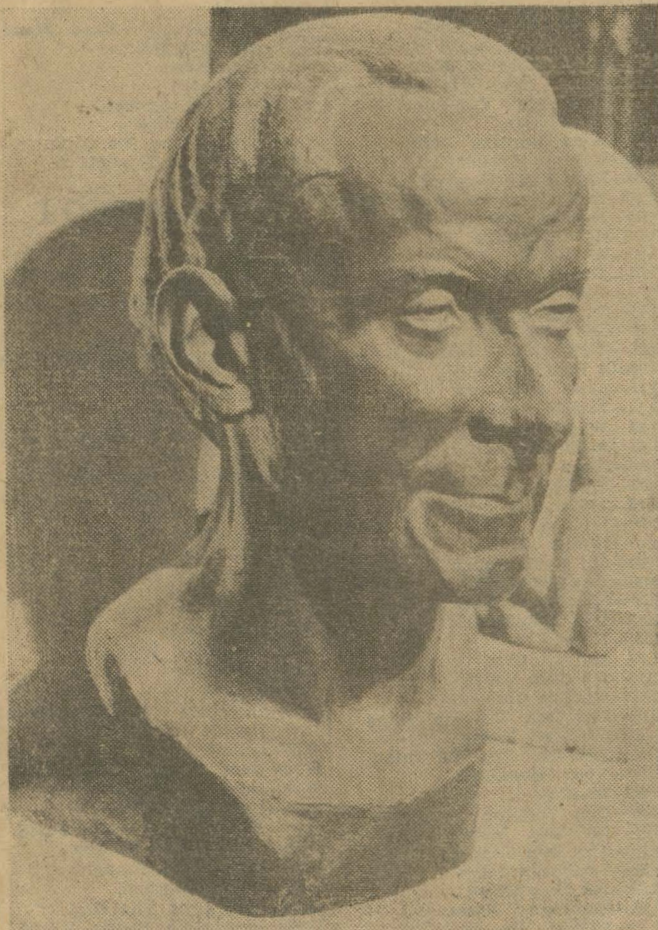
I was astonished to find how much excited attention this statement caused, how many publishers wrote me expressing interest and how many people of all classes assumed it would be done, how many urged me to do it because it would have, for us, great historical value.

I had long had it in mind and it did not take any time for my intention to harden and for me to begin to prepare to do it.

Successor

WELL, I RETIRED in February this year and at long last became free to try. I was and am proud of the fact that my son Michael was elected my successor by a large majority and has been doing a very good job. The Party has indeed rallied to the change and is clearly stronger than before.

I believe my story will have value. Jamaica's modern history, which largely dates from 1938, has many factors of real historical interest and the evidence of what 300 years and more of Imperial rule does to



N. W. MANLEY.... A sculpture by Richmond Barthe.