

Sir Harold's Work

THE EDITOR, Sir:—The letter of Mr. N. V. Thompson of Darley P.O. which appeared in the "Gleaner" of the 16th inst. seeks to place me and two other writers who are not of his way of thinking in the class of people who are unable to make a correct appraisal as to what constitutes real achievement. His insinuation that one writer is a henchman of Sir Harold's and as such may expect patronage, is cheap and beside the point.

I think that of all persons in Portland, Mr. Thompson is the least qualified to assess what is real achievement. For more than nine years he was a member of the Parochial Board of Portland, during which period he had the opportunity of doing something for the good of his parish. I now challenge him to state just one solitary achievement of his during this period. Perhaps his idea of achievement is the stringing together high sounding phrases which are of benefit to none but himself. In this connection I may remind him that this is a feat which even a parrot can perform with great facility.

His statement that the people of Portland placed Sir Harold on a pedestal when they thought fit and that they have a right to take him down when they see fit may afford him some measure of comfort. Though this philosophy may console him for his loss in the General Elections in 1944 and the Parochial General Elections of 1947, when he lost his deposits on both occasions, it would be small comfort for many of us if through private pique and jealousy on the part of his opponents, the services of so able an individual as Sir Harold Allan were to be lost to this parish.

If Mr. Thompson can convince me that such measures as improvement in health and housing conditions for the poor people of the entire island, settling people on lands, providing markets for some of their crops and the easing of unemployment are not achievements, then I may be inclined to agree with him in berating the work of Sir Harold.

I am etc.,
PORTLANDER.

Taxes vs Improvements

THE EDITOR, Sir:—We notice from a report in the "Gleaner" sometime last week that the Trelawny Parochial Board has recently in-

creased the parish rates in certain instances. While every good citizen appreciates the necessity of rates and taxes, we think there must be a limit if justice must be done to all sections of the community.

For a long time the water supply of this parish has been among the island's worst. In this locality we get diluted mud of a crimson hue through our taps and this is turned off during the most inconvenient hours of the day. It should make a tax collector blush to see what we are at present paying for and to think now of increase of water rates before some great improvement has been effected is beyond the imagination of ordinary, honest people.

I must not be blind to the fact that our present "Parochial Fathers" may have some latent good motives, but I think there must be a way for them to govern their "public spirit" and balance their lofty intentions with a sense of proportion and equity.

Owing to the fact that the members of most parochial boards are often inexperienced laymen, I doubt that it would be a bad idea for parochial boards to have someone with training in economics to advise them about taxation. This would mean that anytime increased taxation is being contemplated, all angles would be reviewed by someone who knows and then his views would be presented to the board which would decide the degree of the increase etc. (if any). This would also mean that certain members of the community could have no justification whatever in believing that taxes are being imposed to avenge the financial disparity between the taxpayer and the taxed.

I am etc.,
A. G. BENNETT.
Clark's Town, May 16.

"Magnificent Declaration"

THE EDITOR: Sir.—Your widely read columns carried a magnificent declaration this morning, by the two major political leaders in the island; however, they have made no provision for Party penalties if breaches are committed by their satellites and/or supporters, and this lack of warning is lamentable for obvious reasons.

Notwithstanding, the architect and sponsor of achieving this united front must be congratulated. Best wishes.

I am, etc.
MORRIS E. PARKIN,
Kingston, May 18.