

His Majesty the King has recognised the public service of the Hon. Harold Egbert Allan, O.B.E. statesman and legislator, by bestowing on him the honour of Knight Bachelor. The award is made in the King's Birthday Honours list.

This signal honour to Mr. Allan will be received with the greatest satisfaction and enthusiasm throughout the island, more especially in Portland the parish of his birth, and which he has so ably and assiduously represented in the Legislature for thirteen unbroken years. Indeed all day yesterday Sir Harold and Lady Allan have been the recipients of many messages of felicitation, congratulations and good wishes.

#### FOREMOST STATESMAN

Regarded as Jamaica's foremost statesman and most outstanding legislator, Sir Harold Allan, who is 53, can look back with pride on a career that has been distinguished by unflinching service to his own country, and, in a lesser degree, to the British West Indies.

On all occasions he has striven to uphold the interest of the community and has promoted the prosperity of his island home with credit to himself and satisfaction to his countrymen.

Thus have the excellence of his statesmanship, his sagacity and alacrity won commendation not alone at home but abroad, where his services on Colonial Office assignments have made him an internationally known figure. And it is fitting that recognition of his public service by the Sovereign should follow so closely his return from Geneva and Havana, where Sir Harold represented Jamaica and the West Indies at the International Trade Organisation conferences.

The assiduity and zeal with which he performed his allotted tasks at these conferences may not be generally known, but recognition came not so long ago from the Secretary of State for the Colonies who paid tribute to Sir Harold for his "valuable services".

"Few men", as Sir Arthur Richards, a former Governor once said of him, "can look back on so crowded a public life".

#### CAREER OF SERVICE

HAROLD EGBERT ALLAN has served the country as Privy Councillor, legislator, Executive Councillor and Minister of Finance, organiser, founder and secretary of the Association of Parochial Boards of Jamaica and the Association of Elected Members; member of various commissions, boards, committees for the welfare of the people.

Sir Harold Allan took an active part in bringing into being the new Constitution for Jamaica and to him was largely due the unanimity among the peoples' representatives which was vitally necessary to enhance the granting of the country's request for a new Constitution.

There are Government departments functioning in Jamaica today for the betterment of the people that were introduced through his instrumentality; for example, the Lands Department, and the Central Housing Authority. He won considerable support from his colleagues in the Legislative Council in his successful fight for the establishing of the Marketing Department and the Central Housing Authority, and one can well remember his dictum in the Legislative Council, "Housing and Land should go hand in hand." He introduced reforms in land settlement terms and administration.

By a motion in Council he was originator of the Unemployment Commission which prepared the way and gave birth to the creation of the Labour Department.

The Jamaica Women's League owes much to Sir Harold for his successful efforts in placing it on the list for Government annual financial assistance under the head of Subventions in the Island's Budget.

The name Jamaica Welfare 1943 Ltd. cannot be divorced from evidence of his tact displayed during the process of re-constitution of that body in which he took an active part.

His scheme for the treatment of Venereal diseases and the erection of clinics throughout the island for the benefit of the unfortunate masses remains today one of the best social services through which many thousands have benefited.

In 1938 he visited England at his own expense and on his own initiative, and represented to the Colonial Office the unsatisfactory living conditions in Jamaica. Low wages, abominable housing conditions and the lack of employment; the need for more schools and hospitals; the urgent need for industries to take care particularly of the middle classes, were among the points in his Memorandum prepared and delivered at the Colonial Office in Downing Street, London.

His successful agitation in England for a Cornmeal Factory and a Condensery for Jamaica was one of the highlights of that interview at the Colonial Office and this has been placed on record.

Sir Harold has served on almost every important commission, board or committee since 1935. He fought strenuously and successfully for the regrading of teachers' salaries and the improvement of the status of teachers, both elementary and secondary. Along with Sir Henry Brown and the late Sir Charles Dooty he served on the Frome Commission.

#### Sir Arthur Richards' Tribute

The Mico Gold Medal was presented to him for meritorious services, and no finer tribute could then be paid them that offered in a speech by Lord Milverton. (Sir Arthur Richards), who made the presentation.

The "Gleaner" considers it fitting to reproduce the speech below. Sir Arthur said:—

"The Governor is official patron of the Mico Training College and perhaps it is for that reason that the Old Students Association has seen fit to invite me to make the formal presentation of their Gold Medal to the Honourable Member for Portland, Mr. H. E. Allan. I am more than glad to do so, and I have some qualifications for the task in that it has been my fortune to preside over the administration of Jamaica continuously for the past five years.

"It would be impossible to write the history of Jamaica over that period without also writing the life of the Member for Portland. For good or ill the two are inextricably intertwined. We think that it has been for good, and that is why we are all here today—to symbolize our appreciation of the award of this Gold Medal. Incidentally, Mr. Allan has my deepest sympathy. There can be nothing more embarrassing or more distasteful than to have to sit and listen to a series of eulogies of oneself. It is one of the penalties of constructive public service so distinguished as to win unanimous approbation. Perhaps the victim is echoing the New Testament lamentation "Woe unto you when all men shall speak well of you."

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**"If I had to select the most outstanding personal characteristic of**

Mr. Allan I should say it was urbanity. I use the term in the classical sense of the restrained courtesy and polish which comes from mixing with one's fellowmen, from being a man of affairs, and in the best sense being all things to all men—a product of civilization.

"If I had to nominate his most outstanding political characteristics I should say that they were tact and a love of peace. No one knows better than I do how many difficult situations have been smoothed out by Mr. Allan during these years. If the Governor was being unduly provocative or if Elected Members were being unduly unreasonable, it has generally been Mr. Allan who preached the spirit of co-operation and reasonable compromise. Tenacious of his own opinion, he yet knows how to wait and from never being in a hurry he gets there first. He never indulges in opposition for opposition's sake.

"I do not want you to run away with the idea that he is always right. There have been too many occasions when he has differed from me, to make that a palatable thought. He seems to me to have expanded—I am speaking of the intellectual plane during these years.

**Grown Wiser**

"We are told that knowledge comes but wisdom lingers. If wisdom is the power of relating experience to experience and of drawing therefrom general principles of conduct and government whether of one's life or one's country, then Mr. Allan has grown wiser in the ability to see life steadily and see it whole.

"He enjoys alike the confidence of his colleagues and of Government, as well as the trust of Labour. He is a valuable member of Privy Council and was one of the two first Elected Members to be appointed to that high position. His Majesty the King has made him an Officer of the Order of the British Empire. He can look forward to many years of increasing service to his country. Now—more than ever—Jamaica needs men of his experience and ability. Few men if any in Jamaica, can look back on so crowded a public life.

"As a politician he is still young—only 49. He was elected to Legislative Council in 1935 at the age of 41. The Elected Members Association and the Parochial Boards Association owe to him more than can be stated. He has served as a member of innumerable boards and committees—prominent amongst which are the Board of Education, Railway Advisory Board, Central Housing Authority, Jamaica Schools Commission, Agricultural Development Board, Agricultural Loan Societies Board, Tourist Trade Committee, Unemployment Commission, Conciliation Board, Practical Training Committee, Regrading of Postal and Telegraph Staff, Public Service Committee, Citrus Marketing Committee, Railway Enquiry Committee, and a number of other boards and committees.

"My first acquaintance with his work was the report on the Frome disturbances for which he was appointed by the Secretary of State as a joint Commissioner in 1938.

"In asking me to present this medal on their behalf the Mico Old Students Association stressed their desire for a very short address.

"I have exceeded my time. My excuse must be that I have had so interesting a theme. You will not often find a worthier recipient of this medal than the present choice.

"The Mico Gold Medal is awarded to a past student for 'outstanding meritorious service in his chosen spheres of activity.' The Selection Committee has chosen Mr. Allan and has asked me to be their instrument in making the presentation.

"It gives me great pleasure to do so. Mr. Allan, on behalf of the Mico Old Students Association, I present you with their Gold Medal for work of the highest merit and offer to you and to Mrs. Allan my sincerest congratulations."

Sir Harold visited Bermuda on his own in 1938 and brought back the Non-Resident Business Law; as a result of his investigations in this direction and his motion in the Council, the Emigration Laws of Jamaica were revised.

In 1943 he was sent to Barbados as a representative for Jamaica at the Anglo-American Conference. The Commission and the press and public of that country recorded their gratification of the services he rendered on that occasion on behalf of Jamaica.

**At Trade Parleys**

In 1947 Sir Harold Allan was appointed representative of Jamaica to the Trade Conference in London and Geneva and was Chairman of the West Indies Delegation. Later in the same year he was appointed representative of the West Indies as Colonial Adviser to the United Kingdom Delegation at the Havana Conference on Trade and Employment.

The following letter as a result of a despatch from the Secretary of State for the appreciation of his services is set out hereunder:—

The Secretariat,  
Jamaica, B.W.I.  
20th May, 1948.

Sir,—I am directed by the Acting Governor to inform you that notification has been received from the Secretary of State for the Colonies that the Official Leader of the United Kingdom Delegation to the World Trade Conference at Havana has paid tribute to the considerable benefit which the Delegation received from your collaboration during the Conference. The Secretary of State has asked that an expression of his thanks for your valuable services on this occasion may be conveyed to you.

I am, Sir,  
Your obedient Servant,  
(sgd.) H. R. E. BROWNE  
Acting Colonial Secretary.

For the first time in the history of Jamaica, (1945), the Island's Budget was presented to its Parliament by a native and elected member. Hitherto it was the Colonial Secretary who always introduced the Budget and carried through financial discussions in the Legislative Council. It was Mr. Allan who made history in 1945 as Minister of Finance under the New Constitution, and acquitted himself with credit to the country.

**Parish Service**

It is to the people and chiefly the poor people of Portland that Harold Egbert Allan has dedicated his services. Among them he formed benevolent societies, social and literary clubs, and for many years he was a leading figure in the Parochial Board where he introduced outstanding improvements to his town and parish in numerous directions. At every sign of disaster or distress he moves to their aid with exceptional alacrity.

The Portland minstrels have written and sung many verses to him. Here is one after the 1944 storm:—

On the morning of the storm,  
H. E. Allan's blood was warm  
Lord be merciful to Portland  
Til he come.

He brought food for the poor,  
All people love him more and more,  
H. E. A! Give a cheer, H. E. A!

The Maroons of Moore Town and the Rio Grande Valley have composed and sung many ditties in praise of his achievements for their welfare.

And so there must be great rejoicing among his people at these glad tidings.

Sir Harold has pledged to serve his people for at least another term, and the general feeling is that his Portland constituency should show appreciation of this honour by returning him at the next election unopposed.