



**Ministry of National Diversity
and Social Integration**

**NATIONAL
ARCHIVES**

OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

presents

**The Road to Nationhood:
CROWN COLONY
GOVERNMENT TO
REPUBLICANISM**

1888 - TOBAGO IS JOINED TO TRINIDAD AS A SINGLE CROWN COLONY

1889



The Great Seal of Tobago

The Seal shows on one side a harbor with four ships, three at anchor, one sailing; a fruited coconut tree on the left; hill, buildings and palm trees in the background. The top half portrays the face of the sun; the exergue contains the motto:

Pulchrior evenit

(She Emerges More Beautiful).

SOURCE:

Our Flag and other National Emblems: An Independence Publication Government of Trinidad and Tobago August 31, 1962



The Great Seal of the Colony of Trinidad and Tobago

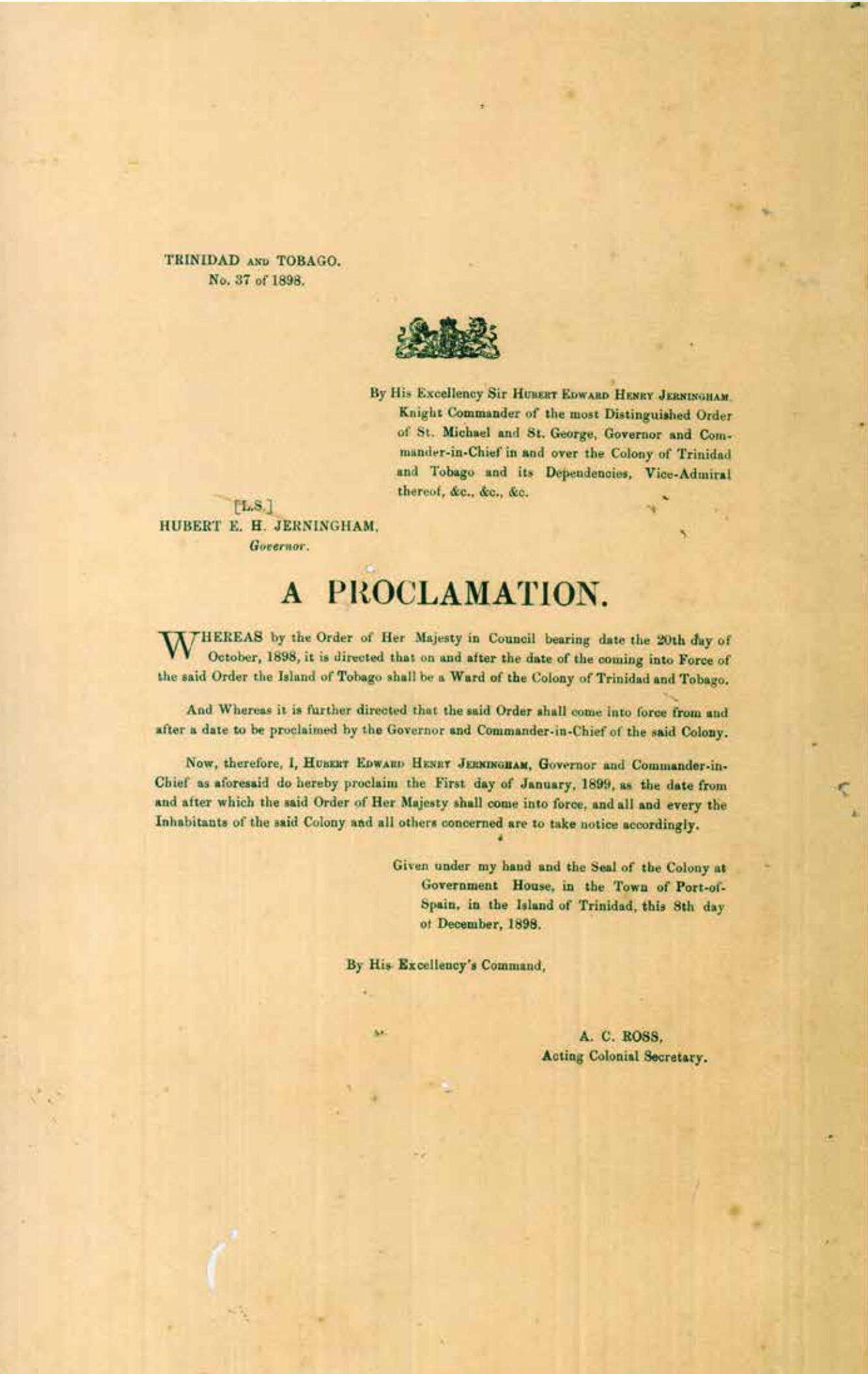
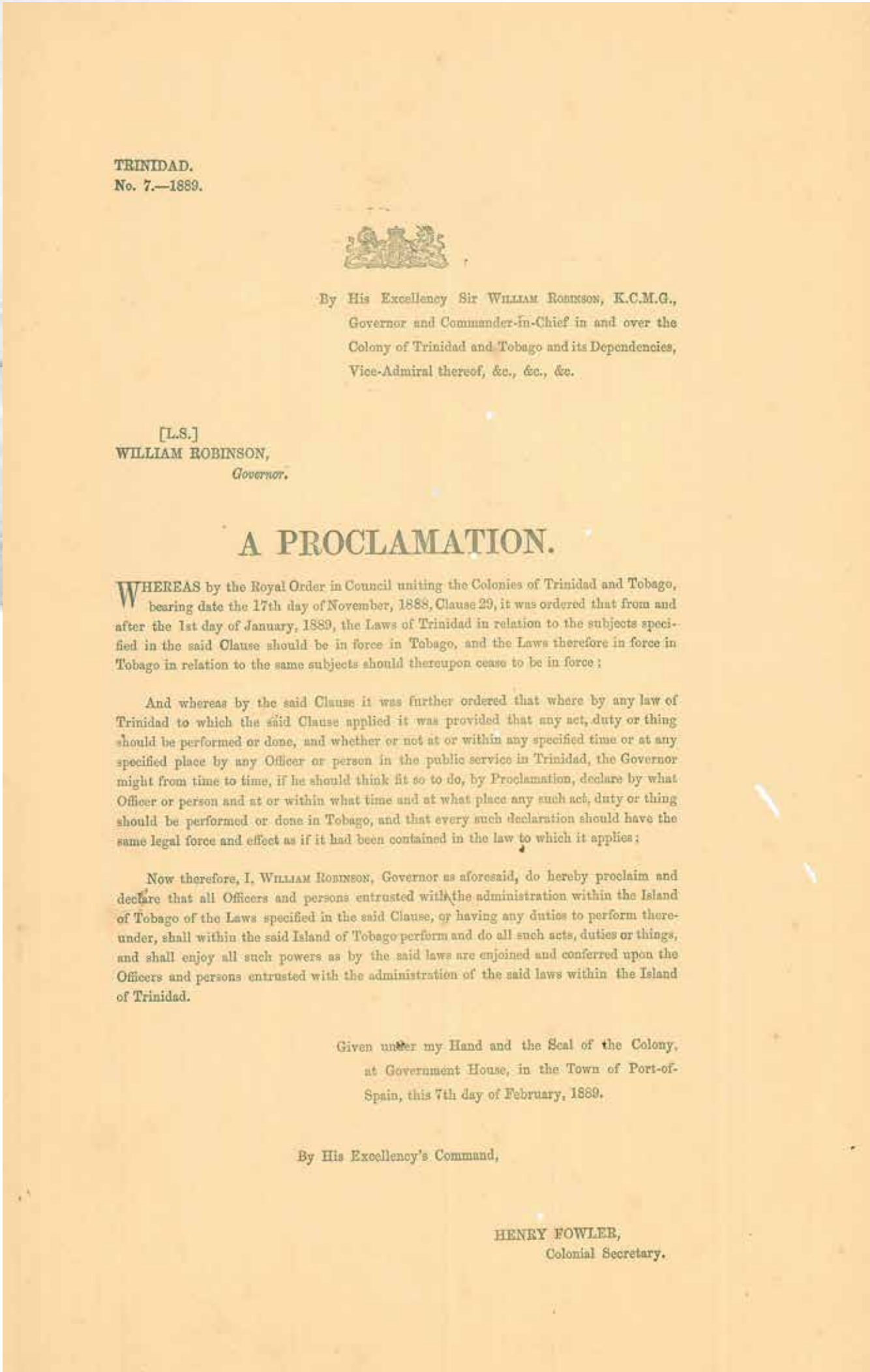
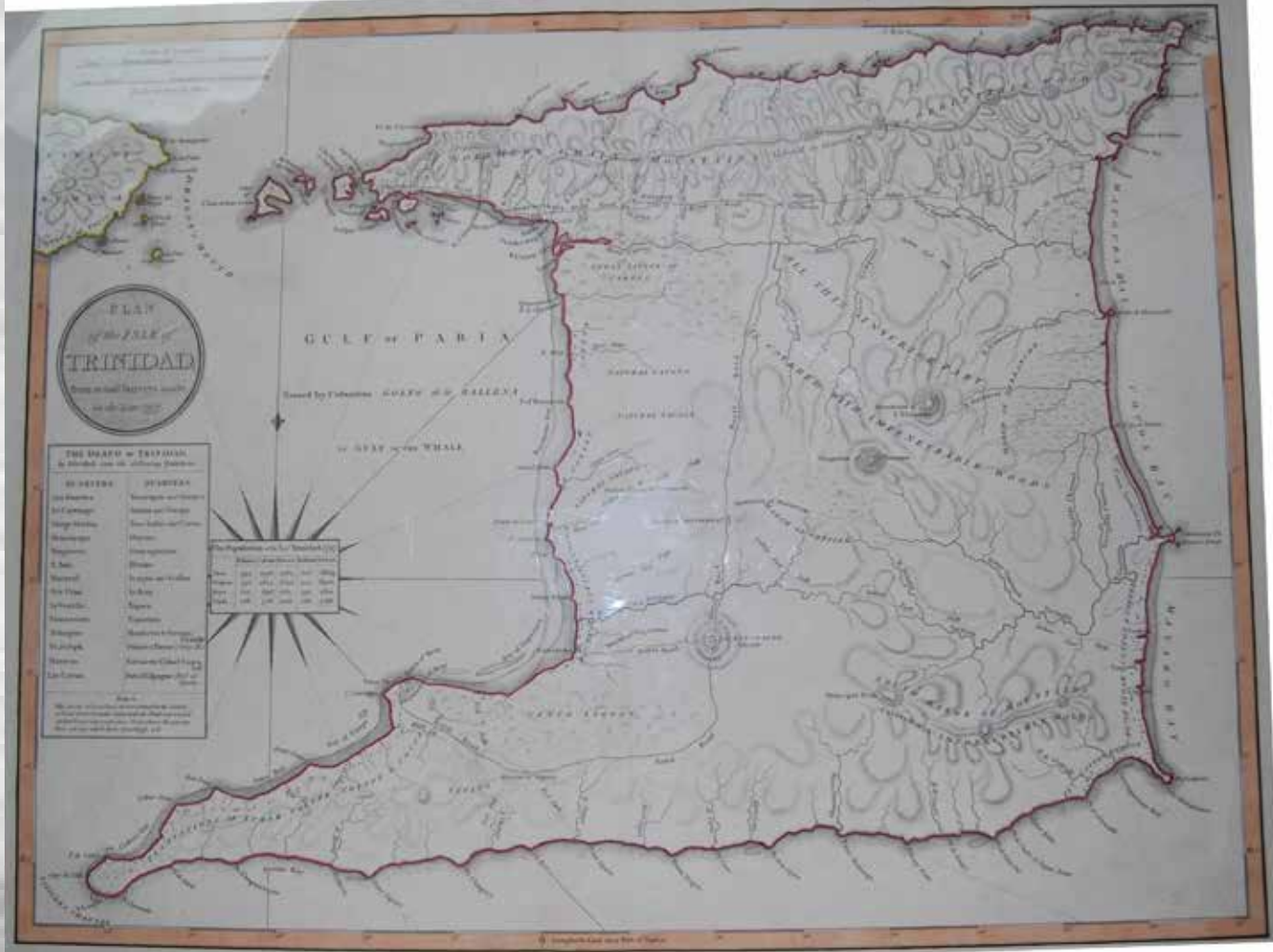
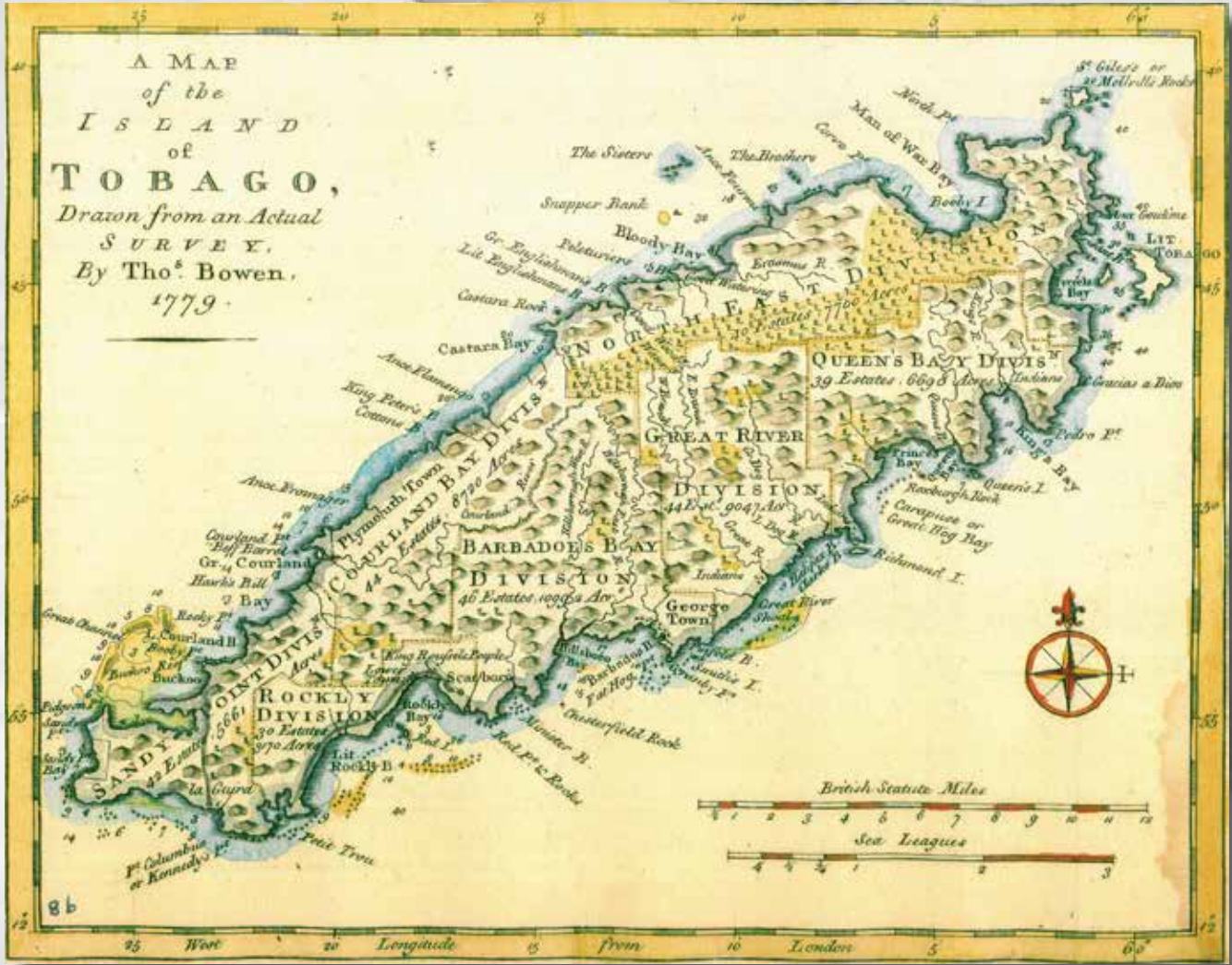
The Seal contained a representation of a Town and Harbour full of Shipping, with this Motto or legend underneath:

Misericordia probat populos et foedera jungi

(He approves of the mingling of peoples and their being joined together by treaties)

SOURCE:

Our Flag and other National Emblems: An Independence Publication Government of Trinidad and Tobago, August 31, 1962






1914 - 1918

WORLD WAR 1

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO.
No. 35 of 1914.



To the People of Trinidad and Tobago.

By His Excellency Sir GEORGE RUTHVEN LE HUNTE, G.C.M.G., Governor and Commander-in-Chief in and over the Colony of Trinidad and Tobago and its Dependencies, Vice-Admiral thereof, etc., etc., etc.

[L.S.]
GEORGE R. LE HUNTE,
Governor.


A PROCLAMATION.

WAR having unhappily broken out between His Majesty's Empire and Germany it is the duty of every subject of His Majesty to do all that in him lies for His Majesty's Empire and to preserve its soil inviolate.

(230)

[Aug. 6, 1914.] TRINIDAD ROYAL GAZETTE. 1685

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO.
No. 33 of 1914.



By His Excellency Sir GEORGE RUTHVEN LE HUNTE, Knight Grand Cross of the Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael and Saint George, Governor and Commander-in-Chief in and over the Colony of Trinidad and Tobago and its Dependencies, Vice-Admiral thereof, &c., &c., &c.

[L.S.]
GEORGE R. LE HUNTE,
Governor.

A PROCLAMATION.

WHEREAS HIS MAJESTY has been compelled to declare war against GERMANY.

And whereas Her Late Majesty Queen Victoria, was pleased, by and with the Advice of Her Privy Council to make, by Order in Council, dated the 26th day of October, 1896, special provisions for the defence Order and Good Government of certain Colonies specified in the Schedule thereto which said provisions were to apply and have effect in such Colonies at such time as the Governors thereof respectively should proclaim;

And whereas His Majesty has been pleased, by and with the advice of His Privy Council, by Order in Council dated the 14th day of October, 1913, to extend the provisions of the said Order in Council of the 26th day of October, 1896, to the Colony of Trinidad and Tobago;

And whereas it has become necessary to apply to and bring into effect in this Colony the provisions of the said Order in Council;

Now, therefore, I, GEORGE RUTHVEN LE HUNTE, Governor as aforesaid, do hereby proclaim and apply to bring into effect in this Colony the provisions of the said Order in Council and do order all persons to take notice and govern themselves accordingly.

Given under my hand and the Seal of the Colony in the Town of Port-of-Spain, at Government House, this 5th day of August, 1914.

By His Excellency's Command,
S. W. KNAGGS,
Colonial Secretary.

World War 1 was a global war centered in Europe. It began on 28 July 1914 and lasted until 11 November 1918. The assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand, heir to the Austro-Hungarian crown, and his wife, the Archduchess Sophie, in Sarajevo on June 28, 1914, sparked the hostilities, which continued on several fronts for the next four years. Countries involved in the war were United Kingdom, France, Serbia, Russia, Italy, Greece, Portugal, Romania, United States, Germany, Austria- Hungary, Ottoman Turkey and Bulgaria.

With Britain's entry into the war, her colonies and dominions abroad offered military and financial assistance. Although Trinidad was geographically far from the scene of the war, we were not completely isolated from the event. Apart from the stringent food shortage, World War I inspired patriotic fervor.

One Thousand, Seven Hundred and Thirty-Five (1,735) men of the Trinidad contingent of the British West India Regiment went to the fighting front. According to the Port of Spain Gazette, crowds of people came to Port of Spain to see the troops leave on October 6, 1914. Every street, from Richmond to Abercromby was impassable. The war promoted revolutionary movements and radical ideas. Workers, who had served abroad, returned and became activists for worker's rights and equality in Trinidad.

Sources:
Anthony, Michael. Historical Dictionary of Trinidad and Tobago.

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum,
Washington, DC Encyclopedia, Last Updated: May 11,
2012

<http://www.ushmm.org/wlc/en/article.php?ModuleId=10007427>

Port of Spain Gazette, Aug 20, 1915, p. 9.

West Indians at the Front.

(To the Editor of the Port of Spain Gazette)

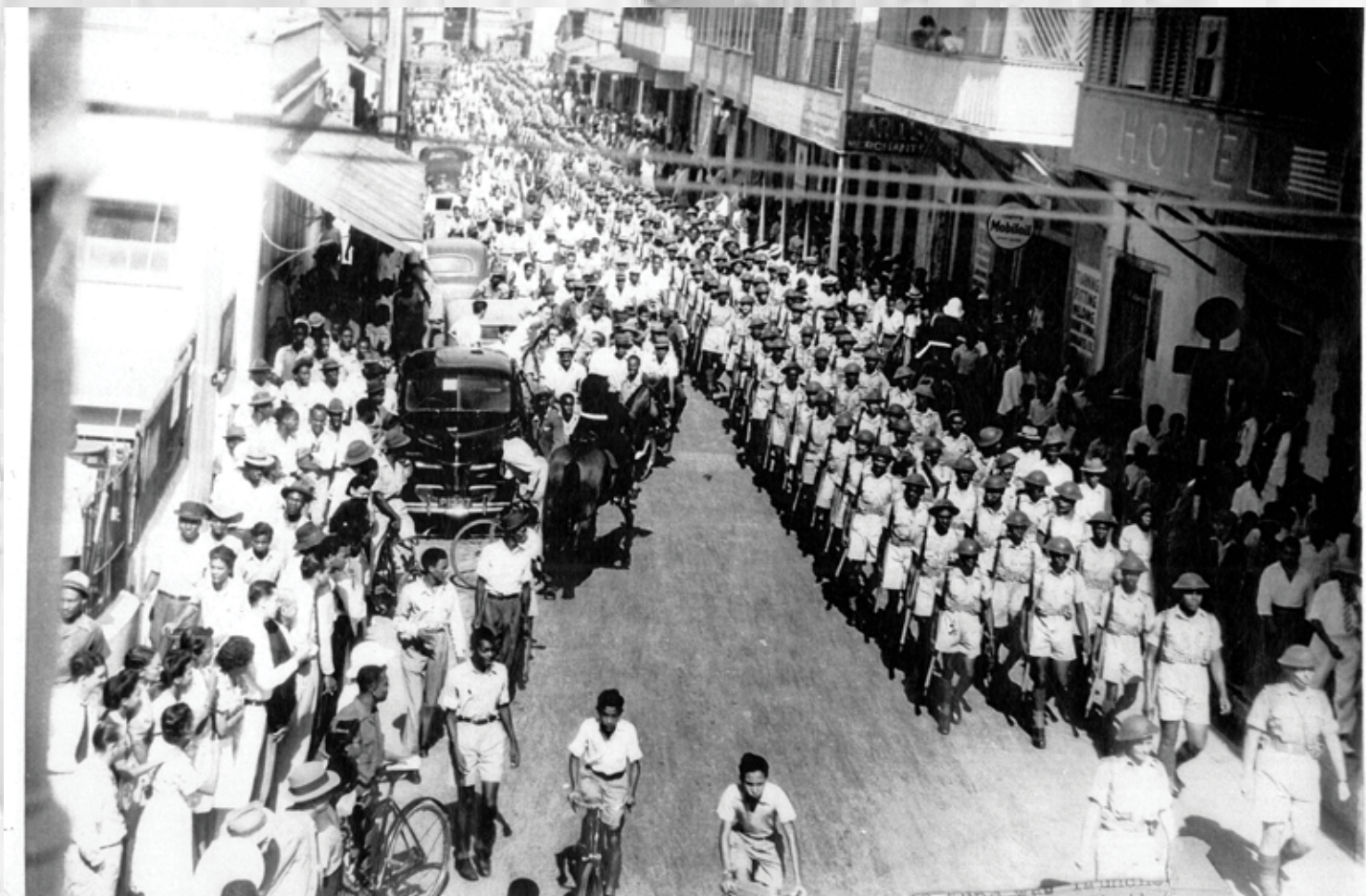
Dear Sir.—In British Guiana, Jamaica, and Barbados preparations are being made to send a Contingent to the Mother Country to do their little bit in the war now being waged. There is no doubt that this European war is the greatest ever entered upon by England, and it will probably go down in history as the greatest ever waged. I believe I am right in saying it is the first time the services of West Indians have been accepted by the Imperial Government for an European conflict. I feel proud of the fact that already many of our young men at considerable expense to themselves, have joined the Colours, and have been in action, and that many more are ready to go forward, if their passage be paid. A few hundred—if not thousands—of our young men undergoing training in England, and later on standing alongside Britain's sons on the battle field will dispel the idea—a little too prevalent unfortunately that West Indians should still be "in apron strings."

As I am of opinion that the services of our men, and of Colonials generally, in this war will bring about a change in the West Indies I wish to compile in took form an accurate list of men who have done their bit in this gigantic and historical struggle. I hope that in the years to come this list will be of interest to both old and young West Indians who will have every reason to be proud of the part taken by those whose names figure therein. The proceeds of sale of this list will be handed over to the Red Cross and Blue Cross Funds.

It is in no spirit of diffidence I ask you to be good enough to make my object known to your readers. I shall be thankful to Parents, Relatives or friends of men with the Colours and to the men themselves for names and particulars of Regiment and service. I shall gladly forward to Parents &c. a form (a copy of which is enclosed) of the particulars required upon application to me at the address hereunder.

Yours truly,
ARTHUR A. CIPRIANI.

18 Henry Street,
Port of Spain,
July 2nd 1915.

[illegible]

Southern Caribbean Force parading on Queen Street, Port of Spain



***Civilian support for the troops on
Queen Street, Port of Spain***

1919

CAPTAIN CIPRIANI CALLED ON THE WORKERS TO STRIKE, RESULTING IN THE FIRST IMPORTANT INDUSTRIAL STRIKE IN TRINIDAD.

Port of Spain Gazette.

FORT-OF-SPAIN.
SUNDAY, NOV. 16, 1919.

The Watermen's Strike.

Once more, it would appear, the trade of this port is to be thrown into a state of confusion and disorder through a strike of the stevedores for more wages. The men are now, it seems, demanding,—or rather, it would perhaps be nearer the truth to say the demand is being made in their name, for a wage of \$3 per working day, with 48 cents per hour overtime and double pay on Sundays and public holidays. It will be remembered that some time ago, in consequence of the determination of the men not to work for what they then considered insufficient wages, the shipping companies were forced to accede to the claim for a minimum wage of \$2 a day; and we must confess that we thought it a reasonable demand on the part of the men and a business like and commonsense decision on the part of the employers. The present situation seems to us quite otherwise. It appears to us highly objectionable from two points of view. The first is that the demands made are unconscionable; the second that there is noticeable the introduction of a system of unauthorised representation by a self-constituted body of the alleged views of the men which cannot but have disastrous effects on the relations between masters and men. From a reliable source we are informed that on an average it may be taken for granted that the stevedores, if they are industrious and steady can and do obtain from 15 to 20 days work regularly every month; and in addition it must be borne in mind they get overtime for the majority of steamers on which they work. It is computed that roughly, the wages of the steady hardworking stevedore may be set down, therefore, at about \$30 to \$40 a month exclusive of overtime; and be it remembered that leaves out of consideration whatever he may earn on a lower scale of wage as a jobber or labourer on the remaining ten days of the month when there are no steamers for him to load or unload. Times are hard, we admit; and everyone is seeking to get increased wages to help fight with the hard times. But it does seem to us that the stevedore lot, as day labourers, performing unskilled labour, is not any harder, if so hard, as is that of many other classes of workers, store clerks, school teachers, and others who require special training of the brain for their jobs. Again it must be borne in mind that the action of stevedores in seeking to force the hands of shipowners to give them whatever they demand by way of wages is bound to react disastrously on themselves, and in two ways. In the first place, it is causing a material increase in the landed cost of goods in Trinidad, foodstuffs and other articles, which most assuredly neither the shipping companies nor the importers, nor the foreign exporters are going to meet out of their profits. Who then will pay it? The consumer himself; the family of the striking stevedore, and the families also, unfortunately of every other consumer who does not go on strike, but has to suffer, the innocent with the guilty.

The second objectionable feature of the present strike lies in the fact

that it appears to be a course of conduct laid down for the men, not by them; in fact, a matter in which the Working Men's Association has arrogated to itself something of the extensive powers claimed by the trade unions in other countries. Some of the men not only were unwilling to join the strike, but as a matter of fact frankly admitted that they did not approve it or knew that it had been decided upon. Should trade unionism come and with it the creation of conversely protective organisations of employers, no doubt we shall suffer from the enforcement of such strikes for no genuine cause upon bodies of unwilling workers, to their own and the colony's detriment. But at present, we cannot but think the employers are perfectly right in refusing to recognise the Workingmen's Association as having, merely because they allege it, any mandate from the stevedores to strike for higher wages. We recognise the right of a man or a body of men to strike as a protest against a grievance,—even if the grievance is more imaginary than real. That is their business, and so is any suffering and trouble their action may entail on themselves, and their family. But we do not recognise, and we think, no employer of labour should recognise, the right of any self-constituted body to decide for a number of labourers, against their expressed wish, to organise a strike. That savours of political agitation of the worst kind, and can only tend to depreciate the value of the Association in the eyes of respectable men in the community.

Recently, moreover, we also had a strike of bakers, which was cast on the public in the same way as the Waterman's strike, i.e. without notice and against the desire of a portion of the men, who were quite content to continue work, and to intimidate whom an endeavour was made when a settlement was proposed. Now we say to these strikers, that, if it is in any way intended to imitate the unions of Europe and America, they would do well to study the lessons derived from the recent Railway and Coal Strikes in England and the United States. The expression, moreover, of the United States Senate, reported in the telegrams published yesterday morning, are equally applicable to this place. Neither capital nor labour has any right to unreasonably incommode the public, without their grievances having been thoroughly threshed out and relief denied. In neither of the present instances was any serious attempt made, so far as we can ascertain, before the strikes were called, to have the matter seriously considered and arbitration, if necessary, invoked. We have no hesitation in telling the men that this is procedure the correctness of which they will find it very difficult to convince the general public. We doubt, and we say this seriously, whether any of those who have attempted to organise these strikes realize, in any way, their duty to the community in general. Every man, according to his station in life, has a duty to perform to the community at large which he cannot neglect. He has no right, for any grievance, real or imaginary, to attempt to throw out of gear the entire machinery of the state. No demagogue, or set of demagogues, can constitute himself or themselves arbiters of the destinies of the community; and we would be the first

to regret seeing the arms of the law brought into action to protect the public from extravagances of this description. But we have every confidence in the rank and file of the men who went on strike, and, we say it boldly, that confidence extends as far as to say that we have not the slightest doubt that they will not be long in realizing that they have been misled. There is ample machinery for righting all grievances, but it should be realised, once and for all, that law and order must be supreme in every well organised community. Nothing can be permitted to destroy this condition of affairs, and no man, or body of men can or will be tolerated who arrogate to themselves powers which belong solely to those whose duty it is to look after the affairs of the country in general.

Trinidad Workingmen's Association (Incorporated)

Affiliated to the Parliamentary
Labour Party, England.

Fight for Better Conditions, Freedom and Living Wage, Stop Migrating to Foreign lands, and fight for good conditions at home.

The Workingmen's Association

is a political organization for the furtherance of social reform. It seeks the political and industrial emancipation of the workers through organization and representation of the elective of all and every governing body. Since 1906 it has carried on its propaganda throughout the country.

The Workingmen's Association (Incorporated)

is a Political Body for all earnest SOCIAL REFORMERS. It is not a Labour Union and not for gain.

The next meeting will take place on Friday the 14th November, at No 21 George Street.

L. A. THEOBALD,
Hon. Secretary.



CAPTAIN THE HON'BLE A. A. CIPRIANI.

Captain Arthur Andrew Cipriani (1875-1945)

Arthur Andrew Cipriani was born in Port of Spain and was the son of a Corsican immigrant. He first came to notice at the outbreak of World War 1 when he was involved with recruiting soldiers for the fighting front. He was subsequently made Captain in the British West India Regiment and left for the front in 1917.

1919-1920 - Cipriani took up the plight of the ex soldiers who found themselves neglected. Cipriani came out most emphatically not only on behalf of ex-soldiers but on behalf of the down trodden in general.

1919 - In November 1919 during a labour dispute on the Port of Spain wharves Cipriani called on the workers to withhold their labour

Source:

Anthony, Michael. Historical Dictionary of Trinidad and Tobago. Scarecrow Press, 1977.

1924

THE FIRST MAJOR LEGISLATIVE REFORM WHICH ALLOWED FOR ELECTED REPRESENTATION ON THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

1924.]


Aug. 21, 1924.]

TRINIDAD ROYAL GAZETTE.

831

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO.

No. 41 of 1924.



By His Excellency HENRY BARCLAY WALCOTT, C.M.G., Acting Governor and Commander-in-Chief in and over the Colony of Trinidad and Tobago and its Dependencies, Vice-Admiral thereof, &c., &c., &c.

[L.S.]
H. B. WALCOTT,
Acting Governor.

A PROCLAMATION.

WHEREAS by an Order in Council dated the 16th day of April, 1924, His Majesty has been pleased to order the reconstitution of the Legislative Council of this Colony;

And whereas it is provided that the said Council shall consist of the Governor as President, twelve Official Members and thirteen Unofficial Members, and that of the said thirteen Unofficial Members seven shall be elected in the manner provided in the said Order;

And whereas it is expedient to provide for the registration of voters for the election of members of the said Council;

Now, therefore, I, HENRY BARCLAY WALCOTT, Acting Governor as aforesaid, in pursuance of the powers vested in me by Clause XXXI of the said Order do hereby proclaim as follows:—

1. This Proclamation may be cited as the Registration of Electors short title. (Legislative Council) Proclamation, 1924.
2. In this Proclamation the expression—
 - "Order in Council" means the Order of His Majesty the King in Council dated the 16th day of April, 1924, and entitled "the Trinidad and Tobago (Legislative Council) Order in Council, 1924";
 - "District" means an electoral district as constituted by the said Order in Council;
 - "Ward" means (a) any Ward as defined by or under the provisions of the Division of Trinidad Ordinance, 1918, and includes the Ward of Tobago; and (b) any Ward as defined by or under the provisions of the Port-of-Spain Corporation (Amendment) Ordinance, 1924;
 - "Register" means a register of electors compiled in accordance with the provisions of this Proclamation.

THE GOVERNMENT.

1924.

THE GOVERNOR.

His Excellency Brigadier-General Sir SAMUEL HERBERT WILSON, K.C.M.G., K.B.E., C.B., R.E.,
Commander-in-Chief in and over the Colony of Trinidad and Tobago and its Dependencies, Vice-Admiral thereof, &c., &c., &c.

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL.

His Excellency Brigadier-General Sir SAMUEL HERBERT WILSON, K.C.M.G., K.B.E., C.B., R.E. President, 1st January, 1922
*The Hon'ble THOMAS ALEXANDER VANS BEST, C.M.G., C.B.E. Colonial Secretary. 1st October, 1919.
*The Hon'ble WALTER CLARENCE HUGGARD, B.A., LL.D., K.C. Attorney-General. 1st November, 1922.
*The Hon'ble JOHN TARDIFF HEWITSON, Treasurer. April, 1923.
The Hon'ble Sir HENRY ALBERT ALCAZAR, K.C. 23rd September, 1915.
The Hon'ble HENRY BARCLAY WALCOTT, C.M.G., Collector of Customs. 9th September, 1920.

CLERK OF THE COUNCIL.

The Assistant Colonial Secretary.

*Members ex officio

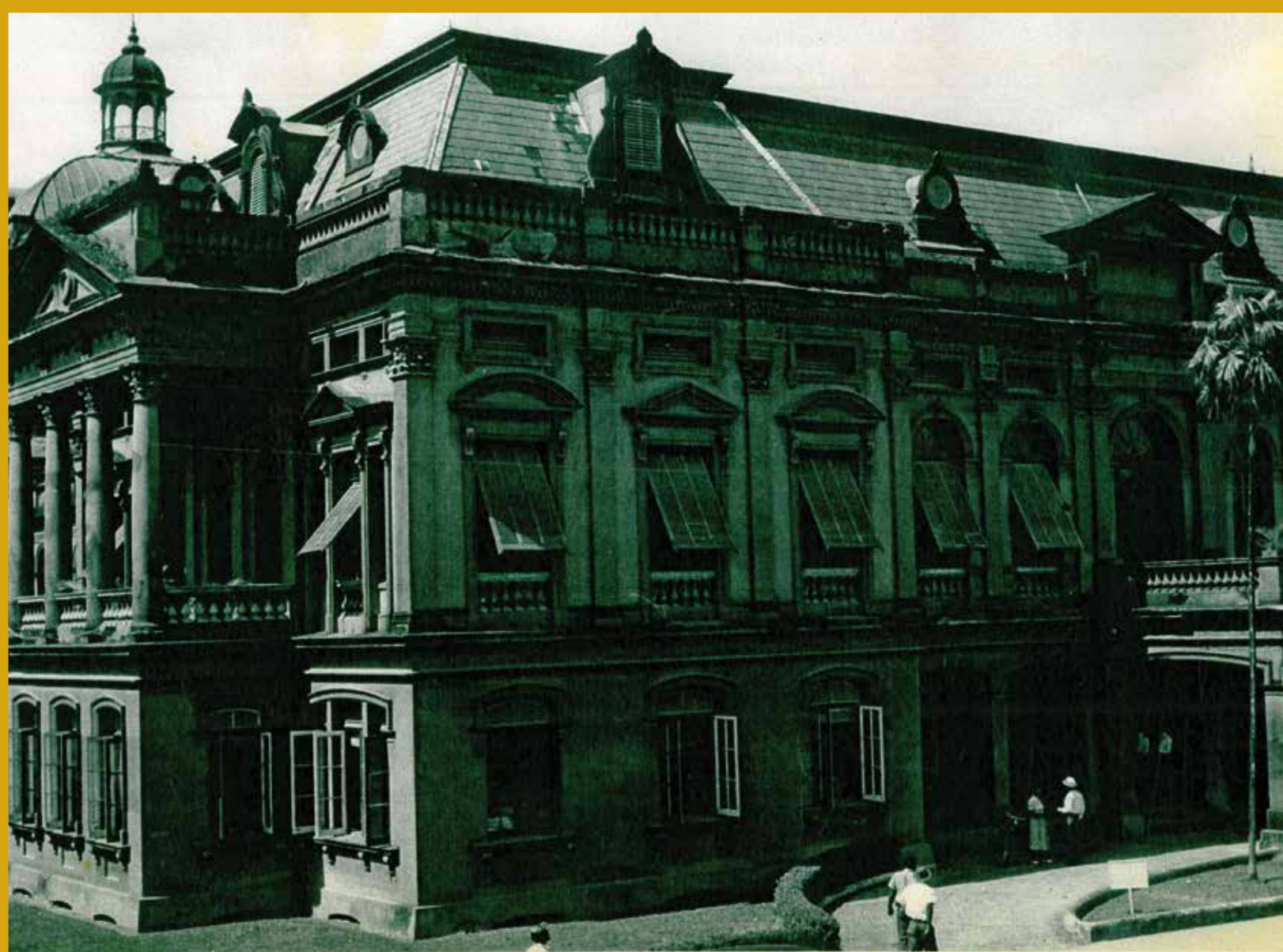
LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

PRESIDENT.
His Excellency Brigadier-General Sir SAMUEL HERBERT WILSON, K.C.M.G., K.B.E., C.B., R.E., Governor, &c., 1st January, 1922.

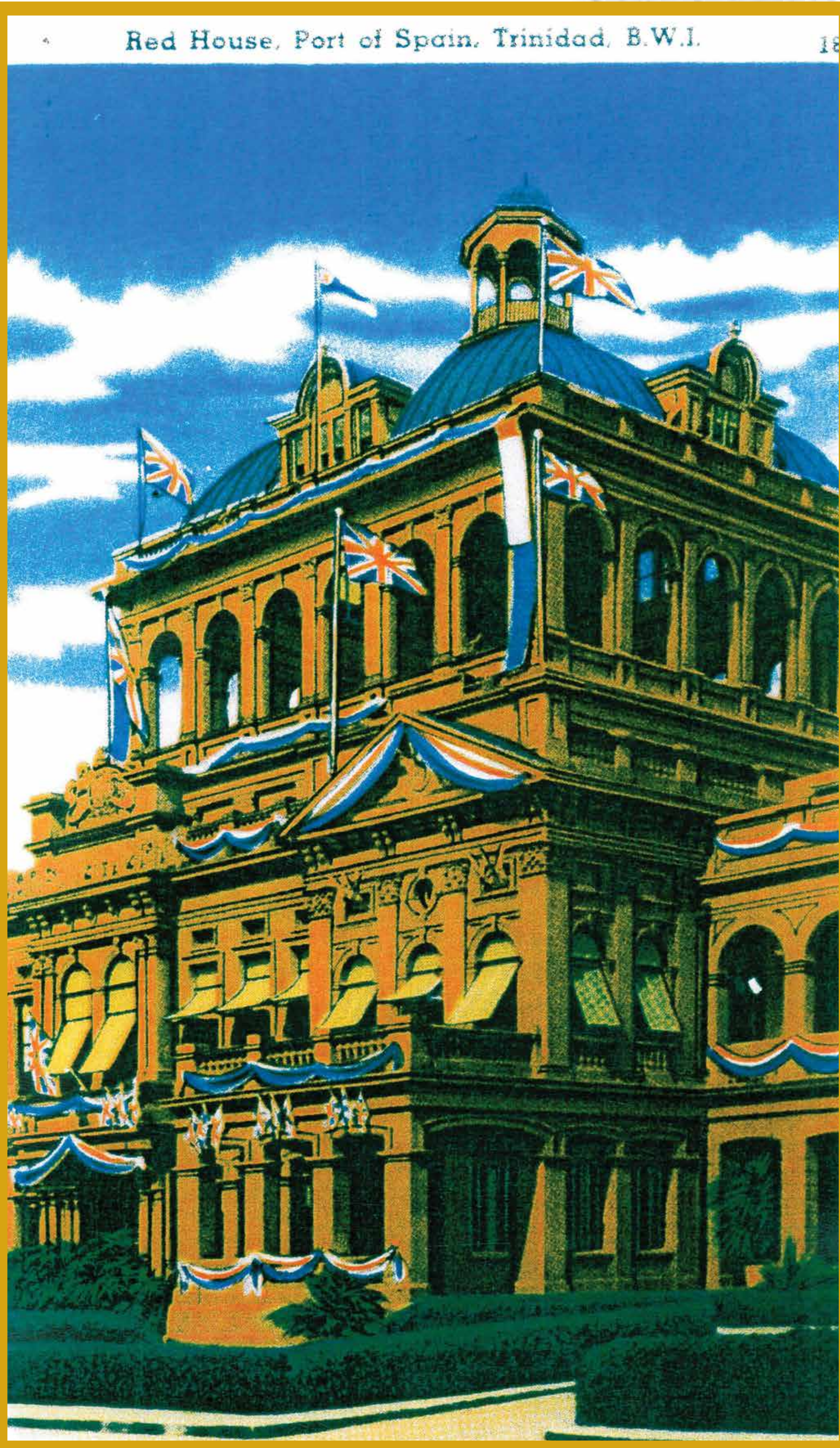
Official Members.
The Hon'ble THOMAS ALEXANDER VANS BEST, C.M.G., C.B.E., Colonial Secretary. 1st October, 1919.
The Hon'ble WALTER CLARENCE HUGGARD, B.A., LL.D., K.C., Attorney-General. 1st November, 1922.
The Hon'ble JOHN TARDIFF HEWITSON, Treasurer. April, 1923.
The Hon'ble ROBERT HOWARD FURNESS, Solicitor-General. 26th November, 1923.
The Hon'ble Colonel GEORGE HERBERT MAY, V.D., Inspector-General of Constabulary and Commandant of the Local Forces. 23rd September, 1916.
The Hon'ble DANIEL MEINERTS HAHN, M. Inst. C.E., M. Inst. M.E., Acting Director of Public Works.
The Hon'ble KENRICK STANTON WISE, M.B., B.S. Lond., B.Sc., M.R.C.S., E. Surgeon-General. 5th August, 1919.
The Hon'ble ARNAULD HENRY WILLIAM DE BOISSIERE, Protector of Immigrants and Director of Labour Exchanges. 10th September, 1914.
The Hon'ble HENRY BARCLAY WALCOTT, C.M.G., Collector of Customs. 15th February, 1920.
The Hon'ble WILLIAM GEORGE FREEMAN, B.Sc., A.R.C.S., F.L.S., Director of Agriculture. 1923.

Unofficial Members.
The Hon'ble Sir HENRY ALBERT ALCAZAR, K.C. 10th October, 1903.
The Hon'ble WILLIAM GEMMELL KAY, O.B.E. 2nd January, 1908.
The Hon'ble ALEXANDER FRASER. 5th May, 1912.
The Hon'ble ARTHUR HENRY WIGHT. 5th October, 1914.
The Hon'ble EMMANUEL M'ZUMBO LAZARE. 10th June, 1920.
The Hon'ble The Rev. CHARLES DAVID LALLA. 13th Sept., 1920.
The Hon'ble Dr. ARTHUR HUTTON MC SHINE, 1st November, 1921.
The Hon'ble LENNOX ARTHUR PATRICK O'REILLY, K.C. 16th January, 1923.
The Hon'ble JOHN BAPTISTE DENIS SELLIER. 22nd January, 1923.
The Hon'ble ALBERT BONUS CARR. 1923.

CLERK OF THE COUNCIL.
GEORGE DOUGLAS OWEN. 1st May, 1920.



Exterior view of the Red house, Government Buildings, in which the Legislative Council is housed, showing the Council Chamber upstairs.
(TRIN 175/237)



1925

LIMITED ELECTION TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AND TO THE GOVERNOR'S EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

VICTORY SPECIAL

The

Ben Rice

MAKE YOURSELF FASHIONABLE IN YOUR DRESS BY PATRONISING Heath's tailoring Est. 77, Queen Street.

Labour Leader

The Only Political Paper in the Colony

OL. IV. No. 11 WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 11 1925 PRICE ONE PENNY

Port-of-Spain Election

VERDICT

A. A. CIPRIANI (1)	2,557
R. T. H. RUST (2)	910
G. JOHNSTON (3)	378
Man-O'-War wins Renown by	1,647
Renown and Camouflage combined by	1,269

W. HOWARD BISHOP, Trainer of Winner

The First General Elections: 1925

The first General election in Trinidad and Tobago has held on 9th February, 1925. This was as a result of the recommendation of a Report by the Under Secretary of State for the Colonies, Mr. Wood. This report advocated the inclusion of a small number of elected members in the legislature. Later, an Order in Council dated April 1924 provided for election of a minority of unofficial members in the Trinidad Executive Council.

- Candidate for election had to meet financial and residential requirements.
- The age limit was twenty one years for men voters and thirty years for women voters.
- The electorate comprised only 5.9 percent of the total population and of this number 14.9 percent voted.
- The order in Council 1924 formed the basis of the 1925 Constitution.

THE LEGISLATIVE ELECTIONS.

PORT-OF-SPAIN RETURNS THE RED FLAG.

Successful Candidate's Bombastic Misstatements.

DISHED UP FOR GULLIBLE CROWD.

Yesterday, Election Day, saw a new era in the political history of our island under the New Constitution, and all the seats for the respective Counties were seriously contested but for the St. David-Nariva and Mayaro district for which Mr. C. H. Pierre has been elected unopposed and Victoria where the point has been yielded to Mr. T. M. Kishall. The interest exhibited in the City equalled that in the Country districts, and much is promised from the zeal and enthusiasm exhibited by the electors in this their initial step into representation. From what we have been able to gather the behaviour of the people was splendid, and party feeling was allowed to go no further than appeared necessary. The arrangements were under gone with a degree of care that speaks glowingly for those in authority, and utter satisfaction was expressed on all sides.

IN PORT-OF-SPAIN.

MR. CIPRIANI AN EASY WINNER.


The contest in the city was interesting and the stunts were kept alive from morn till late last evening as people in the heat of victory thronged the side walks discussing incidents of the eventful day. Mr. Arthur Andrew Cipriani emerged victor with 2,557 votes, the Major, Randolph Thomas Hammond Rust 910 and Mr. W. Gaston Johnston 378—the other candidate Mr. Alfred Richards had already retired in favour of Mr. Johnston. Of the registered number of electors 55 per cent, at the least came to the polls, the total number of votes being 4,044, 159 being spoilt. In the five electoral Wards the

Ward	Cipriani	Rust	Johnston	Totals
Northern	271	150	100	527
Southern	1153	289	160	1602
North Eastern	433	166	32	631
South Eastern	336	43	12	391
Western	358	262	72	692
Totals	2557	910	378	3845
Spoilt				159
				4044


THE ANNOUNCEMENT.

At 7.20 the Town Clerk announced that he had counted the votes and found that Mr. Arthur Andrew Cipriani had polled 2,557 votes, Mr. Randolph Thomas Hammond Rust 910 votes, and Mr. Gaston Johnston 378 votes. There were 159 votes spoilt. (Hear, hear.)


Dr. Prada: I declare Mr. Arthur An-




MR. A. A. CIPRIANI ELECTED FOR PORT-OF-SPAIN.



MR. A. V. STOLLMAYER ELECTED FOR COUNTY ST. GEORGE.



MR. SARBAN TRELOOCKSINGH ELECTED FOR CARONI.



MR. C. HENRY PIERRE ELECTED COUNTIES OF ST. DAVID, ST. ANDREW, NARIVA AND MAYARO.

Source: Port of Spain Gazette, Feb 8, 1925

ELECTION SPECIAL

The

Ben Rice

MAKE YOURSELF FASHIONABLE IN YOUR DRESS BY PATRONISING Heath's tailoring Est. 77, Queen Street.

Labour Leader

The Only Political Paper in the Colony

VOL. IV. No. 5 TUESDAY JANUARY 20 1925 PRICE ONE PENNY

Representative Government

The 'Second Drive

Electors of Belmont-Wake Up!

The Cipriani-ites are Entrenching

A MASS MEETING

WILL BE HELD

IN THE ST. MARGARET'S HALL, BELMONT

TO-NIGHT (TUESDAY) JANUARY 21, 1925 AT 8 M.P.

Come One! Come All!—GET THE CORRECT ATTITUDE AND

VOTE FOR CIPRIANI

10 THE LABOUR LEADER, SATURDAY FEBRUARY 14 1925

Representative Government

The Election Big Meet



LEADING IN THE WINNER

1934

CAPTAIN CIPRIANI FORMED THE TRINIDAD LABOUR PARTY WHICH PROMOTED THE IDEALS OF SELF GOVERNMENT AND ANTI COLONIALISM



A statue was unveiled in his memory in 1959 at the intersection of Marine Square (now Independence Square) and Frederick Street.

Captain Arthur Andrew Cipriani (1875-1945)

1921

His popularity reached great heights and he was elected to a seat on the city council of Port of Spain.

1923

Cipriani became president of the Trinidad Workingmen's Association which at that time was the country's leading workers organization.

1925

Captain Cipriani became mayor of the city of Port of Spain.

1934

In 1934 he formed the Trinidad Labour Party which was in essence the Trinidad Workingmen's Association under a new name. One of his chief lieutenants, Uriah Butler left the labour party in 1936 and formed his own British Empire Workers Citizen Home Rule Party.

Source

The People, Nov 10, 1934, p. 7."

The People, Sep 29, 1934, p. 6."

PAGE 6

THE PEOPLE

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 1934

Though, in certain cases there has been a notable disinclination to do so, due, it is said, to the feeling that with the ever formidable forces of the opposition arrayed against all their splendour a work of the kind can best be fostered only by the knowledge that the red buffets to which its apostles are generally subjected would be satisfactorily compensated by appreciable pecuniary considerations.

All parties—particularly politicians—have had cause, usually, to lament the fact that in their incipient stages, the greatest impediment that they had to encounter was the question of finance, and history and experience are no lacking in ascribing the failure of their acquisition of power to their financial embarrassment.

This newspaper makes especial mention of such an important feature because it feels, as it has always felt, that it would be a tragedy if, despite the solid foundation which past and present leaders of local socialism have laid, it were discovered that there exist within their ranks individuals who are inclined to exchange the security of the future for the instability of gold.

This phase of the question, however, should not dishearten those who have not seen the necessity to recant. Instead, it should possess them with greater courage to continue their good work with the sure and perfect certainty that posterity shall have much to thank them for.

The Trinidad Labour Party seems to be the one and only local coterie to which especial political significance attaches. It is regarded by persons competent to sit in judgment on matters constitutional and, therefore, political, as the opposition of local government. It sets about its plans for political purposes with determination and in a manner very much unlike that of others. If the adoption of such constitutional activity may be regarded as the sincerity with which the party has set out to serve those who resort to it for succour then, we have no doubt that there would be a tremendous political awakening in the near future when more and more, the thousands who are yet outside the fold have fully appreciated its true significance.

PAGE 6

THE TRINIDAD Labour Party

THOSE who accept the doctrine that evolution is the outcome of revolution could not have expressed surprise at the decision, recently arrived at and to the effect that henceforth, the Trinidad Workingmen's Association must be known as and called The Trinidad Labour Party.

Constitutionally, it is claimed that the novelty of the appellation possesses its adherents with the use of more effective weapons, whereby, as a result, the aims and objects as enunciated in the Labour and Socialist programme would be subjected to less defeat than hitherto. Consequently, the change may be regarded as desirable.

As time goes on, the wisdom of such a contention will be tested and, if the several newly formed branches that have recently secured affiliation to the Trinidad Labour Party may be taken as a positive index of political adhesion to that entity, then the Labour and Socialist Party of Great Britain would do well to prepare a programme of more far reaching import for West Indian civilisation and West Indian culture.

What was considered good for their grandfathers might prove to be lamentably lacking in certain minutiae for the generations to follow. But the progress of Socialism in Trinidad and Tobago, particularly, may best be measured by the young men and young women who have not merely accepted its principles but also given public manifestation of their intention to spread them throughout the length and breadth of any quarter in which they may be privileged to find themselves.

THE PEOPLE SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 1934 PAGE 7

term of office has been extended, it might be your intention to sit with folded arms and allow others to unmercifully and unmanly put their heels on the necks of the people. Many government proposals, inimical to the interests of the governed are put through the House, because it would appear, due to your simplicity of mind and characteristic of true gentlemanliness, you would not like to obstruct them, believing that if they be given a trial, everything would work well. Serious days as these do not permit such encouragement. Every highly placed official makes plans which he must present for your favour, and, quite naturally, on the understanding that the said plans would be of interest to his Department and therefore, to Government. But you would do well if you devote especial care and attention to such plans and thereby, save yourself from your friends.

In repeating that the Budget referred to is one of the most disgraceful official minutes that have ever escaped the custody of local government, I desire to add nothing except that you take to heart, solemnly, the advice which, again, is proffered you, herein.

I have etc.

'JUSTICE.'

Trinidad Labour Party News.

The Port of Spain Clerk's Section will be holding a social evening on Thursday the 15th inst. at their regular meeting place, St John's Hall, under the chairmanship of Capt. the Hon. A. A. Cipriani.

PARENT BODY MONTHLY MEETING

On Wednesday evening last, the monthly meeting of the Parent Body was held at Liberty Hall. Hon. Capt. A. A. Cipriani, President General, presided supporting him on the platform were: Councillor

A. Gooding, Mr. Lai Fook, solicitor, Messrs C. W. B. Piontkowski, C. P. Alexander, C.B. Mathura, and Mr. V.E. Henry secretary general.

Many matters of important were discussed and the meeting ended with the singing of the Red Flag.

MASS MEETING AT CUREPE.

Hundreds of East Indians from Curepe and Carabi assembled at the Curepe Estate savannah, kindly lent by the Caroni Estate authorities, to listen to addresses from Capt. the Hon. A. A. Cipriani, Mr. C. P. Alexander, President of the stevedores section, and Mr. C. B. Mathura, general secretary of the Trinidad Indian League and Vice President of the P.O.S. Clerk Section of the T.L.P.

Mr. A. C. B. Singh, President of the Trinidad Indian League, presided.

The meeting was organised by Mr. Cronwell Harracksingh, Assistant secretary of the Trinidad Indian League, and a member of the St Joseph Section of the Trinidad Labour Party.

Mr. Harracksingh introduced Mr. A. C. B. Singh in a few well chosen words.

Mr. Singh in opening the meeting, welcomed the large gathering and Capt. Cipriani. He emphasised the need for co-operation and appealed to the gathering to organise into a body.

Hon. Capt. Cipriani upon rising was greeted with prolonged applause. The gallant Captain dealt at length on the subjects of the recent Caroni riots and hunger march—he advised them that it was a bad and wrong move on their part and that if they were an organised body—their leader would have acted in a more constitutional manner in their behalf. He stated that such methods are not the policy of the Trinidad Labour Party and advised them to co-operate, organise, and educate themselves.

Mr. C. P. Alexander, Mr. C. B. Mathura and Mr. Cronwell Harracksingh also addressed in a few words.

The meeting was then brought to a closed.

1937

BUTLER OILFIELD RIOTS, RUMBLINGS IN THE LABOUR MOVEMENT ADDED TO THE GROWTH IN ANTI-COLONIAL SENTIMENT

PRICE ON BUTLER'S HEAD

\$500 REWARD FOR ARREST OFFERED BY POLICE

FOLLOWING on repeated attempts to effect the arrest of Uriah Butler, said to be the instigator of the recent riots in South Trinidad, the Police today offered a reward of \$500 for information leading to his detention.

The following notice has been issued by the Inspector-General of Constabulary, the Hon'ble A. S. Mayrogorato.

"A reward of Five Hundred Dollars will be paid to any person or persons giving information which will lead to the arrest of Uriah B. Butler, of Fyzabad, who is wanted on a warrant for his arrest."

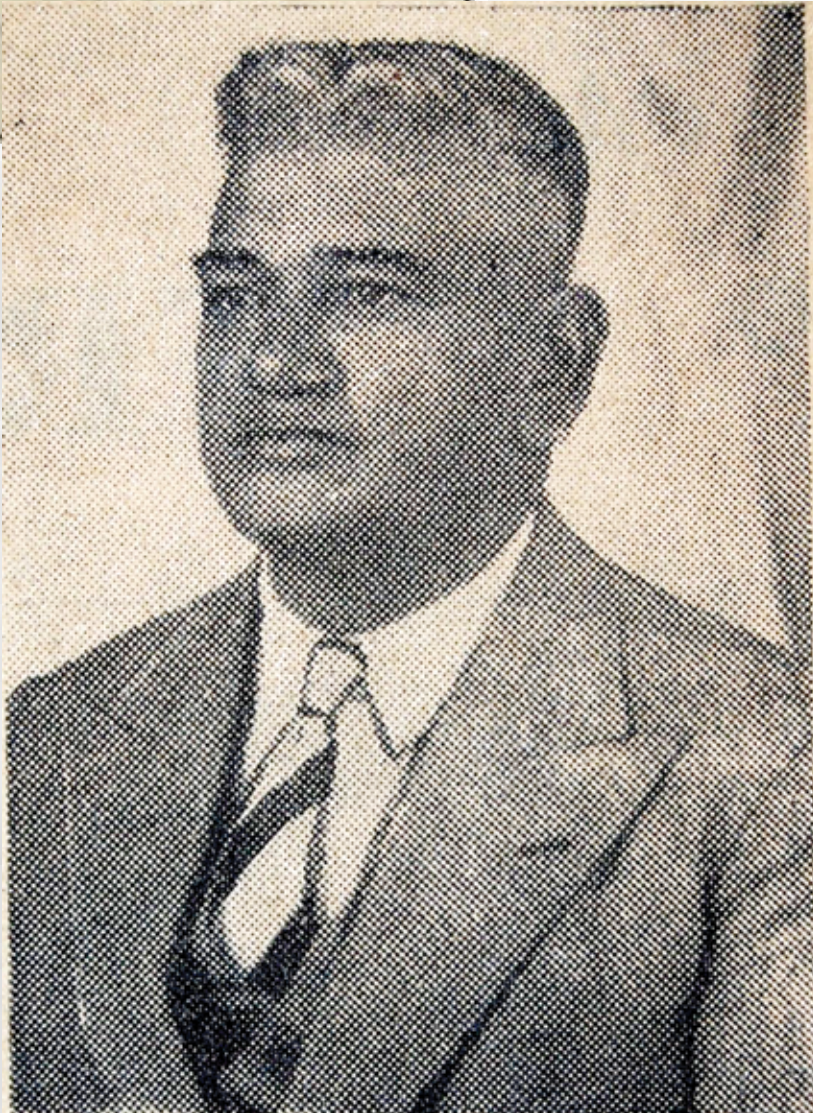
In the event of such information being given by more persons than one, the reward will be divided proportionately in the discretion of the Inspector-General of Constabulary.

Information may be given to the Inspector-General of Constabulary or to any Commissioned Police Officer.

A. S. MAYROGORATO,
Colonel

TOLL OF THE STRIKE		
	Dead.	Wounded.
Fyzabad	3	4
Penal	—	4
Point Fortin	3	3
San Fernando	2	8
Port-of-Spain	—	1
Rio Claro	4	21
Woodford Lodge	1	3
	13	44

Source:
Trinidad Guardian, Jun 23,
1937



The Hon'ble TIMOTHY ROODAL, who addressed a crowd of strikers at Fyzabad on Sunday.

More Arrests Made In South Oilfield Areas

Evening News Correspondent
San Fernando.

Seven more arrests were effected in Southern oilfield areas over the weekend.

On Friday, three persons were arrested in Fyzabad, and these were followed by two more arrests on Saturday night. Yesterday, two further arrests were made at Apex.

The arrested persons are as follows:—

Ernestine Jones and Manil Dias (Fyzabad) arrested in connection with the murder of Charlie King. Claudius Charlie, Julius Sobers and Vernon Jones (Fyzabad) arrested on a charge of unlawful assembly, Filmeroy Herbert and Agnes Herbert (Apex), arrested on a charge of unlawful assembly.

Liquor shops in the South were opened until 12 noon, on Saturday, and it is

believed that they will now be opened every morning until the same hour.

As a further sign of the return to normalcy in the oilfield areas, police constables were today going around singly, serving summonses.

Many strikers who turned up at the oilfields to resume work, were told to call back later in the week, as fields were not yet ready to go into operation.

Source: Evening News, Jul 5, 1937

The STRIKE



is dead; burning confirmed. All is quiet on the Fyzabad front.

We worked right through to Sunday morning. Extra copies of the "Sunday Guardian" were ordered. At 3 a.m. tired members of the editorial staff went home.

Sunday

AT 8 a.m. the news was released to the rest of the world. Correspondents of English, Canadian and American newspapers and news agencies were pushing latest details picked up on the telephone through to London and New York.

We work all day, Sunday. So does the Cable Office. Country correspondents are mobilised; asked to send hourly reports by telephone or telegram. Telephones ring all day; late in the night.

Monday

LATE to bed and early to rise and Monday morning presents another 18 hours of news—and hard work. Telephone lines buzz all day.

All the big oilfields are on strike; the workers, strikers and those forced to idle, congregate in San Fernando from the surrounding fields.

A special correspondent is rushed down to San Fernando with a camera.

More telephone calls; hundreds of rumours; Editorial Conferences; cables from abroad asking for "stories." The day is a nightmare but we live through it.

In the evening San Fernando reports demonstrations in the Southern Capital. The crowd is becoming unruly; liquor shops are closed; stores and business places are shut down by the strikers.

Later that day the strikers force Municipal electricians to quit work at San Fernando's power plant; closed it down. A night of darkness is foreseen for the town. Trouble is anticipated.

5.30 p.m.—Telephone call from San Fernando is interrupted.

6.00 p.m.—The special strike correspondent unexpectedly arrives from San Fernando. It is dangerous to remain there.

7.00 p.m.—San Fernando correspondent reports by telegram man is shot and many injured when T.L.V. men fire into mob attempting to storm Telephone Exchange building; idea was to capture building, cut the lines, isolate the Borough. The attempt has failed because of the prompt action of the Volunteers. The town is again lit up; Volunteers have enabled electricians to return to the power plant. Telegram ends: "More news unlikely, unsafe."

7.10 p.m.—More reliable reports from San Fernando. All is quiet after the shooting.

Source:
Sunday Guardian, Jun 27, 1937

BUTLER SURRENDERS

Taken Into Custody This Morning

ESCORT OF POLICE

Taxi Drive LIEUTENANTS WITH HIM

URIAH BUTLER, alleged organiser of the Trinidad oilfields strikes, whom the Police have been hunting since June 19, surrendered himself quietly this morning. He was dressed in a neat blue suit, black bow tie and wore a long flowing black beard.

Anticipating Butler's surrender, because today is the day appointed for Butler's British Empire Citizens and Home Rule Party to give evidence before the Commission of Inquiry, police, volunteers and a unit of armed marines from H.M.S. Apollo had been mobilised at Police Headquarters.

A crowd of only a few hundred curious City residents gathered to witness the surrender, however.

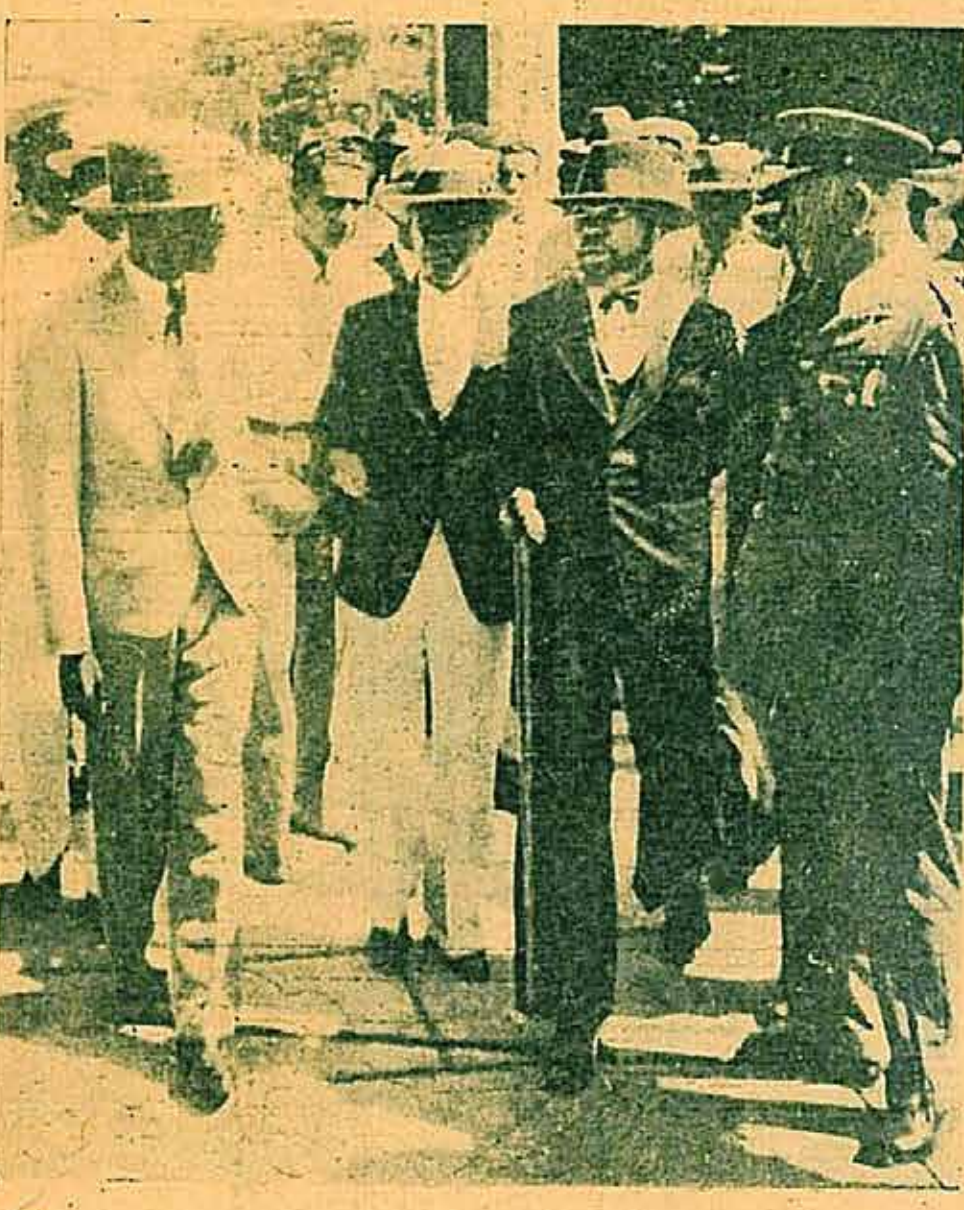
Butler, accompanied by two of his lieutenants, Stanley Thomas, of Fyzabad, and Charles Griffiths, of Chin Chin Road, is reported to have hired a taxi on Chin Chin Road near Gunpowder, 13 miles from Port-of-Spain this morning, and told the driver to drive them to Police Headquarters, Port-of-Spain.

POLICE ESCORT

Headquarters were notified from San Juan that Butler had passed that village and a squad of men under Inspector Liddell and Sergeant Major Kelly set out from Headquarters to meet him. They met him on South Quay driving in taxi-cab H3774, sitting in the back seat between his two lieutenants.

When the car in which Butler was arrived outside Headquarters, Inspector Liddell and Sergeant Major Kelly were on the footboard. A squad of armed volunteers was drawn up on the pavement and an other squad of mounted police kept order in the crowd. Colonel Mayrogorato went out personally to bring him in to the station.

Butler was met on the pavement by Mr. E. P. Bruynning, Barrister-at-Law, and they had a conference for several minutes while the crowd on



Pictured shortly after he had surrendered himself to the authorities this morning, here is T. U. B. Butler, (carrying walking stick), with Colonel Mayrogorato, outside the Constabulary station in Port-of-Spain, Mr. E. P. Bruynning is on the extreme left.

CAPT. CIPRIANI WRITES ON STRIKE SITUATION

To the Editor, the Evening News.
Sir,—Assuming that the cost of living has risen by approximately 17 per cent, it is reasonable to urge that wages should be correspondingly increased; but, taking all things into consideration, I feel that in certain instances such increase, if it were between 25 per cent and 33 1/3 per cent, would be reasonable and acceptable.

Of course, any talk of excessive increases by reason of the strikes would be entirely out of the question and absurd. Government should take immediate steps to deal definitely with those terrorists, who threaten to assault and molest workers who are inclined and willing to resume work.

The T.L.P.'s position is very clear, and those within its ranks who feel dissatisfied with its policy have only one thing to do and that is to get out, and that, too, quickly. We will not countenance or be any party to a re-

game of 'hold-ups' or demands made by violence.

Government would be well advised, and I have so advised His Excellency, that the personnel of the proposed Committee of Enquiry to be set up, should be made public as early as possible. This, if done, is likely to have a good effect on the whole situation and I am satisfied that the more responsible and sober-minded workers will return to their jobs, feeling assured that their difficulties would be fairly and reasonably adjusted, without much further ado. I am equally satisfied that such class of worker has no hand whatever in the present unrest, and is doing his best to keep out of trouble. The stevedores and lightermen, involved in the City strike, are in no way connected with the T.L.P.

Regards,
Yours Sincerely,
ARTHUR A. CIPRIANI.

Source:
Evening News, Jun 22, 1937



Mayor's Office,
Town Hall,
Port-of-Spain,
22nd June, 1937.

APPEAL

BY
HIS WORSHIP THE MAYOR

Fellow Countrymen:

As MAYOR of Port-of-Spain, I appeal to the Citizens of this City to be

COOL and CALM

in this hour of economic crisis, occasioned by the strike which has been in progress in the southern part of the Island for the past week.

I further appeal to your sense of good citizenship, and you, my countrymen may rest assured that your constitutional rights will receive proper consideration at the hands of Government.

My fervent prayer is that good economic relationship between employers and employees will speedily be restored, and that workers will receive just reward for their labour.

ALFRED RICHARDS,
Mayor.

FYZABAD STRIKE ARRESTS

Trinidad Guardian Correspondent
San Fernando, Wednesday.
The two men arrested at Fyzabad in connection with the recent disturbances will come up for trial at the Magistrate's Court on Friday, June 25.

Preston Best, one of them, will be defended by Mr. G. Fitzpatrick, a San Fernando lawyer.

Trinidad Guardian Correspondent
Moruga, Tuesday.
Not a single omnibus ran on the Moruga Road today either to or from Princes Town. There were just one or two cars passing along now and again.

Up to late this evening no gasoline could be obtained at Princes Town.

Source:
Trinidad Guardian,
Jun 24, 1937

1939 - 1945

WORLD WAR II



1914-1918 1939-1945
IN HONOUR OF
ALL WHO SERVED
IN MEMORY OF
THOSE WHO FELL

World War II (1939-1945) was the bloodiest, deadliest war the world had ever seen. This conflict involved virtually every part of the world. It was felt that this war was a continuation of the disputes left unsettled by World War I. Germany and its allies, the losers in the war was stripped of one sixth of its territory and forced to pay huge reparations. This caused bitterness and anger in Germany which led to World War II. The principal powers in the war were Germany, Italy, Japan, France, Great Britain, the United States, the Soviet Union and to a lesser extent China.

World War II proved to be very different from the first as technology had made the world appear a much smaller place. Trinidad was never directly attacked but many Trinidadians fought in the battle for Britain. Many air cadets joined the Royal Air Forces and the Royal Canadian Air Forces. The members of the Trinidad's Royal Naval reserve were called up, but no contingent of soldiers left the island before 1944.

One Trinidadian air cadet who became a war hero was Phillip Louis Ulric Cross. The United States Forces arrived in Trinidad on March 1941 and kept up a high military presence until the end of the war. Similar conditions occurred as in World War I as there were severe shortages of foodstuff and other materials.

The social turbulence in Europe caused many Jewish persons in the course of the war to settle in Trinidad. Many streets in Diego Martin are named after Jewish war heroes. The end of the war brought much jubilation and celebration as the people of the world had grown tired of the war. Two days of celebrations to mark the victory took place on August 15 and 16, 1945. The end of the war brought significant cultural changes in the era of steel band and Carnival.

Sources:

Anthony, Michael: Historical Dictionary OF Trinidad and Tobago

World War II: An Overview

<http://www.scholastic.com/teachers/article/world-war-ii-overview>

World War II

<http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/648813/World-War-II>

