The Dominica Chronicle

A SEMI-WEEKLY PAPER
Published every Wednesday and Saturday,
AT THE BULLETIN OFFICE. ROSEAU. DOMINICA

G. A. JAMES.—*Editor*

Terms of Subscription in the Colony:
One Year 12/6. Half-Year 6/6
Inland $3.50 & $1.80
Abroad $4.50 & $2.40
Single Copies 3d.

ADVERTISEMENTS at very moderate Rates.
Payable in Advance.

All Communications should be sent and all payments made to Mr. Avon V. Joseph, Manager P O.

Pax et Veritas

ROSEAU, SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 1953.

1953 Masquerade.

A Spectator's Impressions.

AFTER 100%, plus, credit is given to this year's masquerader's behaviour in comparison to the immediate preceding years, the vital question mark remains emblazoned on the island's educational, cultural and moral background canvas; demanding to know whether the low-down features of hooliganism, savagery and vulgarity are inseparable from Masquerade? The question has been asked, time and again, from the days of the "Blackie" and "Reddie" terrorisms to this one. The answer that, also, will supply the cue has not been given. Someday, however, Dominica will have to face up this question and give a definite in one out of two words, namely, SUPPRESSION or REFORMATION.

At the close of the two days' "play" on Tuesday, the "Saturnalian god" had collected *one* in the grave, *several* with a broken skin and as many in the "Police bag." The Civic Authorities were left a legacy of several cartloads of rubbish and debris to clear from the streets. Nor did he withdraw his legion of infernal imps before his red-hot searing irons had touched and left their marks on the mind and hearts of his votaries, and the Educational Authorities and Morals Teachers left with 20 years' labour to undo his two days' mistraining and misdirection of mind, heart and spirit.

At Cross Purposes.

It seems ironical that this destructive work—this annual grand rehearsal of the bawdy, the banal and the retrograde—can be permitted, even encouraged, just at the time our Secondary Schools are putting out their best efforts in educating the man and woman power of the country to the highest standard and position of citizenship in a gradually developing community, with all the duties and responsibilities these positions of leadership carry.

It seems to me and to many others that, Masquerade, as a pagaent show, *can* have a positive cultural, even educational, value—that is, it can subserve a purpose not much inferior to that of the Arts to natural life; but that, in its existing Dominica style and practice, it is perversive of morals, degenerative of culture, and at cross-purposes with academic teachings which aim at the Ideal and endeavour to eradicate the Sensual, the Bestial in Man and Woman.

The leadership of some three decades ago which rid peaceful, law-abiding citizens of the "Darkie" and "Reddie" terrorism is yet to come forward at this more enlightened age to ensure reasonable security to persons who, for health sake, might desire some unusal stretching of the legs and blowing of the lungs on the streets of Roseau once a year.

The thing must be "*decentized*" (made decent and harmless) or stopped for a period of years prior to total abolition, if conduct makes this imperative in the interest of good government and personal security of the citizen.

1953 Dominica Estimates.

A REVIEW

IV.

A SLIGHT departure in the form of presenting the series in this review is made to-day so as to dwell on some parts in the Budget Speech which have a more or less direct relationship to

The first of these relates to the Educational Service which, this year, will cost $251,355—about 9% of the total revenue to be collected, plus Grant-in-Aid and C. D. & W. revenue. The allocation is as under :—

Administration :		
Personal Emoluments	$ 7,558	
Other Charges	2.075	
Special Expenditure	120	$ 9,7
Primary :		
Personal Emolument	$156,685	
Other Charges	20,464	
Special Expenditure	180	177,3
Grammar School :		
Personal Emoluments	$25,686	
Other Charges	8,192	33,8
Scholarships		19,5
Educational Grants		10,8
		$251,3

This is the second largest departmental appropriation on the Estimates. It is led by Medical with $251,836 and followed by Police with $202,606.

Referring in direct terms to the size of the Education vote, the Address says:—

> "It is clear that one question which will need serious consideration early is the cost of our educational services in relation to our resources. I do not mean to suggest that we must contemplate ruthless reductions in those services, but I do consider that it will be necessary to reorientate some of our attitudes and to search for less conventional methods of instruction.

Like the stock diplomatic phrase that hide the intention and allay fear as a major *putsch* is about to be launched, there is not much to cause alarm in the above language, until one gets suspicious of a hidden meaning