

# THE BEACON

No. 7.

An Independent Anguillian News-sheet. Published weekly.  
Saturday November 11th 1967 Price 10 cents.  
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EDITORIAL. Are we not missing the chance of a lifetime? No better conditions could exist for the creation of a new type of government. Our Mother Country has chosen to cut back on its colonial activity. In the winning of two major conflicts, her economy has suffered; out of this condition has evolved a new system of Associated States, which leads eventually to complete independence.

After the happenings of the last few months, Anguilla finds herself in a peculiar position. She must establish a long term plan. Such a plan must:-

1. See that an honest Government is maintained.
2. See that the Government is properly administered.
3. See that a practicable financial scheme is created.
4. See that all Civil Servants are promptly paid.
5. See that all outside development schemes are carefully and objectively evaluated

At this moment we are in an exceptionally fine position. Anguilla has no ponderous ministerial system, no political hangers-on to find jobs for. She has a Council of honest, hard-working men, all unpaid. We have the nucleus of a happy and efficient Government. But one important ingredient is lacking.

We need an administrative head, trained for the work, alert to the possibilities and the dangers. The British Government alone is in a position to supply such a man. But is not the British Government trying to rid herself of such responsibilities?

Granted, but we do not want to be a drag on England. We want to pay our way, no grats no hand-outs. Why should we ask England to support us? Let us use our hands and brains as her people do. If an Administrator comes, we should support him. If a Judge is needed for the more complex cases we should pay for his services too.

Is this wishful thinking? No. Anguilla is on the threshold of the two most important monetary systems of the world. By this we can profit, and England can profit. Anguilla can offer reasonable labour rates in an area adjacent to a huge market. Anguilla is only one hour's flying time from the U.S.A. Ships leave Anguilla empty to purchase goods, she is on the main shipping route of the world.

Anguilla could have an extensive industrial programme geared to attract modern industry. True, there are at present hardly enough workers to support the little industry that Anguilla has. Also as soon as the Anguillian is trained, he leaves to get a higher paid job in St Thomas. This fact must be faced.

To establish any meaningful programme, some alien workers should be brought in under contract. England could assist and alleviate her immigrant problem. This would pose no threat to Anguillians. The alien would work for a moderate wage, he would not be a citizen, nor have any voice in the government. If he wanted to stay, he could be naturalised; if not he could go back home.

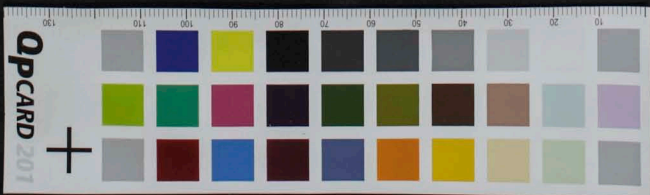
The basic idea of the whole plan is to keep the worker in Anguilla. He will become a better worker if he knows he must make a go of it. Eventually, as standards rise, Anguillians will be coming back home to live and work alongside with those who had never left. A vibrant, healthy economy, able to pay its way would be the result. (To be concluded)

## GOVERNMENT NOTICES.

House tax for 1967 should be paid by the end of November, to avoid overlapping with 1968, when they will again be due. Many paid in early June, some have not paid yet, and are asked to do so now. Those who have not yet been assessed are advised that this will shortly be done Walter Hodge C.R.O

As from Nov: 4th Government will collect two cents export duty per pound of lobsters exported. This tax will be collected from each fisherman by the lobster agent, and paid to the C R O monthly. An average of 3000 lbs of lobsters are exported weekly. The M/V Oceanic will leave Anguilla on Nov 12th for Puerto Rico via St Thomas, returning on 16th for Anguilla via St Thomas and S.Maarten. The M/V Oceanic will be making a special trip to St Thomas, leaving St Thomas on Dec 21st for S Maarten and Anguilla.

REMEMBRANCE DAY. The Official Church service will be at St Mary's at 9.15am Nov 12th. The service will be Mattins, Breacher M V Hodge. As in previous years, all christians are invited to attend. Poppies will be on sale on Saturday 11th throughout the island.



## REPORT ON THE HOSPITAL

As a result of the appointment of Mr Cambell Fleming as Hospital Maintenance Officer, there has been a marked improvement of the standard of meals served to the patients. This has led to a reluctance of some of them to leave the hospital! Miss Nardine Petty, began work as a relief cook on November 8th.

Money given by an anonymous Donor as recorded in a previous BEACON has been spent on buying new mattresses for the Infirmary, and bedside water-jugs and tumblers for the hospital. Recently Mr Lucas Wilson kindly loaned an electric fan to the hospital to help a patient who was critically ill. A few days later, two portable Westinghouse Fans arrived from St Thomas, a most generous and welcome gift from Anguillans stationed there. A Boyles type Anaesthetic Machine has recently been given to us for use in the operating theatre, and as a further aid in operating work an electric suction apparatus has been supplied. The rear section of the roof was in a bad state of repair, and the P.W.D are in the process of rectifying this and other structural faults. Plans are going ahead to have this hospital "adopted" to relieve the Government of this item for a while. Also promises have been received for the purchase of new X-ray equipment, and the supply of a new Maternity Unit.

**EDITORIAL CONCLUDED** How could this paying be accomplished? The conventional way is the only answer. Taxes on income. Some tax concession would have to be offered to attract foreign investors, but income taxes from a productive economy could easily supply the small unencumbered government. Being identified with England, the scheme is bankable. A few bonds could be issued to smooth out the start. That would be the responsibility of Anguilla alone. Under this plan we could be a Mini-Dominion, under the guiding hand of England, a protective hand for which we are paying. Under such an arrangement the Committee of 24 could not complain. In appreciation of all this we could offer England preferential duties on producer as well as consumer goods, no longer selling to 6000 people, but to a moderate sized industrial area.

This plan does not obviate tourism. Tourism would develop on its own. There would be a substantial demand for small hotels. The natural beauty of the island could be preserved by placing the factories in the rocky hinterland out of sight.

Contrast this with what we have to-day. To be sure we have a dedicated Council doing its best to keep the island going, but none of them experts. There is no local legal adviser. Dr Fisher, thousands of miles away is doing his best spare time, but this is more than a spare time task.

Living a life in Anguilla is a full time job for which we need full-time Government attention. How are we to cope with professionals along these lines? How are we to recognise the tender-centers from the honest man of business, or the characters that are trying to turn the birth of a nation into a racket for their own personal gain? There is one answer. Let us ask once again, to go back under the British Umbrella, but let us pay to stand in out of the rain. We could be a proud and happy Mini-Dominion.

**CORRESPONDENCE.** Sir, The new St George's Flag intended to be flown over St Mary's Church is one of the many articles retained in the mail now waiting at St Kitts, because 'there is no responsible person in Anguilla to receive it'. Therefore on Armistice Day onwards we will fly the Union Jack in its place.

We are sure that this flag flying over the Church will delight the hearts of all Anguillans now, will shew our loyalty and readiness to welcome any deputation from the British Parliament that may visit us in the near future, and be a warning to those who do not recognise that flag not to interfere in the affairs of Anguilla. (signed) C R G Carleton, Rector. J.N. Gumbs & T.R Lake. Churchwardens.

Sir, We have all heard of the Polar Bear and the Grizzly Bear, but what is the Bear of the Caribbean? Night after night we are exhorted over the Z I Z and its sponsors Carib, to sample it. The bare mention of it is now almost more than I can bear, and unless someone in St Kitts does not shoot this monster with one of the many guns reputed to be there, I will soon be lying on my tier, no longer able to enjoy a Carib Beer. J.R. Payne.

We have received a very long letter from Mr Alton Richardson, for which we are most grateful. He gives much criticism on recent events in Anguilla, but has some sound positive advice, especially in the realm of education, and the position of Civil Servants generally. We do not know at present if space will permit the publication of a part of it, or a condensation of it in a future issue. The matters he raises are of considerable importance to all those connected with teaching at the present time, and in order that his ideas may be immediately available to those teachers and others, we propose to leave his letter in the hands of Mr Walter Hodge at the Administrative Building, for people to go there and read it at their leisure.

**PRINTER'S COMMENT.** We regret that the Editorial is in two parts. At first it did not seem possible to contain it all, but by a slight condensation, this has been found possible. As it is so important, we are glad to print it all at one time.

