

THE BEACON

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EDITORIAL. "Bradshawism". Mr Peter Adams asked us to define this word, and to state how it was used in connection with certain events at the Hospital and the Schools.

We define "Bradshawism" in this context to mean "The desire for Anguilla to return to the rule of St Kitts and Mr Bradshaw" or, more freely " any action tending to promote that end". We referred to a strike at the Hospital, to undermine the authority of the Medical Officer. If this had been successful, the position of the Doctor would have become impossible, and he could not have remained at his post. Anguilla would have been without a Doctor, and we would have been playing into Mr Bradshaw's hand. This strike was only the climax of other factors, including the feeding of the patients, which for long had been a public scandal. A similar strike was attempted in the schools, but thanks to the loyalty of the Teachers, it came to nothing. But if the strike had been successful, and the Doctor had left the island, and the schools had failed to open, Mr Bradshaw would have been delighted and said " See what a mess Anguillians are making of their independence". "Bradshawism is an unpleasant word for an unpleasant subject, and we hope that we and others in Anguilla will not have to use it again.

At the same time, we must remember that there was another factor involved in that strike. There is a section of the population, composed largely of Civil Servants, who feel that there is a danger that their professional status may be interfered with, and are afraid that the Government may dictate to them, and tell them how they are to run their schools or their nursing service, or their particular department, for which they have received professional training. There will always be the danger of this until there is a properly instituted Public Service Commission to protect their professional status.

We are sure that some of those who are shewing their dissatisfaction with the Government, are doing so for these reasons, and not because they want to see Anguilla return to the rule of St Kitts. We believe that they are, or would be 100% in favour of secession, if these fears were allayed. We urge the Government to appoint a Public Service Commission without delay. There is too much mud-slinging about, and some people think that if any one criticises Government policy, they are "Bradshawites". This is not true.

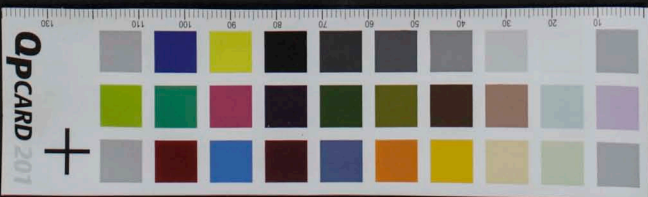
THE NEW COUNCIL. On Saturday Oct: 21st, the new Council met and nominated two further members as provided for in the draft Constitution. They are Mr Campbell Fleming of the East End, and Mr John Rogers of Stoney Ground. Mr Rogers was not on the island at the time, so his membership still awaits confirmation.

The council then unanimously elected Mr Ronald Webster as their Chairman. According to the draft Constitution the Council's term of office is two years. This Council now has the authority to negotiate with Great Britain and other countries for our constitutional rights, and the future of the island.

This is a great responsibility, and they want to feel that you are behind them.

On the other hand, they must remember that they are responsible to the electorate, and remember the words of Mr Hugo Rey in a recent speech " The people are the Bosses; The Council are the Servants" The council must not enter into any agreements without a full knowledge of all the facts. In the past there has been much misunderstanding, and much delay on vital matters. A great deal of publicity has been given to the Quality Broadcasting Station. Negotiations are now being concluded. Other matters of great importance should be treated in the same way.

THE COUNCIL MEETS THE PEOPLE. A meeting at Burrows Park on Sunday Oct: 22nd opened with the singing of the national anthem, "We are out to build a new Anguilla" Mr Webster told a crowd of over 2000 people that Anguilla is not looking for total independence, but some associated status with Great Britain, within the Commonwealth, such as that of Trinidad or Antigua. Total independence is only a last resort if all negotiations fail. Other speakers were Mr Jerry Gumbs, who was hopeful of help from the United Nations. Mr Hugo Rey expressed the need of unity amongst Anguillians in their struggle for freedom, but warned the Council that the electorate were the bosses, and they only the servants. Mr John Hodge claimed no experience or skill in government, but promised to serve his country faithfully. Mr Wallace Rey, noted for long speeches restrained his loquacity, and urged Anguillians not to rely only on outside help, but start helping themselves. He said that money for development was being negotiated, and urged women to work on P.W. D payroll.



THE REV'D MARTIN ROBERTS. Mr Roberts leaves us early next week, and will shortly take up new work at Tortola. He played a very active part in the early days of secession. He was instrumental in forming the Peace Keeping Committee of fifteen; He led the first deputation to St Kitts; he went to London alone to plead our case. We thank him in the name of Anguilla, and wish him God-speed in his new work.

REDEDICATION A letter has been circulated in the Anglican and Methodist churches stressing the need of revival and the strengthening of the spiritual life of the island, calling upon all Christians to rededicate themselves in the service of God and their country. As a beginning all Christians are asked to make a point of being present in their own church on Sunday, October 29th.

WOLSEY HALL OXFORD. The Rector has received a letter from the Vice Principal of this Hall, asking for a complete list of all those who are already enrolled in this College. Will any students so enrolled please give their names without delay to Mr Peter Adams, the island's Education Officer.

HAVE YOU EYE TROUBLE? Mr De Freitas will be visiting the island again on Nov: 11th. More details will be given of this in a future issue.

MR COLLINS HODGE. With great joy we welcomed back to Anguilla Mr Collins Hodge, the first of the accused in the St Kitts trials to be found not Guilty. Dr Herbert's father took him to the LIAT plane at St Kitts, bound for St Martin. He then came on a chartered plane to Anguilla on Wednesday 25th. He was taken on a Motorcade through the island, visiting the homes of the other accused. Asked what his plans were, he said that he would take a few days holiday and have some sea bathing, and then go back to work at Expan Company here in Anguilla. He said that the other accused were very fit, and were certain that they would have a fair trial. He himself had had $1\frac{1}{2}$ days questioning by the prosecution. In the name of Anguillans we thank him for his courage after spending nearly 4 months in prison.

DONATIONS Anonymous donations have been received for these funds: Red Cross \$50. Infirmary \$25. Hospital \$50. Will those in charge of these departments collect the money from the Treasury.

MR JERRY GUMBS. Mr Gumbs left the island yesterday. He has assured the United Nations that Anguillans are united, and that there is no violence either of word or deed. He appeals to all Anguillans to ensure that this remains true, and not to let him down.

MR WEBSTER'S SPEECH IN BURROWS PARK LAST SUNDAY. Ladies and Gentlemen..... This is not an occasion of sorrow, but rather of victory and freedom. I know that it is not an easy task to win freedom. I am indeed sorry that we did not have the excitement of an election. I promise to do my best for the rising up of this little island, and the going down of slavery. We are all aware that the road to freedom has not been an easy one, and it is my desire to press on for prosperity and happiness of the land we love. Anguilla is already a different place from what it was five months ago. Friends, I am grateful to you all for the help and cooperation which you have given me, and I assure you that we have nothing to lose.

The future is bright, whatever the enemy may say. The Good Lord has guided the ship of Anguilla safely through many storms and dangers. There is no power on earth to compare with His. I know that some in this crowd have their fears and their doubts. This is because they lack faith. Fears and doubts only overshadow a man when he lacks confidence. Friends, our battle will not be won by force, but by your united support under the almighty hand of God. Let us all go home to-night feeling happy, dream good dreams, have a nice breakfast to-morrow, and then go and visit our enemies, and say "Hello". Let us all try hard to keep our beautiful island and its people happy. We dare not forget the day when we decided to bear our own burden. We felt then like immature children, whose parents had just died, who had to run their home alone. We have struggled so far without bloodshed, though many had their doubts, and thought they were living in a dream. Let us rejoice for the victory and freedom we have already obtained through our perseverance: Let us remember all who far away who are suffering for or fighting for our cause, especially our boys in St Kitts. Freedom is not an easy thing to win; future generations will enjoy the freedom we have won. We are proud that Anguilla has made her mark in history. We are thankful for the cooperation of neighbouring islands, St Martin and St Thomas, for our friends in the U.S.A, in the U.K. and in the United Nations, for our good friends, Mr Jerry Gumbs and Professor Roger Fisher. I am sure that we are able to manage our own affairs, and do not be misled by those who say we can not. If anyone has doubts or difficulties, let them bring them to the council and we will solve them. (to be concluded next week)

FINAL MUSINGS. "Bradshawism" is an unpleasant word, if it must be used should it not be "Bradshavianism"?

