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The Colonial Sugar Refining Company Ltd.

SYDNEY, 15th February, 1939.

Dear Sir Harry Luke,

I have received your letter of 31st of January and I am pleased to note that you are still hoping to visit Sydney fairly soon.

I have been looking into dates and engagements etc. I shall be out of Sydney from the 25th of this month till the 20th of March, and on 10th April I will be obliged to attend the Royal Commission in Brisbane, but should be back in Sydney on 14th April.

We have arranged to have the Conference with all the Fiji Managers on the 21st March, and the most ideal set of conditions would be, of course, that you should happen to be in Sydney at the same time.

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I note that you are trying to secure the services of a man with experience of Indian labour as Industrial Relations Officer, and also that you refer to certain draft legislation, the consideration of which you say is not only desirable but essential if we are to avoid the difficulties that the other Colonies experienced.

On this latter point I fear our opinions are sharply at variance.

Having lived in a country riddled with and retarded by trade unionism and various forms of Social legislation, I would say that the introduction of similar conditions in Fiji will only serve to start real and lasting trouble there.

Our industrial legislation has done here what was forecasted thirty years ago by the wiser minds: it has put employer and employee into two separate litigious camps. Theoretically, the trade union business sounds

alright/

alright, but unfortunately the control of the Unions always drifts into the hands of the quick witted agitating class who don't like work, while the industrious will not become interested, but finally find themselves dragooned into strikes etc.

I should think that in the reach of Indians such legislation would lead to disaster, and this, of course, is one of the subjects I will wish to talk to you about when we meet.

Dr Kunzru is a typical example of the type which causes no end of trouble and unrest. He informed me that if Lord Linlithgow failed to bring back with him a much greater measure of Home Rule to India, he feared that in the event of another war Great Britain would not find India an Ally.

I have no doubt, however, that in the event of war the Home Government would know the safest course to deal with people who think and preach such doctrines. And moreover, I am sure they do not represent the feeling in India generally any more than the glib tongued orators in Fiji represent the feeling of the industrious working man there, but they can make a lot of trouble.

I am much obliged to you for sending me a copy of your Hansard reporting Chatur Singh's speech to the Council, and for the very attractive calendar.

We are having a very hot summer in Australia. I hope you are being spared this.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

P.H. Goldfinch.

Sir Harry Luke, K.C.M.G.,

Suva, Fiji.