

# The Daily Gleaner

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## WEST INDIAN **WEST**

News of the appointment of a West Indian as Vice-Principal of the University College of the West Indies will be received with pride and gratification throughout the British Caribbean. It sets the mark of the West Indies firmly upon this young but promising institution of higher education for the British peoples of the smaller Americas. In Jamaica warm pride will be felt generally in the happy choice of Mr. Philip Sherlock, a Jamaican, for that high and honourable office.

The University College which commenced academic work in October last with the first of its medical students, is unfolding itself and showing signs of structure and diversification which promise full and healthy growth. The Commission on Higher Education in the Colonies which did exploratory work and through its Subcommittee on the West Indies dealt specifically with the higher education needs of this area, and the Inter-University Council for Higher Education in the Colonies have both done their share in planning and bringing this institution into existence. Dr. T. W. J. Taylor whose choice as principal has proved to have been an excellent one, assisted by members of the Provisional Council which included West Indian leaders in education, has accomplished remarkable success in organising the University College and bringing it into operation. We can expect this high level of interest and effort from our United Kingdom friends and their West Indian colleagues to continue. But ultimately the success of the University in the fullest sense will be achieved only with the vital and wholehearted interest and help of the West Indian communities whom it is serving. The appointment of a West Indian as Vice-Principal guarantees from the start its West Indian character. Fulfilment of hopes and achievement of ambition for this institution now depend upon the support both spiritual and financial, which the peoples of the West Indies give to it.

Mr. Sherlock's appointment is not only symbolic of all this but is a well earned honour. His present opportunity for service in this field seems almost the result of a career calculated to that end, and calculated in terms of imagination, interest, application, scholarship and hard work. A man of religious inclinations, Mr. Sherlock has moved through a wide gamut of related keys in the framework of education. Secondary school teacher, Headmaster of Wolmer's Boys' School, Secretary and Librarian of the Institute of Jamaica, Welfare Officer of the Jamaica Welfare Limited, Dean of the Social Science School conducted by Colonial Development and Welfare, Mr. Sherlock must have gained in these spheres not only wide experience but intimate touch with the life of the British Caribbean.

Universities do not exist in academic vacuums, separated from the problems of life. Society as well as science must be its study and its preoccupation; and its knowledge must incorporate the classic and the abstruse as well as the commonplaces of the way of life of the ordinary man and woman. Therefore Mr. Sherlock's experience brings to the University not only academic accomplishment but legitimate contact with the West Indian scene. His work on the Sub-Committee of the Higher Education Commission, his travels in the West Indies and in Europe on matters connected with higher education, have made him pre-eminently suitable for this honourable and responsible office. His appointment is therefore not merely well deserved in a personal sense, but promises for the people of the West Indies legitimate representation in the highest councils of this vital institution.

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