

Attitudes to Labor

Introduction:

The newly emancipated people also had some adjusting to do:

- 1.** They had to find their own food, clothing and shelter. They could either make arrangements with their former owner or establish independent settlements. Where possible, they much preferred the latter.
- 2.** They had to learn and exercise the rules governing bargaining of labor
- 3.** They had to address the issue of education, health as well as their legal and political rights. Needless to say the colonial authorities were not in a hurry to include them in the political process or to change the laws to reflect their new status. As Governor Harris of Trinidad noted: " a race has been freed but a society has not been formed."
- 4.** The planters shifted the burden of taxation to the newly emancipated people.